

**Minutes**  
**Catawba County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Session, Monday, December 6, 2004, 9:30 A.M.**

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 2004, 9:30 a.m. at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

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

Absent: N/A.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Joellen J. Daley, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Barbara E. Morris.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
2. Commissioner Barger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation was offered by Vice Chair Hunsucker.
4. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session of Monday, November 15, 2004 and a special session of Tuesday, November 9, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Oaths of Office:  
Ruth Mackie, Register of Deeds, administered the oath of office to Commissioner Barbara Beatty. Commissioner Beatty welcomed her family and friends and expressed her appreciation for their attendance and noted that Ms. Mackie was swearing her in for the third time.

Ruth Mackie, Register of Deeds, administered the oath of office to Commissioner Dan. Hunsucker. Commissioner Hunsucker welcomed and thanked family and friends for their attendance.

Ruth Mackie, Register of Deeds, administered the oath of office to Tom B. Bollinger, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. Mr. Bollinger introduced his wife and stated he was honored for Ms. Mackie to administer his oath.

Ruth Mackie, Register of Deeds, administered the oath of office to William Ray Henderson, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

Chair Barnes then recognized Ruth Mackie for her 36 years of public service to Catawba County. Ms. Mackie said she enjoyed every minute of that time. Chair Barnes said Ms. Mackie had set a very high standard for public service and she was truly appreciated.

Chair Barnes then presented a resolution regarding the bond for the Register of Deeds for Board approval. The resolution changed the bond from an individual to a position bond and Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve this resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Nathaniel J. Poovey, Superior Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Donna Spencer, Register of Deeds. Judge Poovey noted that this was the last day, after 36 years, that Ms. Mackie would be the Register of Deeds and the first day that Donna Spencer would be Register of Deeds and this job recorded the lives of the citizens of Catawba County. Ms. Spencer thanked her family and friends for their support and stated she looked forward to working with the County Commissioners and the County Manager.

A brief break was taken for pictures and then Chair Barnes resumed the meeting.

6. Organization Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.  
Chair Barnes turned the meeting over to County Manager J. Thomas Lundy for the election of Chair and Vice Chair. County Manager Lundy opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Barger stated the last two years had been good under the current leadership and recommended in the form of a motion to continue with the present leadership of Chair Barnes and Vice-Chair Hunsucker. The motion carried unanimously. County Manager Lundy congratulated Chair Barnes and Vice-Chair Hunsucker and turned the meeting back over to Chair Barnes.

Chair Barnes made the following appointments in the form of a motion:

County Attorney – Robert Eades

Finance and Personnel Subcommittee – Commissioners Barger and Beatty

Policy and Public Works Subcommittee – Commissioners Hunsucker and Lail

WPCOG Policy Board Delegate – Chair Barnes

WPCOG Policy Board Alternate – Commissioner Lail

Hospital Board of Trustees – Commissioner Beatty

Mental Health Services Board – Commissioner Lail

Public Health Board – Commissioner Barger

Social Services Board – Commissioner Hunsucker

Catawba County Criminal Partnership Advisory Board – Chair Barnes

Catawba County Partnership for Children Board – Commissioner Lail

Child Advocacy Center Board – Commissioner Lail

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – Commissioner Hunsucker

Hickory Metro Higher Education Center Board of Directors – Chair Barnes

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Chair Barnes recognized special guests: Representative Mitchell Setzer from the House, Clerk of Court Al Jean Bogle, two members from the Catawba County School Board Betty Blackburn and Sherry Butler, Randy Isenhower from the Newton-Conover Board, Joab Cotton from the Hickory City Board, Judge Nathan Poovey, Rory Carr of the NAACP and past Board member Stein Isenhower.

8. Appointments:

The following appointments were made in the form of a motion:

Chair Barnes - Alcohol Beverage Control Board - John Ervin, three year term.

Commissioner Hunsucker – Catawba County Medical Center Board of Trustees – Dr. Billy Price – 2<sup>nd</sup> term

And Ms. Rita Busbee from Claremont for a first term.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Resolution.

Ms. Sigmon presented this resolution on behalf of the Newton-Conover School Board and the Newton-Conover School system supporting Newton Conover City Schools in the New Schools Project. This resolution is to agree to partner to explore the creation of a Health, Science and Language Academy at Newton Conover High School, utilizing funds provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Those requested to partner, along with this Board, are Catawba County Schools, Hickory Schools, Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory Metro Higher Education Center, Lenoir Rhyne College, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Frye Regional Medical Center, Chamber of Commerce and Catawba Science Center. The goal of this project is to look at healthcare and science and create a program within the high school to attract and keep the students in the county and keep them here for a long time in the healthcare and medical field.

Commissioner Barger commented on the Foresight Report on education and commended the Newton-Conover Schools in their efforts in this area and recognized that education is the key to economic development and stability of this county.

Commissioner Hunsucker said this project had come before the Catawba Valley Medical Center Board and they were very excited about this effort.

Chair Barnes said the Board was looking forward to finding their way to partner in this project. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

- a. Refund request: One tax refund request totaling \$ 28.82 has been made to the Tax Office. The records have been checked and this refund verified.
- b. Resolution appointing two members of the City of Hickory staff, Adrian Thomas Miller and Kimberly Sue as Review Officers.
- c. Family Planning Activity Budget Revision request from Public Health. To accept state funds for 17 voluntary sterilizations for low-come women (over the age of 21, after counseling have requested sterilization).

Supplemental Appropriations

580500-857900 Other Contract Services \$34,000  
 580500-638620 Family Planning Grant \$34,000

- d. Request for receive monies from the state to offer child services after Burke County Health Department discontinued the Child Service Coordination Program in 2002. This \$42,292 grant would be used to offer child services to eligible families in Burke County. These funds will be used to pay salary and fringe expense for the Child Service Coordination position, as well as, small tools, educational supplies, office supplies, and other related items.

Supplemental Appropriations:

580305-812100 Regular Wages	\$29,808
580305-821100 FICA	\$2,300
580305-822100 Retirement	\$1,400
580305-823100 Health	\$4,400
580305-823300 Dental	\$178
580305-823600 LTD	\$47
580305-825500 STD	\$60
580305-831005 Office Supplies	\$100
580305-831030 Educational Supplies	\$100
580306-831090 Other Misc. Operating	\$300
580305-841010 Travel	\$2,500
580305-841020 Education	\$500
580305-841030 Printing	\$200
580305-841505 Telephone	\$500
	\$42,393
580305-638103 Child Service Coord.	

- e. Fund Balance Request from Oxford Fire Department – Request for \$100,000 from the Oxford Fire Department Fund Balance to pay for a vehicle (pump truck). The department found they could save money by purchasing the vehicle rather than borrowing the money.
- f. Supplemental Appropriation NC Disaster Relief Fund – Receipt of NC Disaster Relief Funds (\$5007.51) to be used for victim of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan who have no insurance and have had no insurance reimbursement from FEMA. These funds are to be used for food, food supplies, cleaning supplies, medical services, utility payments, car repairs and other storm related expenses.

<u>Appropriation</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
110-260060-831090	\$5008	110-260060-632200	\$5008
Other miscellaneous Operating Supplies		NC Disaster Relief Funds	

- g. Adoption of Amendments to County Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. – Changes to the Legal Section of the County's schedule for retention of records.

Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve these consent items. The motion carried unanimously.

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

a. Finance:

Rodney Miller, Finance Director introduced Bryan Starnes from the accounting firm of Martin Starnes & Associates. Mr. Starnes gave his audit results – the Fund Balance is approximately 1 ½ months of the Counties operating expenses – the County's goal is 16% (State requirement is at least 8%) and it is currently at 13.3% but Mr. Starnes stated the County was in very good financial shape and have weathered and continue to weather some very tough economic times. Mr. Starnes stated the County financial staff is very capable, very qualified and great to work with.

Rodney Miller presented the FY2003-04 Financial Report and this report is available for review in the County Manager's office.

Chair Barnes stated the good news was that the County was healthy but lacked the flexibility in the General Fund that it would like to have.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to accept the audit. The motion carried unanimously

12. Attorneys' Report.

County Attorney Robert Eades said he did not have a report but wanted to express his appreciation for opportunity to serve as County Attorney again.

14. Manager's Report.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said he had no report but asked that the Board consider going into Closed Session under General Statute 143-318.11 to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Mr. Lundy said he did not expect any action after the closed session.

At 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to recess into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11. The motion carried unanimously.

At 11:13 a.m. Commissioner Barger made a motion to return to Open Session. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment.

At 11:15 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barger made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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Katherine W. Barnes  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

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Barbara E. Morris  
County Clerk