

Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, May 15, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Catawba County Schools

Donation of Vehicles	255	05/15/06
Bunker Hill/Oxford School Sewer Contracts	257	05/15/06

City of Conover

Bunker Hill/Oxford School Sewer Contracts	257	05/15/06
---	-----	----------

Commendations

Diana Beasley, NC Teacher of the Year	253	05/15/07
Tax Link Program	253	05/15/07

Communications

Tower Lease Agreement with Verizon	255	05/15/06
------------------------------------	-----	----------

Emergency Services

Citizen Alert Notification System Project	254	05/15/06
Emergency Services Fee Schedule	254	05/15/06

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Fiscal Year 2007 Funding Plan	253	05/15/06
-------------------------------	-----	----------

Mental Health

Budget Revision	254	05/15/06
-----------------	-----	----------

Proclamations

Cancer Survivors' Day	253	05/15/06
Foster Care Month	253	05/15/06
Emergency Services Week	253	05/15/06

Resolutions

Donating Vehicles to Catawba County Schools	255	05/15/06
---	-----	----------

Social Services

Tax Link Update/Award	253	05/15/06
-----------------------	-----	----------

Tax

Refund request	255	05/15/06
----------------	-----	----------

Utilities and Engineering

Contract with P1 Catawba Development Company	256	05/15/06
Bunker Hill/Oxford School Sewer Contracts	257	05/15/06

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts 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 Debra Bechtel and County Clerk Barbara Morris.

1. Chair Katherine W. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Lynn M. Lail led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Commissioner Glenn G. Barger offered the invocation.
4. Vice-Chair Dan Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 1, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Barnes welcomed Joab Cotton and Reginald Hamilton from the Hickory City School Board and Mr. Ed Wooters from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.
6. Comments for Items not on the Agenda. None.
7. Presentations:
 - a. Commissioner Lail read the Cancer Survivors' Day Proclamation to the audience. The scheduled recipient, Gary Skinner, was unable to attend the meeting.
 - b. Commissioner Barger presented the Foster Care Month Proclamation to Sybil Good, Co-Supervisor, Family Builders. Ms. Good said that Catawba County currently has 9 foster homes serving 206 children and she appreciated the Board recognizing the work that foster families do.
 - c. Commissioner Barbara Beatty presented the Emergency Services Week Proclamation to David Weldon, Emergency Services Director and Bryan Blanton, Emergency Services Manager. Commissioner Beatty said a citizen called her the day before complimenting the Emergency Services actions during an incident that had occurred in front of her home. Commissioner Beatty expressed her personal thanks for the services EMS provided and extended the Board's thanks. Bryan Blanton thanked the Board for the recognition and its support throughout the year. David Weldon thanked the Board for its continued support of Emergency Services and publicly thanked Bryan for his leadership. Mr. Weldon said Catawba County has one of the premier model systems in NC and it is because of the work of Bryan and his staff as well as the dedication of the volunteers. Chair Barnes said the Board appreciated every hour spent by EMS.
 - d. Chair Barnes invited all the Commissioners to join her at the podium for what she said was one of the most special recognitions any of the Commissioners would ever take part in. Chair Barnes asked Hickory City Schools Superintendent Dr. Duane Kirkman and Board Members Joab Cotton and Reginald Hamilton to also come forward for the presentation. The Board presented Diana Beasley with a commendation recognizing her selection as North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Chair Barnes said to be chosen Teacher of the Year for the entire state of North Carolina is the highest recognition that any educator can receive. She went on to say that to say the Board was exceedingly proud did not really capture all of the sentiment felt. Diana thanked everyone for attending and said the recognition meant so much to her. She said Catawba County was her home and she felt proud and honored to be able to represent the entire area.
 - e. Chair Barnes then invited Ed Wooter of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and Jo Sloan, Family Support Manager to come forward to recognize a Social Services program, Tax Link. Chair Barnes said that this was another statewide recognition. Mr. Wooter said these awards were intended to recognize programs that should be shared with other counties throughout the state as a best practice. This award is in the category of general services. Mr. Wooter presented Jo Sloan with a framed plaque for Social Services and an individual certificate for her. Commissioner Lail said she thought it was a wonderful project and she was not one bit surprised that Social Services did this since they were always on the cutting edge. Chair Barnes then recapped the results of the current years program: 221 families were served; 795 volunteer hours; \$311,271 in refunds; over \$100,000 in Earned Income Tax Credits.
8. Appointments:

Chair Barnes stated that there were no appointment recommendations to be made at this meeting.
9. Consent Agenda:

J. Thomas Lundy, County Manager, presented the following six items on the consent agenda and indicated that the first five items had been recommended by subcommittees:

 - a. Approval of the funding plan for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. These used to be community-based alternative funds which the state provides to counties for programs that are alternatives to

commitment to state training schools. There is \$337,716 for seven programs recommended for continued funding next year.

b. Budget revision for Mental Health. This is a combination of state allocations of \$287,154 for specific programs – for two individuals with brain injuries; psychiatric services; and child and adults with developmental disabilities – and \$100,000 commitment to the adult life program and some miscellaneous grant funds for a total addition to the budget of \$392,154. Appropriation is as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS			
Account Number		Account Number	
Expenditures:		Revenues:	
110-530906-911420 DD Services	\$22,000	110-530906-635200 Adult DD	\$22,000
110-530906-915610 CVBH Contract	\$83,000	110-530906-635415 Mobile Crisis Fund	\$83,000
110-530906-915560 Developmental Therapy	\$115,487	110-530906-635300 Child DD	\$23,097
110-530906-868124 Adult Life Contract	100,000	110-530906-635200 Adult DD	\$92,390
110-530903-841010 Travel & Transportation	\$51,667	110-530906-690101 MH Fund Balance Applied	\$100,000
110-530903-812100 Regular Wages	\$5,000	110-530906-635100 Child Mental Health	\$66,667
110-530903-870100 Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$10,000	110-530906-635012 CJPP Grant	\$5,000
110-530906-916150 Clay Wilson Contract	\$5,000		

c. Receipt of an additional \$6000 from Duke Power for the Citizen Alert Notification System. Appropriation as follows:

Appropriation Increase		Revenue	
110-260060-982000	\$6,000.00	110-260060-682300	\$6,000.00
Data Processing Equipment Grant		EM Duke Power	

d. Recommended changes to the Emergency Services fee schedule. There is a national Medicare fee schedule which has been put into place, effective April 1, 2006. They no longer allow itemized charges. The County has tried to bundle charges that were separate, making sure that the bundled charge does not exceed the fee schedule. County Manager Lundy noted that the non-emergency charges actually go down by \$40 for basic life support and advanced life support. Current and proposed fee schedule as follows:

Current Fee Schedule		Proposed Fee Schedule		Difference
Description	Fee	Description	Fee	
BLS Nonemergency	\$283.00	BLS Nonemergency	\$283.00	
BLS Mileage	\$8.00	BLS Mileage	\$8.00	
BLS Routine Supplies	\$25.00			
BLS Oxygen	\$15.00			
Total	\$331.00	Total	\$291.00	-\$40.00

Current Fee Schedule		Proposed Fee Schedule		Difference
Description	Fee	Description	Fee	
Treatment / No Transport	\$100.00	Treatment / No Transport	\$140.00	
BLS Routine Supplies	\$25.00			
BLS Oxygen	\$15.00			

Total	\$140.00	Total	\$140.00	\$0.00
-------	----------	-------	----------	--------

Current Fee Schedule		Proposed Fee Schedule		Difference
Description	Fee	Description	Fee	
ALS Nonemergency (Specialized)	\$334.00	ALS Nonemergency (Specialized)	\$334.00	
ALS Mileage	\$8.00	ALS Mileage	\$8.00	
ALS Routine Supplies	\$25.00			
ALS Oxygen	\$15.00			
Total	\$382.00	Total	\$342.00	-\$40.00

Current Fee Schedule		Proposed Fee Schedule		Difference
Description	Fee	Description	Fee	
ALS 2	\$494.00	ALS 2	\$534.00	
ALS Mileage	\$8.00	ALS Mileage	\$8.00	
ALS Routine Supplies	\$25.00			
ALS Oxygen	\$15.00			
Total	\$542.00	Total	\$542.00	\$0.00

e. A resolution donating three vehicles to the Catawba County Schools maintenance program. These are vehicles the County was going to dispose of and they will now be used for the maintenance staff to transport equipment. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution # 2006

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO CATAWBA COUNTY SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the County has the authority to transfer property no longer needed as surplus and donate said property to another governmental unit according to the precepts of NCGS 160A-274; and

WHEREAS, the following property is no longer needed for any governmental use by Catawba County:

- 1992 Ford Explorer
- 1995 Dodge High Top Van
- 1998 Freightliner Ambulance

WHEREAS, said vehicle shall be given to Catawba County Schools to be used for a governmental purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby declares said property as surplus and authorizes the vehicles to be donated to Catawba County Schools.

This the 15th day of May, 2006

f. Tax refund request of \$136.48 to Tai Huynh due to a double billing.

Chair Barnes asked if any commissioner would want any item broken out from the consent agenda and none were requested. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports:

a. Purchasing/Communications:

Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Agent, came forward to present a proposed agreement between Catawba County and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless to lease space on the radio tower behind the Justice Center.

For several years, the County's main cellular agreement has been with Verizon Wireless. Verizon Wireless offers the best overall service for county departments; however, coverage in the Newton area has been an issue. County staff requested Verizon Wireless add equipment to improve the coverage in the Government Center/Justice Center area, which will also improve Verizon coverage in the entire Newton area.

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless has proposed to install the equipment necessary to improve coverage. Verizon Wireless will pay an annual rental fee to the County of \$18,000, with a three percent increase in rent each year. In addition, Verizon Wireless will pay for and perform:

- Structural upgrades to the tower required to support the Verizon equipment
- Provide landscaping at the site, which will assist in buffering the Verizon equipment building from other uses on the site
- While Verizon's crew is doing the structural upgrades, they will change out light bulbs on the tower, which is something the County is required to do. The County would have had to perform these light bulb changes within the next couple of years. This is a savings of approximately \$4,000

The lease is for an initial five-year term and can be extended for an additional five-year term. The funds are proposed to be reserved for future upkeep and repair that is required for the radio tower (painting, etc.).

Communication staff met with Verizon to ensure their signal does not interfere with our radio frequencies. The lease agreement states that it will be Verizon's responsibility to take any action necessary to avoid interference.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to authorize the lease agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Utilities and Engineering:

1. Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director presented a proposed Joint Economic Development Agreement between P1 Catawba Development Company and Catawba County.

Catawba County Board of Commissioners is developing an EcoComplex, which is designed to improve the ecology and economy of Catawba County through mutually beneficial relationships between commercial enterprise and Governmental services. The Eco-Complex is designed to promote economic development and create new jobs in the green energy and business, agricultural, and environmental sectors.

The County is currently entertaining the development of an Energy Facility that will employ woody materials, sawdusts, byproducts and waste as a green energy fuel to provide low cost energy to EcoComplex entities. The utilization of sawdust, woody byproducts, and wood pallet parts derived from pallet manufacturing and recycling supports the County's EcoComplex design and vision.

P1 Catawba Development Company, a Huntersville, North Carolina based corporation, is considering locating a \$2.5 million, 35 employee pallet manufacturing facility, a division of Pallet-One, on land adjacent to the Catawba County Blackburn Landfill located at Woodtech Drive, a newly developed State Road connected to Rocky Ford Road designed specifically for EcoComplex development. The 35 new jobs will be created within a period of 36 months and will meet or exceed the average weekly wage for similar industries in Catawba County for 2004 as obtained from the North Carolina Department of Commerce Finance Center.

Within 30 months from the approved date of the Agreement, the new Pallet-One facility is expected to be constructed with new capital equipment and machinery in place. The pallet manufacturing facility and equipment shall comprise a new taxable investment in Catawba County valued at \$2.5 million.

The agreement provides that the County will (i) transfer fee simple title to 12.59 acres of real property, tax value estimated by the Catawba County Tax Department is \$37,800, located on Woodtech Drive adjacent to the Blackburn Landfill, (ii) provide water service to the property line, and (iii) provide sewer service to the property line.

P1 Catawba Development Company will remove useful soils and other useful materials from the real property for County's use as landfill liner, cover and operational materials, at its own expense, and transport to a location determined by County and located on County Blackburn Landfill property within 24 months or sooner from commencement of the project. The Company will make available all woody byproducts, sawdust, and unusable wood pallets and wood pallet parts derived or created by P1 Catawba Development Company and/or its associated companies (tenants / contractors/ affiliates), and all woody byproducts, sawdust, and unusable wood pallets and wood pallet parts shall become the property of County at a cost not to exceed the fair-market value as determined by correlated pulp & paper indices for sawdusts for use as a EcoComplex resource. To insure long term commitment to the fuel source incentive related to this agreement, Pallet-One, the parent company, will agree under a separate agreement to provide all woody byproducts, sawdust, and unusable wood pallets and wood pallet parts to County not to exceed fair-market value. The cost of extracting and moving clay and soils from the subject property is estimated by McGill and Associates to be \$2.90 per cubic yard or \$72,500 for the movement of 25,000 cubic yards of clay materials, and \$2.50 per cubic yard or \$62,500 for 25,000 cubic yards of soils, both estimated to cost \$135,000.

County will sell steam energy to P1 Catawba Development Company and/or its associated companies (tenants / contractors/ affiliates) upon the completion of the County's Energy Facility at a price equal to or less than market value as determined from the Natural Gas Market average for steam energy production equivalent for the preceding 12 months. Fees charged for steam energy shall be in Btu and controlled by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

If P1 Catawba Development Company fails to invest or cause the total assessed value of the Equipment and Facility to be less than \$2,500,000, the County may terminate the Agreement and have no further obligation to P1 Catawba Development Company for the payment of any incentive award or the provision for any incentive. If the Agreement is terminated for the aforementioned reason, the fee simple title to the 12.59 acres of real property located on Woodtech Drive adjacent to the Blackburn Landfill will be returned to Catawba County and any incentive awards already paid will be reimbursed to the County.

Jerry Reavis of P1 Catawba Development Company expressed his thanks to all the people whose efforts had made this project happen. P1 is excited about it and is looking forward to being part of the Newton community and Catawba County and making a contribution to the area. He said the company planned to continue to grow. He specifically thanked Barry Edwards, Jack Chandler, Scott Millar and others who had brought the project from an idea to this point – where they are ready to move upon the Board's approval. Mr. Reavis noted that the company already had three sites in NC and each of those sites employed over 100 people. Chair Barnes said the Board was very excited with the whole idea of the eco-complex and P1 was part of that concept.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve this agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Barry Edwards then presented proposed two contracts with the City of Conover:

- a. A revenue sharing contract for the Bunker Hill Sewer Project that will provide sewer service to Bunker Hill High and Riverbend Middle Schools and surrounding areas, and
- b. A revolving loan contract for the Oxford Elementary School Sewer Project that will provide sewer service to Oxford Elementary School and the surrounding areas.

In the Fiscal Year 2005/06 budget, the County Commissioners appropriated \$2.93 million for the Bunker Hill/Oxford School Project. The County has received notice of award of grant funds from Public Water Supply, Construction Grants and Loans for this project.

The Bunker Hill/Oxford Sewer Project will immediately provide sewer service to both Bunker Hill High School and Oxford Elementary School in order to address the aging sewage disposal systems at these schools which have increasing operating and maintenance costs.

Riverbend Middle School is a relatively new school, built in 1998, and has an adequate sewage disposal system. However, the Bunker Hill Sewer Project will provide access to municipal sanitary sewer service when needed in the future.

Bunker Hill High School Project – Revenue Sharing

Bunker Hill High currently operates a sand filter discharge system. However, to meet new state requirements concerning chlorine limits an upgrade is planned for calendar year 2006 costing \$5,000. In order to meet increased flows a necessary addition/upgrade to this system is estimated to cost \$200,000. The system is currently located between the baseball and softball fields and will be less than 150 feet from a new classroom addition, which is scheduled for completion in December 2006. There have also been numerous complaints of odors due to the location of the system and direction of the prevailing winds side of the existing building.

One sewer line will consist of approximately 7,750 feet of 6-inch diameter force main from a new pump station near the intersection of Lyle Creek and Bunker Hill School Road following Lyle Creek westward to the existing Rock Barn Pumping Station, and

A second sewer line will consist of approximately 10,000 feet of gravity sewer line ranging in size from 8-inch to 12-inch diameter, to serve the Bunker Hill High School area. The gravity sewer line will begin at the Bunker Hill High School and will extend southward along an unnamed tributary of Lyle Creek to a new pumping station located near the intersection of Lyle Creek and Bunker Hill School Road as described above.

The Bunker Hill High School Sewer Project has an estimated cost of \$1,538,303. Grants funds in the amount of \$924,000 will be applied to this project leaving a County investment of \$614,303. This project is anticipated to have a payback period of approximately 14 years based on the potential growth in the area being served.

Oxford Elementary Sewer Project – Revolving Loan

Oxford Elementary has a subsurface sewage disposal system that was designed for 0.0009MGD. Currently, the system is near capacity and is showing evidence of malfunction, since the latest repair was installed. If the system is replaced the estimated costs would be \$300,000+.

The Oxford Elementary School Project consists of a series of two sanitary sewer lines.

These lines will consist of approximately 9,300 linear feet of 8-inch gravity sanitary sewer line beginning at an existing City sewer line at Community Road and going in a northward and westward direction along natural draws to the Oxford Elementary School site.

The Oxford Elementary School Project has an estimated cost of \$792,860. Grant funds in the amount of \$476,000 will be applied to this project leaving a County investment of \$316,860. Under the Revolving Loan Program in Chapter 42 of the County Code, 75% of the County's cost will be reimbursed over a 10-year period and the County will grant 25%. Therefore, the City of Conover will reimburse the County 75% of \$316,860 or \$237,645 in ten equal annual payments.

Riverbend Middle School

Based on the age, condition, and adequacy of the existing system at Riverbend Middle School, and the fact that the School System has not indicated an urgent need for sewer at Riverbend, it has not been included in this project. However, Riverbend Middle School may be served by this project through the addition of a pump station and force main and adequate capacity will exist in this project to serve Riverbend. A pump station and force main to serve Riverbend Middle School can be designed and included as an alternate bid item in order to provide the option of including it in this project.

Commissioner Barger asked about the system currently at Bunker Hill and would it be useable land after the sewer was in – Barry said he thought it would be but he would check into it.

Chair Barnes asked the County Attorney if these contracts should be voted on separately since they were different types – one being revenue sharing, one being revolving loans – and Attorney Robert Eades

advised that the actions could be combined and separate actions would not be required.

Commissioner Lail made a motion to approve the following two contracts with the City of Conover:

A revenue sharing contract for the Bunker Hill Sewer Project that will provide sewer service to Bunker Hill High and Riverbend Middle Schools and surrounding areas, and

A revolving loan contract for the Oxford Elementary School Sewer Project that will provide sewer service to Oxford Elementary School and the surrounding areas.

The motion carried unanimously.

11. Other Items of Business: None.
12. Attorneys' Report. None.
13. Manager's Report. None.
14. Adjournment. Commissioner Barger made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk