

Minutes
 Catawba County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Session, Monday, July 11, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Appointments

Economic Development Corporation	27	07/11/05
Sister Cities Association Board	27	07/11/05
Hickory Regional Planning Commission	27	07/11/05
Social Services Board	27	07/11/05
Child Fatality Prevention Board	27	07/11/05
Metropolitan Planning Organization	27	07/11/05
Transportation Advisory Board	27	07/11/05

Awards

Advanced Certification by the NC Sheriff's Standards Office	26	07/11/05
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Communications

Lease agreement on communications tower	29	07/11/05
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Emergency Services

Bid Award for Motorola Radios	28	07/11/05
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Grants

Early Learning Opportunity Grant	26	07/11/05
Scattered Site Housing Grant	27	07/11/05

Proclamation

10 th Anniversary of the Catawba County Partnership for Children	26	07/11/05
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Public Hearing

Closing of Wilfong Road	27	07/11/05
Amendment to Scattered Site Housing Grant	27	07/11/05

Purchasing

Donation of Vehicles	29	07/11/05
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Resolution

Donation of Vehicles	29	07/11/05
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Road Closing

Portion of Wilfong Road	27	07/11/05
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Special Guests

Dr. Tim Markley, Catawba County Schools	26	07/11/05
Joe McRae, ICMA Fellow	26	07/11/05

Utilities and Engineering

Piggyback exception for purchase of Terex C390E	27	07/11/05
Bid award for Crawler Dozer	28	07/11/05

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 11, 2005, 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 E. Morris.

1. Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Commissioner Barger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. The Invocation was offered by Chair Barnes.
4. Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Budget Hearings with Departments on June 13, 2005, Budget Public Hearing on June 14, 2005, Special Joint Meeting with Newton, Conover and Maiden Councils on June 20, 2005 and the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
Chair Barnes recognized Dr. Tim Markley, the new Catawba County Schools Superintendent and welcomed him to Catawba County.
6. Public comment for items not on the agenda. None.
7. Presentations.
 - a. Commissioner Lynn Lail presented a proclamation recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Catawba County Partnership for Children to Kim Lyke Salyards, Executive Director of the Partnership. Ms. Salyards thanked the Board for their dedication to children in Catawba County and made a special thanks to Libby Rockport who has worked with the Partnership for ten years.
Ms. Salyards then addressed the Board regarding the Partnership's opportunity to write a Federal grant – an Early Learning Opportunity Grant – which would be a collaborative effort between the Partnership and the Puckett Institute. The resources which would be obtained with the grant would be a series of tool kits that are literacy based and based on the different social domains of children's development which would be used with parents with their children and in childcare settings. In order to apply for this grant, the Catawba County Partnership for Children has to be designated by the Board as an "Eligible Local Council" and Ms. Salyards requested the Board make that designation. Commissioner Lail made a motion to designate the Catawba County Partnership for Children as a Eligible Local Council. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley came forward to recognize Mark Wireman, Communications Training Officer, for his Advanced Certification by the NC Sheriff's Standards Office. Mr. Worsley explained that Jerry Boggs, Communication Center Administrator, who had also received this advanced certification, was unable to be present for this presentation due to illness. He explained that Mark and Jerry were the first telecommunicators in Catawba County to receive these advanced certificates. Mr. Worsley noted that getting to this level of certification was quite involved and entailed getting the amount of education, training and years of service for eligibility. He said the County was very proud of these telecommunicators for this achievement. Mr. Wireman said both he and Jerry were proud of the certification and to be the first telecommunicators to obtain this level of training and they were dedicated to making sure others achieved this goal. Chair Barnes said the Board appreciated the time, effort and diligence they had put in to achieve this certification.
 - c. Assistant Manager Lee Worsley then introduced Joe McRae, ICMA Fellow, who began his job with the County in the last week. Joe had just graduated with his MBA from Cleveland State University and is a native of Ohio. Mr. Worsley pointed out Joe had a passion for local government and wants to be a local government manager and the staff was very happy to have him in Catawba County. Mr. McRae thanked

the Board for the opportunity and expressed his wishes to be a productive part of the County team. Chair Barnes welcomed Mr. McRae to the staff.

8. Public Hearings.

a. Barry Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director, came forward and stated that on June 5, 2005 the Board approved Resolution 2005-12 which requested the abandonment of maintenance of a portion of Wilfong Road by NCDOT and declaring its intent for closing the same portion of Wilfong Road pursuant to G.S. 136-63 and G.S. 153A-241. The resolution called for a public hearing to be held on this night. The portion of Wilfong Road at issue is completely within the landfill property and no individual property owner would be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to his property by the closure of this portion of the road. Chair Barnes declared the public hearing open and no one came forward to speak for or against the road closing. Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve the order to close the portion of Wilfrong Road. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Jacky Eubanks, Planning Director, presented a proposed amendment to the Scattered Site Housing Grant to relocate funds from home rehabilitation to the demolition of an old home and the building of a new home and the addition of funds to Program Income from the sale of a rehabilitated home and a request for a public hearing. Mr. Eubanks stated that the rehabilitation of eight units had been completed and three units were under construction and one unit was found to be unable to be rehabilitated due to the cost of the project. This requested amendment would cover the cost of the demolition of this unit (280-420100-849119 - \$3000) and the construction of a replacement home (280-420100-849118 - \$100,000). It would also add revenue to the grant in the amount of \$19,591 (280-420100-627201) resulting from the sale of a rehabilitated home after the death of the property owner. Mr. Eubanks noted that this grant needed to be closed out by November 2005 so that the County could receive their next allocation of \$400,000 for the 2006 year cycle. Chair Barnes opened the public hearing and no one came forward to speak for or against the proposed amendment. Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve this amendment to the Scattered Site Housing Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments.

Chair Barnes recommended the reappointment of Sonny Roseman for a second term on the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation; the appointment of Victoria Weathers for a first term replacing Dr. Byerly on the Sister Cities Association Board and the reappointment of Dr. John C. Eldrige for a third term on the Hickory Regional Planning Commission.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker recommended the appointment of Daniel McEachran to replace Doug Howard on the Social Services Board with a term beginning July 1, 2005 and expiring June 30, 2007.

Commissioner Beatty recommended the appointment of Sylvia Fisher, EMS Training Officer, to replace EMS Manager Bryan Blanton on the Child Fatality Prevention Board; the appointment of Commissioner Barger as an alternate on the Metropolitan Planning Organization – Transportation Advisory Committee; the reappointment of Bill Bedington for a third term on the Transportation Advisory Board and the appointment of Sheila Weeks, Director Area Agency on Aging, to a new category representing an aging program and Maria Reese, Public Health Educator Supervisor, for a new category representing public health on the Transportation Advisory Board. These terms will expire 3/14/07.

These recommendations came in the form of a motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Departmental Reports.

a. Utilities and Engineering:

1. Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Agent presented a request for the Board to approve the piggyback exception for the purposes of purchasing a CMI/Texex C390E Trashmaster to replace a 1999 91K AIJon Compactor that will have in excess of 10,000 hours, which will be surplus and sold on GovDeals internet auction and the proceeds returned to the Solid Waste Fund. The staff recommended piggybacking a bid awarded to Wilkes County in April 2005 for \$533,137. State law allows local governments to purchase without a separate bidding procedure from any contractor that has, within the past 12 months, contracted to furnish the item to (1) the federal government or any federal agency; (2) the State of North Carolina or any agency or political subdivision of that state, or (3) any other state or agency or political subdivision of that state if the contractor is willing to extend the same or more favorable price and other terms to the local government. The Board must award the contract at a regularly scheduled meeting and notice of the intent to award the contract without bidding

must be published no less than 10 days prior to the meeting. Commissioner Barger asked if these funds would come from the Solid Waste Funds and Ms. Anderson said they would as well as the proceeds from the sale of the old compactor going back into the Solid Waste Funds. Commission Barger made a motion to approve the piggyback exception for the purchase of a Terex C390E for \$533,137 (Budget acct 525-350200-985000). The motion carried unanimously.

2. Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Agent, next presented a request for the Board to award the bid for a 42,000 lb Class Crawler Dozer to James River Equipment Company in the amount of \$243,450. This dozer would replace a 1998 Caterpillar D5M Crawler Dozer that has in excess of 10,000 hours. The 1998 Caterpillar will be surplus and sold via internet auction. The bid was a reverse auction and the overall cost for the dozer and 5 year warranty from James River was \$243,450 and \$246,457 from Carolina Tractor, Hickory. Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to award this bid to James River Equipment Carolina LLC, Greensboro in the amount of \$243,450 (Budget acct: 525-350200-985000.) The motion carried unanimously.

b. Emergency Services:

Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Agent, next presented a request for the Board to award the bid for 316 Motorola Radios to Two-Way Radio of Carolina, Charlotte in the amount of \$146,352. The Emergency Services Planning Committee agreed to include a project for the 2004 Homeland Security Grant funding that addresses radio interoperability. They identified \$130,000 from 2004 grant funding and \$24,062 from the 2003 Part II grant to be used to replace radios that would not comply with the FCC 12.5 MHz band width change, were not programmable, or did not meet the minimum standards for mobile or portable radios as adopted by the Emergency Services Planning Committee and the Communications Center.

The Emergency Services Planning Committee asked that a letter be sent to all county response agencies explaining how to request radios under the grant. This letter was sent the week of June 27th and when the responses are received by Emergency Services, the committee will evaluate each request and determine which agencies receive radios and the number they will get.

This project was not to alleviate the need for departments to budget for radios. It was designed to bring us to a level where we can communicate. Each agency will be reminded of the importance of upgrading their radio technology through the budget process.

This project was bid as a reverse auction. A reverse auction is a "real-time purchasing process in which vendors compete to provide a goods or services at the lowest selling price in an open and interactive environment." The concept of reverse auction is prices are driven down by competition. The vendors submit an initial bid the day before the scheduled reverse auction; then at a designated time, the vendors can lower their bid to improve their ranking (they do not see who the other bidders are or the dollar amount of the other bids). The bidding usually takes place for thirty minutes, but will last longer is as long as vendors are still lowering their bid. The reverse auction event was held on June 9, 2005 for (316) Motorola Radios. Prior to the decision to conduct a bid for this purchase, staff received a quote from State Contract for the same equipment in the amount of \$198,027. Four vendors participated in the event; the final bid tabulation is:

Two Way Radio of Carolina Inc.	\$146,352.00
Wireless Communications, Inc.	\$146,663.89
South Sales Communications	\$154,755.00
High Country Communications, Inc.	\$155,712.50

All vendors were prequalified before the event, determining that they each would provide the radios according to our specifications. During the course of the event there were:

- ▶ 122 bids placed
- ▶ 31 first place changes
- ▶ 61 extensions as vendors submitted lower prices
- ▶ The event lasted for 1 hour and 13 minutes

Commissioner Barger made a motion to award this bid to Two-Way Radio of Carolina, Inc. in the amount of \$146,352.00. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Purchasing:

Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Agent, then requested the Board approve the donation of (3) three vehicles to Catawba County Schools. The approximate value of each the vehicles were \$2,500 for a 1991 Ford F350 Ambulance, \$9,000 for a 1998 Freightliner Ambulance and \$2,000 for a 1995 Dodge One Ton Van. It was requested the Board adopt the following resolution:

Resolution # 2005 -
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:

1991 Ford F350 Ambulance
1998 Freightliner Ambulance
1995 Dodge One Ton Van

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 authorized the vehicles to be donated to Catawba County Schools.

This the 11th day of July, 2005.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Barger made a motion to adopt this resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

d. County Manager's Office/Communications Center.

Assistant Manager Lee Worsley presented a request for the Board to approve a lease agreement with the City of Hickory for use of space on the City's communications tower and space adjacent to the tower for a communications cabinet located at 1305 9th Ave SE, Hickory.

Two years ago, the Board approved \$850,000.00, and a year later, the Board appropriated an additional \$264,000.00 to upgrade the County's radio system. Following the appropriations by the Board, a Radio Frequency Committee was formed to formulate a plan to improve the radio system. The RF Committee voted to start the improvements by upgrading the County's receive side for field units, which would ultimately improve coverage at the E-911 Center.

One site selected as a receive site was a communications tower owned by the City of Hickory and located at Hickory Fire Station 2, which is the subject of the proposed lease agreement. This site was identified as part of a two-way VHF Radio Frequency coverage study because of the additional receive coverage it would provide for the upper Hickory area. The County has requested to place one (1) antenna at 190' on the City's tower, and also requested the placement of a 78" x 25" x 25" communications cabinet at a City of Hickory approved location adjacent to the tower. This cabinet will house equipment for five (5) of the County's public safety radio frequencies.

As part of the proposed lease, there will be no charges by the City of Hickory for the use of the space on the tower. The County will pay for any costs associated with the installation of the antenna and

cabinet. The Board has already funded all of the radio and related equipment needed for this project. The County's staff attorneys have worked with the City of Hickory's attorney and both parties have approved the proposed lease agreement.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker asked why the lease was only for five years and Mr. Worsley pointed out the initial five year period could be renewed but the reason for this limited time was due to regulations and the possibility of additional towers coming on line during that five years giving the County a better site.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to authorize the lease agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Attorneys' Report. None.
12. Manager's Report. None.
13. Other items of business. None.
14. Adjournment. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk