

Minutes
 Catawba County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Session, Monday, August 15, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Appointments

Tax Assessor	47	08/15/05
Criminal Partnership Advisory Board	47	08/15/05
Dangerous Dog Appellate Board	47	08/15/05
Mental Health Services Board	47	08/15/05

Board of Commissioners

Status of Goals for Fiscal Year 2004-05	45	08/15/05
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Catawba Valley Medical Center

Funds for Establishment of five new School Nurse positions	48	08/15/05
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Duke Power

Request for Easement – Baker’s Mountain	48	08/15/05
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Goals

Board of Commissioners Goals for Fiscal Year 2004-05	45	08/15/05
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Planning

Rezoning request – 4.33 acre parcel – Sherrills Ford Small Area Plan	47	08/15/05
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Public Health

Rabies pre/post-exposure vaccine fee	47	08/15/05
Increase in revenue/expenditure lines for School Nurse positions	48	08/15/05

Public Hearing

Rezoning request for 4.33 acre parcel – Sherrills Ford Small Area Plan	47	08/15/05
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Refund Request

Tax	47	08/15/05
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Reinventing

Personnel Changes – Reinventing Government – Social Services	49	08/15/05
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School Nurses

Establishment of five new positions	48	08/15/05
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Surplus Property

Item removed from agenda	49	08/15/05
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Tax Department

Refund request	47	08/15/05
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Utilities and Engineering

Duke Power Request for Easement – Baker’s Mountain	48	08/15/05
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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 15, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Claremont City Hall, 3288 E. Main Street Claremont, 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 stated that the earlier meeting with the Councils of Claremont and Catawba had been recessed and at 7:02 p.m. she resumed the meeting and said the Board was pleased to be holding their meeting in the Claremont City Council Chambers. She then asked Mayor Morrison to speak and he said he was glad to host the meeting and said the days of people being able to do things on their own are history and today cooperation between municipalities and the county was needed to make things happen and used the Claremont Library as an example of that cooperation. He then introduced Councilman Nicky Setzer, Councilwoman Judy Setzer, Councilman Tim Lowrance, Councilman David Morrow, City Manager Doris Bumgarner and Fire Chief Gary Sigmon.
2. Commissioner Barger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. The Invocation was offered by Vice-Chair Hunsucker.
4. Vice-Chair Hunsucker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2005. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
Chair Barnes recognized the members of the City Council of Claremont and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
6. Public comment for items not on the agenda. None.
7. Presentations.
Chair Barnes said she would make a report on the Board's Performance Goals. She stated that each year the Commissioners establish goals for the year which is basically an outline which prioritizes the work of the County. There were four goals for the past fiscal year. The first goal was to provide strong support for the targeted recruitment of manufacturing and non-manufacturing business and industry with an emphasis on quality job creation and diversified tax base growth. The Board proposed accomplishing this through an environment that would be conducive by proper planning and implementation of infrastructure development and fiscal management and continued support of Economic Development Corporation as well as looking at the FORESIGHT Committee recommendations as points to be implemented. The Board also made a commitment to continue to support the Higher Metro Education Center.

The Board met in a special session in April to discuss the FORESIGHT Jobs and Business Creation Report and Scott Millar presented a proposal regarding the "most-favored" businesses. The Board is using this information as a guide for the type of businesses the County is trying to recruit.

The Board pledged support for the Greater Hickory Golf Classic and the expansion of the Hickory Metro Convention Center so that the County would be in the position to attract larger conventions and conferences and the Board is pleased that the North Carolina League of Municipalities will be holding their annual conference here this October.

The Board has begun the process of meeting with all the city councils and has heard a presentation regarding a multi-jurisdictional business park concept and Chair Barnes said it was hoped by early Fall that a committee could be established to study this concept. Chair Barnes also noted, with pleasure, that The Hickory Metro Higher Education Center, after two years of existence, saw its first graduates (62) this May.

The second goal was to adopt new zoning and subdivision regulations through a Unified Development Ordinance which would reflect the small area plans. Chair Barnes said the progress continues on the UDO. Phase I began in September 2003 and the current schedule has the completion of the draft in August 2005 and workshops to take place in early Spring with the Commissioners and public hearings at the Planning Board level and the Board of Commissioners level in May 2006.

The third goal was in order to improve economic development service delivery, quality of life and successfully lobby to achieve needed legislation, continue to develop and foster strong intergovernmental relationships with municipal and school elected officials; state and federal elected officials; regional elected officials and the business community. To accomplish this, the Board has scheduled joint meetings with municipalities and on January 4, 2005, the Board met jointly with the Boards of Education to review the FORESIGHT Report. The Board also met in a special session in March with the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce and the school boards to discuss recommendations of the FORESIGHT Report. The Board took action by increasing the teachers' supplements in response to the recommendations of the FORESIGHT Report. The Board approved the State agenda in September 2004 and proposed Federal legislative agenda in February 2005. The Board met with Margaret Klutz, State Director for Senator Elizabeth Dole, and Graham Fields, Western Regional Representative for Senator Dole as well as meeting with others in Washington in March 2005 to put forth the Counties Federal legislative priorities. The Board was pleased on the State level that two of the Counties top priorities were adopted by the State organization, NCACC, - which were Medicaid relief and the expansion of revenue options for counties.

The Board has continued to be in contact with State representatives and have continued to lobby for continuation of the funding for school buildings (ADM Fund), the expansion of the E911 wireless communications funds and other issues such as onsite wastewater systems, elimination of any action related to trash hauler compensation and the election process in North Carolina.

In an effort to increase the County's representation on State Boards, the Board has pledged to attempt to add ten residents to Statewide Boards and commissions and identified thirteen boards which would be beneficial. The Board also participates in meetings with local government managers with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.

The Board is trying to maintain a quarterly meeting with Regional elected officials and participates in the Air Quality Oversight Committee, with Chair Barnes as Chair of this committee, Commissioner Lail is the alternate for the Policy Board and Commissioner Beatty is on the WPCOG RPO Committee as well as on the MPO Transportation Advisory Board with Commissioner Barger as alternate.

The Board participates with the Chamber of Commerce, funds the Economic Development Corporation and maintains affiliation with the Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Visitor Information Center. The Board participated in the Chamber' Champions of Education Forum.

The fourth goal was to develop a theme to be used all year in public information which focuses on customer service. Chair Barnes said the Board tried to make this primary with all the various departments and this has been exhibited in area such as changes in mental health services, Family N.E.T. and the health department in supplying flu vaccine. The Board has tried to recognize as many county employees as possible with commendations and awards for their efforts – as of June 30th, 525 employees had been recognized for outstanding customer service. Chair Barnes said the Board supports and applauds the County's hazardous waste collection events. The adoption of the local sedimentation and erosion control ordinance was an effort to improve the response time for citizens and installation of laptop computers for building services will result in more timely results for the building and construction community. The Board approved funds to digitize deeds and records which will allow citizens to search such documents via the internet without having to go to the Register of Deeds office. Chair Barnes said the Board was very pleased to dedicate the expansion of the animal shelter, allowing for the focus of adoption of animals.

8. Public Hearing:

Jacky Eubanks, Director of Planning, presented a request to rezone a 4.33 acre parcel from R-2 Residential District to C-2 Commercial District. The property is located at 5718 E. NC 150 Hwy, 900 feet east of the Hwy 16 intersection in the Sherrills Ford Small Area Planning District, Mountain Creek Township, Parcel ID Number 3686-11-75-0676. The parcel is surrounded almost entirely by other C-2 Commercially zoned property creating an extensive commercial district. The Zoning Ordinance states a C-2 Commercial District is intended to provide land for the provision of convenience shops and specialty retail goods and businesses and personal services to the traveling public and the residents of neighborhoods. There is a public water line available fronting the parcel along HWY 150. Public sewer is not available. Traffic counts near the parcel are 9,400 average daily trips – HWY 150 has a carrying capacity of 9,900 ADT. HWY 16 has a carrying capacity of 9,900 and this segment of HWY 16 is identified for construction in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) beyond the 2004-2010 funding. The 2004-2010 STIP includes a project to widen HWY 16 from Lucia in Gaston County to Jones Fish Camp, which is north of the HWY 150 intersection and this is a funded project. This request for rezoning is consistent with the Sherrills Ford Small Area Plan. The Planning Board conducted a hearing on July 25, 2005 and no one spoke in opposition to this rezoning and the Planning Board recommends this rezoning. Commissioner Beatty asked if turn lanes would be required with any development of this property and Mr. Eubanks confirmed this. Chair Barnes noted that this public hearing had been duly publicized and advertised and open the floor for comments. Martha Laney came forward and indicated the property at issue was owned by her mother, Beatrice Buff, and said her mother was 81 years old and is ready to move out. Ms. Laney said there is a doctor who has an office beside the property who has shown interest in the property for expanding his business. After asking if anyone else wished to speak, Chair Barnes closed the public hearing. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the rezoning from R2 Residential District to C-2 Commercial District. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointments.

Chair Barnes asked for recommended appointments:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy recommended the reappointment of Randy Moose as Tax Assessor for a third two year term expiring 6/30/07.

Commissioner Lail recommended the appointment of Andrea Long to the Mental Health Services Board in the Individual Representing the Interest of Children Category for a four year term to replace Martha Palmer who is not eligible for reappointment.

Vice-Chair Hunsucker recommended the reappointment of Kathy Clay for a fourth term in the Employment & Training Category, Melissa Cline for a fourth term in the Substance Abuse Category, Dr. Jay Synn for a first term, Michael Hale for a third term in the Community Based Correction Program Category, John Hardy, Mental Health Director, for a fourth term, Kelly Isenhour, Public Health, for a second term, Pam Knuckles, Community Service Coordinator, for a second term and Brent Whitener, member at large, Probation Officer, for a second term to the Criminal Partnership Advisory Board (all for three year terms). Vice-Chair Hunsucker also recommended the reappointment of Harry L. Cooke to a sixth term, David Perkoski for a third term and Donald Whitener to a second term to the Dangerous Dog Appellate Board (three year terms).

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

10. Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Two tax refund requests that had been recommended by the tax collector. The first was the result of an error in pricing and the second was due to charges for the wrong tax jurisdiction. The total of the refunds is \$776.99.
- b. A request to establish a second rabies vaccine. The County had traditionally offered a single rabies vaccine and had recently been notified that it was not available. The Health Department has located a second vaccine which is about \$50 more expensive but it would give the public an option. This new vaccine would have a cost of \$210 per injection – with the current vaccine at \$162.00. The charge is based on the actual cost of the vaccine, the nursing time and 15% for indirect costs.

Chair Barnes asked if there were any requests for any of these items to be broken out from the consent agenda for discussion and none were made. Commissioner Barger made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Departmental Reports.

a. Public Health:

Doug Urland, Public Health Director, presented a request to approve the increase in the Health Department revenue and expenditure lines in the amount of \$266,500 to reflect funds provided by Catawba Valley Medical Center for the establishment of five (5) school nurse positions. Mr. Urland said this was exciting and repeated Mr. Morrison's words regarding the inability to do things in a vacuum and we all have to work together and collaborate and this work between the Hospital, the County Health Department and school systems was a wonderful collaboration.

Four of these nurses will be assigned to the Catawba County Schools and one to the Newton Conover Schools. The current ratio of school nurse to students in the Catawba County Schools is 1:2382 and with the addition of these school nurse positions, the ratio would be 1:1621 – the nationally recommended ratio is 1:750. Currently, Hickory Public Schools has 4 nurses with a ratio of 1:1083; Newton Conover has 1 nurse with a ratio of 1:3200 and Catawba County Schools has 5 nurses with a ratio of 1:3258.

Mr. Urland described the role of a school nurse as a hectic job – with a goal of keeping students healthy over the long-term, reinforcing healthy behaviors, and emphasizing that good health and learning go hand in hand. The components of the job are school environment, health education, school meals and nutrition, physical education, school meals and nutrition, physical education, health services, counseling/psychological/mental health services, staff wellness and parent/community partnerships.

The addition of these five school nurses will significantly impact the 05-06 School Health Outcomes. The percentage of children screened and identified for vision problems will increase from 45% to 90%; the percentage of children with acute medical conditions receiving appropriate care after being referred by the school nurse will increase from 80% to 95%; the percentage of children identified by the school nurse as not meeting the state immunization requirement and then immunized to meet those requirements will increase from 80% to 95% and whereas all kindergarten children now have an Individual Health Plan and 50% of the Hickory Public School system's 5th graders are screened for Body Mass Index (BMI), the increase in school nurses will result in all children having an Individual Health Plan and 50% of 5th graders in all three schools systems being screened for BMI.

Mr. Urland said this will allow the Health Department to expand their existing services and asked that the Department be allowed to accept these funds from the Catawba Valley Medical Center for the five additional school nurses. Chair Barnes acknowledged this significant contribution and said the Board was grateful. County Manager Lundy commented on the outcomes and thanked Jennifer McCracken for the work on the outcomes and noted how important these outcomes were to measure the value of the program and for future funding. Mr. Lundy also noted that Commissioner Barger had asked at subcommittee for a report on DHR Teams and this was forthcoming. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to accept the funds and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Utilities and Engineering:

Jack Chandler, Public Services Administrator, Utilities and Engineering, presented a request for the Board to grant a 20 foot wide easement to Duke Energy across the County owned property on Bakers Mountain for the installation and maintenance of a new underground electric power distribution line.

The Advent Crossroads Waterline project included the location of a water storage tank on County owned property adjacent to Bakers Mountain Park. In order for Duke Energy to provide electric power to the tank, a new electric distribution line must be installed from Duke's existing lines at the top of Bakers Mountain and the County must grant an easement to Duke Energy for installation of this electric distribution line.

Duke Energy will locate the power lines along the gravel access road, which leads from the water storage tank to the top of the mountain. The proposed agreement is limited to an underground conductor only with the exception of a square transformer box which will be above ground where the line reaches the tank. It has been

confirmed with Duke Energy that any clear cutting along the easement will be limited to fallen trees and other ground clutter/undergrowth to every extent possible and only to allow the installation equipment adequate passage along the easement. Commissioner Beatty recommended staff monitor the installation to ensure clear cutting is kept to a minimum. Commissioner Barger made a motion to grant this easement and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Finance – County Manager Lundy stated that the item regarding surplus property would not be addressed at this meeting and would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Attorneys' Report. None.

13. Manager's Report. None.

14. Other items of business.

Section II F of the 2005-2006 Budget Ordinance states: "Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes."

Under this provision of the Budget Ordinance, the following personnel changes have been made to Social Services' budget:

Income Maintenance Caseworker (6)

In order to address the ever-increasing number of public assistance cases and realize more reasonable workloads, two casework positions will be added to each of the following units: Adult Medicaid, Family Medicaid and Food Assistance. Additionally, the Adult Medicaid staff will work with the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program.

15. Adjournment. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. and the motion carried unanimously.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Barbara E. Morris, County Clerk