

AGENDA

Catawba County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 1924 Courthouse
30 North College Avenue, Newton, NC

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CATAWBA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD WILL BE ATTENDING AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION ON SOLAR FARMS PRESENTED BY ROBIN NICHOLSON, DUKE ENERGY'S DISTRICT MANAGER FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AT 5:15 P.M. IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 100-A SOUTH WEST BOULEVARD, NEWTON. THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ONLY AND NO BOARD ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation.
4. Approval of the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting and Closed Session of February 3, 2014.
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
6. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.
7. [Appointments.](#)
8. Departmental Reports:
 - a. Purchasing/Emergency Services:
[Donation of Surplus Ambulance and Stretcher to Catawba Valley Community College. Presented by Purchasing Manager Debbie Anderson and Emergency Services Director Bryan Blanton.](#)
 - b. Tax:
[Delinquent 2013 Real Estate Property Tax. Presented by Catawba County Tax Collector Lori Mathes.](#)
9. Other Items of Business.
 - a. [Resolution of Support for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program Application. Presented by Dee Blackwell, Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments and Scott Millar, President, Economic Development Corporation.](#)
 - b. [Resolution Supporting Citizen Participation in Government Through Elections in Catawba County. Presented by Assistant County Manager Dewey Harris.](#)
 - c. Discussion of Citizens' Request for District Representation versus At-Large Election of Commissioners.
10. Attorneys' Report.
11. Manager's Report.

12. Adjournment.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Individuals needing assistance should contact the County Clerk at 828-465-8990 within a reasonable time prior to the meeting. Access to the 1924 Courthouse for individuals with disabilities is at the south side ("A" Street). The elevator is located at the north end of the building. Participation in public meetings is without regard to race, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, color, or disability.

INFOTALK/INTERNET: The Catawba County Telephone Information System will allow you to use your touch tone telephone to obtain current information on Catawba County 24 hours a day. Information is updated on a regular basis. Dial 465-8468 and INFOTALK will direct your questions with easy to understand instructions. Reach Catawba County on the Internet at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov>.

CALENDAR: Due to the Board members' attendance at the NACO Conference in Washington, DC in early March, there will be only one March Board of Commissioners Meeting. This meeting will take place on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



**PREVIEW OF COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2014, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



The Catawba County Board of Commissioners will consider giving its support to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' plan to apply to become part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program, an initiative of various federal agencies designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States, when it meets at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2014, at the 1924 Courthouse at 30 North College Avenue in Newton.

The Board will consider a proposed resolution affirming its support for citizen participation in government through access to all registered voters for honest and impartial elections, according to established law governing election procedures and acknowledging the formal role of the State and County in conducting all elections held within the county, including municipalities in the county. The Board will discuss a request by citizens that the Board move to district representation for Board members, rather than the current at-large representation.

The Board will consider donating a surplus ambulance and stretcher that the County no longer needs to Catawba Valley Community College, for use in the college's training programs for future EMTs and paramedics. And it will receive the annual report from the County Tax Collector on delinquent real property taxes in Catawba County, which are expected to represent 6.94% of the total 2013 real property levy.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CATAWBA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD WILL BE ATTENDING AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION ON SOLAR FARMS PRESENTED BY ROBIN NICHOLSON, DUKE ENERGY'S DISTRICT MANAGER FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, AT 5:15 P.M. IN THE SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM OF THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, AT 100-A SOUTH WEST BOULEVARD, NEWTON. THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ONLY AND NO BOARD ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

PURCHASING/EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Board will consider approval of the donation of a 2006 Ford E-450 Type III ambulance and Stryker stretcher to Catawba Valley Community College. CVCC has requested the ambulance and stretcher, which would be used for the college's EMS degree and continuing education programs. CVCC is currently operating an outdated Type 1 ambulance designed as a mock ambulance, which does not have the same user attributes that the students will encounter as EMTs or Paramedics. This donation would also provide two ambulances for use when students are performing driving maneuvers both in initial and in-service programs. The ambulance that would be donated to CVCC has approximately 173,314 miles.

North Carolina General Statute 160A-274 authorizes the sale, lease, exchange and joint use of governmental property. Under this statute, a governmental unit may transfer personal property to another governmental unit with or without monetary consideration. The statute does require action by the governing body.

TAX

The Board will consider accepting a report from the Catawba County Tax Collector which sets out the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current year, and will consider ordering the Tax Collector to advertise delinquent tax liens as prescribed by North Carolina General Statute 105-369. As of January 31, 2014, delinquent real property taxes in Catawba County totaled \$4,780,429.42, which represents 6.94% of the 2013 real property levy.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. The Board will consider adopting a resolution of support of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' plan to apply to become part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program, an initiative of various

federal agencies designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States and present opportunities for the region to sustain and grow manufacturing employment.

B. The Board will consider adopting a resolution supporting citizen participation in government through elections in Catawba County. The North Carolina State Board of Elections is the state agency charged with overall responsibility for the administration of the elections process in North Carolina. The State Board of Elections works in conjunction with county Board of Elections offices across the state to handle numerous aspects of election administration. The goal of the Catawba County Board of Elections Office is to serve the public in an efficient and courteous manner and to provide well-planned and managed elections. The resolution supporting citizen participation in government through elections in Catawba County acknowledges the formal role of the State and County in conducting all elections held within the county, including municipalities in the county, and seeks to increase public awareness of the importance of citizen participation in county government through voting.

C. The Board will discuss a request by citizens that the Board move to district representation for Board members, rather than the current at-large representation.

CONTACT: DAVE HARDIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER 465-8464

NO APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED AT THIS MEETING

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Debbie Anderson, Purchasing Manager
Bryan Blanton, Emergency Services Director

DATE: February 17, 2014

SUBJECT: Donation of Surplus Ambulance and Stretcher to Catawba Valley Community College

Requested

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners is requested to approve the donation of a 2006 Ford E-450 Type III Ambulance and Stryker Stretcher to Catawba Valley Community College.

Background

Catawba Valley Community College has requested a 2006 Ford E-450 Type III Ambulance and a Stryker Stretcher. The vehicle and stretcher will be used for the EMS degree and continuing education programs. Catawba Valley Community College is currently operating an outdated Type 1 Ambulance that was designed as a mock ambulance and does not have the same user attributes that the students will encounter as EMT's or Paramedics. This will also provide two ambulances for use when they are performing driving maneuvers both in initial and in-service programs.

The ambulance to be donated to Catawba Valley Community College has approximately 173,314 miles.

North Carolina General Statute 160A-274 authorizes the sale, lease, exchange and joint use of governmental property. Under this statute, a governmental unit may transfer personal property to another governmental unit with or without monetary consideration. The statute does require action by the governing body.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners adopt the following resolution donating personal property to Catawba Valley Community College.

RESOLUTION No.
DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO THE
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

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

2006 Ford E-450 Type III Ambulance
Stryker Stretcher

WHEREAS, said vehicle shall be given to Catawba Valley Community College 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 vehicle to be donated to Catawba Valley Community College.

This the 17th day of February 2014.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Lori Mathes, Catawba County Tax Collector
DATE: February 17, 2014
SUBJECT: DELINQUENT 2013 REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX

REQUEST

In accordance with NCGS 105-369(a), I am requesting the Board of Commissioners accept this report in compliance with the aforementioned statute, and that the Board further orders me, as Catawba County Tax Collector, to advertise the delinquent tax liens as prescribed by NCGS 105-369.

BACKGROUND

NCGS 105-369(a) requires that each county's Tax Collector submit to their respective Board of Commissioners the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current year. As of January 31, 2014 delinquent real property taxes in Catawba County totaled \$4,780,429.42 which represents 6.94% of the 2013 real property levy.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board accepts this report in compliance with NCGS 105-369(a), and that the Board formally issue an order to the Catawba County Tax Collector to advertise all unpaid real property taxes per the following suggested resolution.

RESOLUTION No.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners for Catawba County, in compliance with NCGS 105-369(a), orders the Tax Collector to advertise all unpaid tax liens, as prescribed in NCGS 105-369.

This the _____ day of February, 2014.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

December 05, 2013

FACT SHEET: Attracting Manufacturing Investment in American Communities

Obama Administration Opens Application Process for Phase 2 of 'Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership'

To compete in an increasingly global economy, the United States must come up with innovative strategies that will lead to economic growth and job creation around the country. The 'Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership' (IMCP) seeks to enhance the way we leverage federal economic development funds to encourage American communities to focus not only on attracting individual investments one at a time, but transforming themselves into globally-competitive manufacturing hubs.

An administration-wide initiative led by the White House and the U.S. Department of Commerce, the 'Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership' will encourage communities to devise comprehensive economic development strategies that strengthen their competitive edge in attracting global manufacturers and their supply chains. IMCP specifically brings together the resources of multiple federal departments and agencies involved in economic development.

Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced that the competition for **Phase Two** of the 'Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership' is now open, and the Federal Register Notice will be posted in the coming days. In this phase, communities will have an opportunity to compete for a special designation that will elevate them in consideration for \$1.3 billion in federal dollars and assistance from 10 cabinet departments/agencies. These communities could also potentially receive catalytic additional federal investments to further support their economic development strategies. The IMCP is a critical component of the Department of Commerce's "Open for Business Agenda," which prioritizes trade and investment.

In **Phase One** of the of the 'Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership,' 44 communities were awarded a total of \$7 million to support the creation of economic development strategies that recognize the community's comparative advantages as a place to do business, invest in public goods, and encourage collaboration between multiple entities to expand the area's commercial appeal to investors.

Phase Two of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership

In Phase Two of the IMCP, up to 12 communities that come up with winning strategies will receive a designation of "Manufacturing Community" that gives them elevated consideration for \$1.3 billion in federal dollars and assistance from 10 cabinet departments/agencies. These communities would also potentially receive additional catalytic federal investments to support their economic development strategies. In order to earn the designation, communities must present strategies that identify technologies or industries in which they would be competitive in the future and would make investments in the following areas:

- workforce and training;
- advanced research;
- infrastructure and site development;
- supply chain support;
- export promotion;
- and capital access

These communities will receive:

- Elevated consideration for federal dollars and assistance across 10 cabinet departments/agencies, totaling \$1.3 billion;
- A dedicated federal liaison at these agencies who can act as their concierge to the specific services they need;
- Subject to funding availability, challenge grants may become available to some awardees from the pool of designated manufacturing communities;
- Recognition on a government website, accessible to prospective private investors (foreign and domestic alike) looking for information on communities' competitive attributes

IMCP Competition Process

- Phase One: The Administration and the Department of Commerce have already awarded 44 communities with \$200,000 planning grants – a total of \$7 million.
- Phase Two: Communities must apply by March 14, 2014 to be considered. Eligibility for Phase 2 is not contingent on having won Phase 1.
- Details on additional phases of the IMCP are forthcoming.

IMCP Participating Agencies (Either through Phase One or Phase Two)

- Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
 - Department of Transportation
 - Appalachian Regional Commission
 - Delta Regional Authority
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Science Foundation
- Small Business Administration

**Resolution of Support for the
Western Piedmont Council of Governments’
Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program Application**

Whereas, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments is designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District and said district includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties (Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area); and

Whereas, the region continues to sustain a long tradition of manufacturing, employing as many as 79,689 persons within that employment sector in 2000; and

Whereas, regional manufacturers currently employ 37,771 persons, representing 27% of the workforce (three times the national average of 9%); and

Whereas, manufacturing wages in the region pay 16% higher than the average wage; and

Whereas, the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Program (IMCP) Challenge is an initiative of various federal agencies designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States; and

Whereas, the United States Government ranks the region highly for its concentrations of manufacturing in the furniture and textile sectors, which Catawba County has taken to the next level with the Manufacturing Solutions Center in Conover and the Corporate Development Center and programs supporting advanced manufacturing at Catawba Valley Community College; and

Whereas, the EDA plans to designate twelve regions as “Manufacturing Communities”; and

Whereas, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments and its partners developed an application to submit to the Economic Development Administration; and

Whereas, the IMCP initiative presents opportunities for the region to sustain and grow manufacturing employment for the benefit of the citizens of our community; and

Whereas, the benefits derived from such a designation advances the region’s economic development efforts and improves the quality of life for its residents.

Now, therefore be it resolved, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners supports the IMCP application, agrees to serve as a regional partner, and encourages the federal agencies to designate the Economic Development District as a “Manufacturing Community.”

Adopted this 17th day of February, 2014.

Attest:

Barbara E. Morris, Clerk

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dewey Harris, Assistant County Manager

DATE: February 17, 2014

IN RE: Resolution Supporting Citizen Participation in Government Through Elections in Catawba County.

REQUEST

Periodically the Board adopts a resolution to acknowledge the value a county service provides in enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. It is in this regard staff recommends the Board adopt a resolution supporting citizen participation in government through elections in Catawba County.

BACKGROUND

In North Carolina, the State Board of Elections is the state agency charged with overall responsibility for the administration of the elections process in North Carolina. The State Board of Elections works in conjunction with County Board of Elections offices across the state to handle numerous aspects of election administration. The goal of the Catawba County Board of Elections Office is to serve the public in an efficient and courteous manner and to provide well-planned and managed elections. The resolution supporting citizen participation in government through elections in Catawba County acknowledges the formal role of the state and county in conducting all elections held within the county, including municipalities in the county.

RECOMMENDATION

As requested in the resolution, staff recommends that a copy of the resolution be posted at the Catawba County Election Office, and placed on the county's website, social media outlets, and other venues that increase public awareness of the importance of citizen participation in county government through voting.

RESOLUTION NO: _____

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
THROUGH ELECTIONS IN CATAWBA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Board of Elections is the state agency charged with overall responsibility for the administration of the elections process in North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Board of Elections works in conjunction with County Board of Elections offices to ensure that elections are conducted lawfully, and

WHEREAS, the state's 100 county Boards of Election operate voting sites, maintain voter registration lists and handle numerous aspects of election administration, and

WHEREAS, Catawba County North Carolina has formally adopted in its Code of Ordinances a "Statement of Philosophy" which identifies several principles that guide the delivery of all county services including elections, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Catawba County Board of Elections Office is to serve the public in an efficient and courteous manner and to provide well-planned and managed elections with immediate results, and

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Elections is responsible for supervising voter registration and conducting all elections held within the county, including all municipalities in the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Catawba County Board of Commissioners hereby affirms its support for citizen participation in government through access to all registered voters for honest and impartial elections according to established law governing election procedures.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Catawba County, North Carolina, is a community that supports and upholds the right of every eligible voter to cast a ballot.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be posted at the Catawba County Election Office, and placed on the county's website, social media outlets, and other venues that increase public awareness of the importance of citizen participation in county government through voting.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2014.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners