

Minutes
 Catawba County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Session, Monday, November 7, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 7, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbits Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Lynn M. Lail and Barbara G. Beatty.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen Daley, Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Attorney Anne Marie Pease and County Clerk Barbara E. Morris.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Commissioner Lynn Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. The Invocation was offered by Commissioner Barbara Beatty.
4. Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Joint Meeting with Catawba County Board of Education of October 17, 2005, the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2005 and the Closed Session Minutes of September 6, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
Chair Barnes recognized Roy Carr of the NAACP and Donna Spencer, Register of Deeds.
6. Public comment for items not on the agenda. None.
7. Presentations.
 - a. Commissioner Glenn Barger presented the Adoption Awareness Month Proclamation to Regina Roberts and Sarah Shumate of Social Services and foster family Don, Kim, Jonathan, Stephanie and Elizabeth Brookman. Mr. Brookman thanked the Board for the proclamation and encouraged citizens to foster and adopt children in Catawba County.
 - b. Commissioner Lynn Lail presented the National Philanthropy Day Proclamation to Austin Grainger, Director, Fund Development and Public Relations, Abernethy Laurels. Mr. Grainger said the citizens of Catawba County exemplified philanthropy and thanked the Board for the recognition of all the volunteers and members of charitable organizations in Catawba County.
 - c. Vice-Chair Hunsucker presented the Farm-City Week Proclamation to Fred Miller, County Extension Director. Vice-Chair Hunsucker noted that the average age of farmers in North Carolina was 60 years old so it was imperative that there was an effort to bring young people back to the farm and foster understanding between urban and rural sectors. Mr. Miller noted that this year's events had been moved from the Agricultural Resources Center to Abernethy Memorial Church so more people could come and participate and the banquet was scheduled for November 22, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
 - d. Debbie Bradley, Personnel Director, introduced the Mini-Course graduates: Angelita Acosta, Susan Ballbach, Diane Crook, Lisa Duran, Savannah Glass, Debbie Hollified, Charles Ingold, Connie Killian, Frances Propst, Tracy Pruitt, Maria Reese, Terry Saine, Teresa Wofford and Debra Ann Young. Jane Kale and Steve Rader were unable to attend. The class voted for the Landfill as the most interesting department and the graduates would be recognized with a luncheon later in the week.
8. Appointments.
Commissioner Barbara Beatty recommended the reappointment of Dr. Don Campbell and Mr. Ron Lindler for second terms on the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. Commissioner Glenn Barger recommended the appointment of Captain Tom Lambert to the Repay, Inc. Board of Directors to replace Jennifer Mace who is transferring to the Budget Office. These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.
9. Consent Agenda:
County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented three items on the consent agenda:
 - a. State law requires all individuals and corporations to list their property by January 31st. The law also allows the Tax Administrator, on approval by the Board of Commissioners, to extend the deadline for

listing until April 15th if there is good cause and if a letter is received by January 31st. This request was for the authorization of the Tax Administrator to grant such extensions.

- b. This request was for two tax refund requests for Alcatel and Glidden Company – one the result of an error in penalty and the other the result of a tax commission consent order.
- c. This request was for the awarding of a bid for a timber sale for 31 acres of timber at the Blackburn Landfill – the high bidder of four bidders was Shaver Wood Products for \$52,100.

Chair Barnes asked if there was a request for any of the consent items to be broken out for further discussion and no request was made and Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports.

a. Mental Health:

John Hardy, Mental Health Director, noted that the Commissioners were aware of a proposal by Secretary Odom for a regionalization of certain functions. Mr. Hardy said that as a result of the secretary's presentation several groups had reacted and more discussions on this proposal were necessary. Mr. Hardy said he believed there were some efficiencies to be gained by some further combining of the administrative functions associated with mental health but at the moment he believed it was premature to react to the proposal until the developments from the further discussions were reviewed. He further stated that the question of where the savings which resulted from the proposed consolidation would go was still not clear and that there should be some incentives for communities to say they will do business differently – those being better service for the people they represent and/or some relief for counties for their participation at least in Medicaid.

Mr. Hardy stressed that he thought it was too early in the process to determine a course of action and he would keep the Board advised of all developments.

Chair Barnes said the County Commissioners Association had not received any formal requests regarding this issue and their attitude was that no one should do anything differently than they are currently doing until this is clarified.

b. Emergency Services:

1. David Weldon, Emergency Services Director and Carroll Lineberger, Chair, Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue presented a request for approval of financing. Chief Bost was unable to attend the meeting.

The request for a new station at Hwy 150 and Slanting Bridge Road is a part of Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue current Capital Improvement Plan. The new station will include all non-rated parcels of land on the Hwy 150 side of their district as well as assist them in lowering their ISO rating to a 6. This will provide an average homeowner an approximate 30% decrease in their homeowner's insurance policy. The Planning and Emergency Services departments have worked with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue and Crescent properties to make a land trade to reduce the cost of the site preparation and help lower the total cost of the project. With the land secure Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue is ready to bid and build their station.

To assure they had sufficient funds for the \$1,620,000.00 project Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue in the 2004-2005 budget requested a tax rate increase from .04 to .05 to support the \$7500.00 per month anticipated payment. They also through effective planning have saved enough for a down payment of \$646,028.17. This will assure the department will have to finance less than \$1,000,000.00.

The Department placed inquiries with five area banks and made the decision to go with BB&T who agreed to a rate of 4.23% over 15 years with a resolution from the Board of Commissioners. The County Finance Director agrees that this is a good rate and will save Sherrills Ford –Terrell Fire/Rescue in finance charges.

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue held a public meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2005 in accordance with the Internal Record Code, 8073 SFR at the main fire station. No public attended the meeting to oppose the purchase, the meeting was adjourned.

The Fire Chief and the President of the board have discussed their additional plans with the Emergency Services offices and feel that unless conditions change they see no need or have no plans to ask for additional fire tax increase.

The required resolution read as follows:

Resolution No. 2005-____
Resolution Approving the Financing by
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue
Of up to \$1,620,000.00 for a New Fire Station at Hwy 150

WHEREAS, Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue has determined to finance an amount of up to \$1,620,000.00 for the purchase of a new fire station. The United States Internal Revenue Code requires that for such financing to be carried out on a tax-exempt basis, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners must first approve the financing. The Fire Department held a public meeting on October 27, 2005, after published notice in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code. Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue has reported the proceedings of such a hearing to this Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Catawba County, North Carolina, as follows:

1. The County approves Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire/Rescue's entering into the financing, as required under Internal Revenue Code for the financing to be carried out on a tax-exempt basis. The Fire Department's conduction to the required public hearing is approved.

Mr. Lineberger thanked the Board, particularly Commissioner Beatty and County Manager Lundy for their assistance. He praised Jacky Eubanks and his staff and David Weldon as assets to the County.

County Manager Lundy explained that this matter was coming to the Board because in order to get tax-exempt financing, a resolution by the Board was necessary and noted that this did not obligate County funds. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the tax-exempt financing for the Sherrills Ford/Terrell Fire/Rescue for an amount up to \$1,600,000. Commissioner Beatty thanked Mr. Lineberger and all his folks for everything they do for Catawba County. The motion carried unanimously.

2. David Weldon, Emergency Services Director, presented a resolution to adopt the National Incident Management System.

In March of 2004, the Secretary of Homeland Security, at the request of the President, released the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a comprehensive system that improves tribal and local response operations through the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the application of standardized procedures and preparedness measures. It promotes development of cross-jurisdictional, statewide, and interstate regional mechanisms for coordinating response and obtaining assistance during a large-scale or complex incident.

Catawba County has been offering ICS training to its responders to include all municipalities within Catawba County. The County has addressed the implementation of NIMS in their updated Emergency Services Strategic Plan presented to the Board of Commissioners on September 6, 2005.

The local government, not State and Federal governments, has the primary responsibility for preventing, responding, and recovering from disasters. As a part of the County's Emergency Services NIMS Implementation Strategy they will be contacting each municipality and encouraging them to adopt NIMS by resolution as well.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), Management of Domestic Incidents, requires all federal departments and agencies to adopt and implement the NIMS and requires state and local

jurisdictions to implement the NIMS system to receive federal preparedness funding. Examples of funding that Catawba County receives are: Emergency Management Program Grant Funding, Fire/Rescue Grants, Homeland Security Grants, Hazardous Mitigation Grants, etc.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2005, the Secretary of Homeland Security provided guidance to each state outlining initial actions to be taken to implement NIMS. The letter to the nation's governors included a list of recommended actions for tribal and local governments to help them work toward NIMS compliance.

The following are to be completed by the end of FY05:

- Institutionalize the use of the Incident Command System
- Complete the NIMS Awareness Course IS-700
- Formally adopt NIMS and adopt NIMS principles and policies
- Establish a NIMS compliance baseline – NIMCAST
- Develop a strategy and time-line for full NIMS implementation

The completion of these items and adopting NIMS will assure Catawba County is better prepared to address all disasters and be eligible for the funding available to assist in these efforts. The main cost associated in the implementation of NIMS up to this point has been administrative in nature. The cost in the future will be in the area of training and exercise, which should be minimal.

Adoption of the resolution will move Catawba County one step closer to compliance.

RESOLUTION OF CATAWBACOUNTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR USE AT EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

WHEREAS, In Homeland Security Directive (HSPD)-5, the President directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS), which will provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to work together more efficiently and effectively to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the most effective and efficient incident management it is critical that federal, state, and local governments utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising comprehensive resource management, and designation of incident facilities during emergencies or disasters; and

WHEREAS, the NIMS standardized procedures for managing personnel, communications, facilities, and resources will improve the County's ability to utilize federal funding to enhance readiness, maintain first responder safety, and streamline incident management processes; and

WHEREAS, the Incident Command System components of NIMS are already an integral part of the Catawba County All Hazards Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Catawba County, in its regular session duly assembled, that it does hereby mandate the National Incident Management System be utilized for all incident management in the County.

This 7th day of November 2005

Commissioner Barger made a motion to adopt the National Incident Management System as the County's method for disaster response. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Planning:

Jacky Eubanks, Planning Director, came forward to read a statement for the public record regarding the Thoroughfare Plan and the recent adoption of the Startown Small Area Plan. The statement read as follows:

At the Board of Commissioners meeting on October 17, 2005, the Board considered and approved the Startown Small Area Plan. The Startown Small Area Plan committee recommended that the Catawba Valley Boulevard and Robinson Road extensions not be supported. The Board of Commissioners discussed these items. Board members agreed with the concern that perhaps too many east-west extensions were being planned. Board members also acknowledged that the Board of Commissioners and the County had paid for a study to look at an alternative to the Catawba Valley Boulevard Extension which would not run through the campus of Catawba Valley Community College, and subsequently supported the study's results requesting a realignment. There was also discussion about the need for an updated traffic study to determine how many east-west extensions were needed. The Board of Commissioners approved the Startown Small Area Plan as presented, indicating concern about the need for extensions.

After the October 17 Board of Commissioners meeting, the staff confirmed with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments that the existing Transportation Improvement Plan, (Thoroughfare Plan) does include the Catawba Valley Boulevard, with its preferred alternative (which does not disrupt the campus of CVCC), as well as the Robinson Road extension. Due to the fact that the Metropolitan Planning Organization's actions supersede those of the Board of Commissioners as they relate to transportation planning, the roadway layout in the Thoroughfare Plan remains in existence. It was also learned that the Thoroughfare Plan is being updated and public hearings to discuss the Catawba Valley Boulevard and Robinson Road extensions will occur in approximately two years. Prior to that time, NCDOT will undertake additional traffic studies to look at all of the east-west corridors between I-40 and Highway 10. Therefore, the concerns raised by the Startown Small Area Plan Committee will be addressed, as a thorough analysis will occur before a new Thoroughfare Plan is adopted by the MPO.

Mr. Eubanks said this statement was read to give the citizens a better understanding of the relationship between the Thoroughfare Plan and Small Area Plan considerations and how they will interact.

11. Attorneys' Report. None.

12. Manager's Report.

a. County Manager Lundy asked the Board to consider the Board's proposed meeting schedule for 2006. He noted the scheduling conflicts with the Budget hearings and adoptions and gave the Board options for rescheduling these meetings. The following was the amended proposed schedule:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-
Adopting 2006 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-47 of the Catawba County Code, the regular meetings of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners shall be held as provided in a resolution adopted by the Board in a regularly scheduled meeting held not less than ten days prior to the first meeting to which the resolution is to apply. The Board will observe the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by meeting on the Tuesday following such holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners adopts the following Meeting Schedule for 2006:

January 17 – Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
February 6 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
February 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
March 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
April 3 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.

April 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
May 1 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
May 15 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
June 5 – Monday, 8:00 a.m. - Budget hearings with Departments; Regular Board Meeting
9:30 a.m. and then resume Budget Hearings with Departments- All Day
June 6 – Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. – Budget Public Hearings & Wrap-Up
June 19 – Monday, 7:00 p.m. (Budget Adoption)
July 17 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
August 21 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
September 5 – Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
September 18 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
October 2 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
October 16 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
November 6 – Monday, 9:30 a.m.
November 20 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.
December 4 – Monday, 8:00-9:00 annual breakfast w/CES – Regular meeting 9:30 a.m.
December 18 – Monday, 7:00 p.m.

This the _____ day of November, 2005.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the schedule as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Chair Barnes noted that the Commissioners all had a great amount of input on developing their goals for FY 2006-07. County Manager Lundy explained for the public and media that every year the commissioners are sent blank sheets of paper with simply topics and the commissioners then suggest goals for the next year – 71 different items were submitted this year for consideration by the commissioners. These 71 items were then sent back out to the commissioners to set them in priority order. The final four broad goals were reviewed by the commissioners and reworded and the following are the goals proposed for adoption (These goals will be used by the staff to start to prepare the budget):

- Continue work to diversify the county's economic base and provide employment opportunities for citizens.
- Continue implementation of the FORESIGHT recommendations.
- Ensure that development and infrastructure support the County's strategic growth plan.
- Develop a finance plan for school construction over the next four-year period.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion adopt these goals for FY 2006-07. The motion carried unanimously.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy asked the Board to consider a closed session under General Statute 143.318.11. for two purposes – one to consult with an attorney to preserve the attorney/client privilege and the other is to consider the qualifications, competence and performance of a public officer or employee and no action is expected after the closed session.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to go into closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 10:33 a.m.

13. Other items of business.

At 11:26 a.m., Commissioner Barger made a motion to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjournment.
Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 11:28 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk