

AGENDA

Catawba County Board of Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 1924 Courthouse
30 North College Avenue, Newton, NC

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. Invocation.
4. [Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of December 1, 2014.](#)
5. Recognition of Special Guests.
6. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda.
7. Presentations:
 - a. Distinguished Public Service Award to Retiring Planning Board Member Ray Von Caldwell.
 - b. Recognition of Catawba County University Program Participants.
8. Public Hearing:
[Catawba County Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) First Public Hearing. Presented by Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards.](#)
9. [Appointments.](#)
10. Consent Agenda:
 - a. [Abandonment of State Maintenance for a Portion of GW Carson Road \(SR 1219\)](#)
 - b. [Urgent Repair Program Project Budget Amendment – Interest from Grant Funds.](#)
 - c. [Map Review Officer Designation.](#)
 - d. [Two Tax Refund Requests.](#)
11. Departmental Reports:
 - A. Public Health.
Public Health Farmers Market Update. *Presented by Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager.*
 - B. Social Services.
 1. [Revisions to Fiscal Year 2014/15 Social Services Board Outcomes. Presented by Social Services Director John Eller.](#)
 2. [Social Services Update. Presented by Social Services Director John Eller.](#)
12. Other Items of Business.
13. Attorneys' Report.

14. Manager's Report.

15. 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: The February Board of Commissioners Meetings will take place on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. and on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room of the 1924 Courthouse, 30 North College Avenue, Newton.



**PREVIEW OF COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



The Catawba County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to receive citizen comments on the development of Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure and Economic Development applications for grant funds over a three year cycle that must benefit low and moderate-income persons and address critical public infrastructure needs, when the Board meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at the 1924 Courthouse at 30 North College Avenue in Newton.

The Board will receive a general update on the programs of Catawba County Social Services and consider revising twelve budget outcomes agreed to by the Social Services Board due to circumstances beyond the department's control, including State and Federal policy changes. The Board will receive an update on the Public Health Farmers Market, which completed a second successful year in the fall of 2014, bringing fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to an increasing number of WIC clients.

The Board will consider a request made to the North Carolina Department of Transportation to remove 650 feet of GW Carson Road from the State road maintenance system, which would not adversely impact any adjacent property owners or deny any property owner access. The Board will consider an amendment to an Urgent Repair Project Budget to appropriate interest earned from grant funds. The Board will consider the designation of Map Review Officers for the County and its municipalities, to add new Map Review Officers for Catawba County and the City of Claremont and remove one Map Review Officer for the City of Newton who has left that position, and will consider two tax refund requests.

The Board will present a Distinguished Public Service Award to Ray Von Caldwell to recognize and thank him for 44 years of service on the Catawba County Planning Board as he retires from the Board. And it will recognize citizens who participated in "Catawba County University" in December 2014, a two night course during which the group learned about the work of the Board of Commissioners; the County's organization and details about many County departments.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE BOARD'S USUAL MEETING DATE BECAUSE THE THIRD MONDAY IN JANUARY IS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY AND COUNTY OFFICES ARE CLOSED.

PRESENTATIONS

A. The Board will present a Distinguished Public Service Award to Mr. Ray Von Caldwell to recognize and thank him for his 44 years of service on the Catawba County Planning Board as he retires from the Board. The award recognizes Mr. Caldwell's work in influencing the process of growth and change to ensure the County's quality of life heritage is safeguarded for this and future generations.

B. The Board will recognize citizens who participated in "Catawba County University" in December 2014, a two night course during which the group learned about the work of the Board of Commissioners, the County's organization and details about many County departments.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board will conduct a first public hearing to receive citizen comments and consider the submission of a 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure application. All North Carolina counties, except for the HUD-designated urban counties of Cumberland, Mecklenburg, and Wake, are eligible to apply.

Infrastructure grants are designed to improve the quality of life in target residential areas or area wide jurisdictions by installing or replacing public water and sewer systems. The maximum grant is \$3 million over a three-year period. Priority is given to communities with critical water/wastewater system needs and very low income. The application deadlines anticipated are the first of March and September, 2015.

The primary statutory objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low- and moderate-income (LMI). The State must ensure that at least 70% of CDBG funds are spent for activities benefitting LMI persons. Program design must meet one of three national objectives: 1) LMI benefit; 2) to prevent or eliminate slum and blight; or 3) to

address an urgent need. Grants are expected to be awarded on a competitive basis. In 2014, the State received approximately \$42.1 million. Approximately \$26.1 million is available for infrastructure funding and \$15.9 million is available for economic development funding. Similar amounts are expected for 2015. Under the current program, CDBGs could fund 100% of a project if awarded.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. The Board will consider adopting a resolution recommending to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) an abandonment of maintenance for a portion of GW Carson Road or State Road (SR) 1219. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, the Board of Commissioners may, on its own motion or on petition of a group of citizens, request that the North Carolina Board of Transportation change or abandon any road in the secondary system when the best interest of the people of the county will be served. While the road portion is in the City of Hickory's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), the statute gives the County authority to make the abandonment request and has the city's support.

NCDOT is requesting a review and consideration from the Board of Commissioners relating to the abandonment of maintenance of a portion of this road. NCDOT recently realigned and paved GW Carson Road, which serves 15 properties, nine of which contain single-family dwellings. The request by property owners at 6611 GW Carson Road made to NCDOT to remove approximately 650 feet of GW Carson Road from the State maintenance system will not adversely impact any adjacent property owners or deny any property owner access. The realignment of GW Carson Road and its intersection with Hildebran-Shelby Road (SR 1206) will benefit motorists by increasing visibility at the intersection. Mr. Steven Lee Costner and Mr. Clifford Costner are the only property owners adjacent to the portion of GW Carson Road proposed to be abandoned. Both have signed a petition requesting that NCDOT abandon the 650 feet of road.

B. The Board will consider amending the 2013 Urgent Repair Project Budget Ordinance to appropriate \$207 in interest earned to date. Catawba County received a \$75,000 Urgent Repair Grant in June 2013 to rehabilitate 16 houses at \$5,000 or less per house. The County is allowed to earn interest on these funds received from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. During the last 18 months, a total of \$207 in interest has been earned and these funds will need to be expended through the rehabilitation line item by January 31, 2015. Twenty-two homeowners scattered throughout Catawba County have benefited from this grant. Repairs have consisted of the installation of new roofs, plumbing repairs, installation of heating systems and floor repairs.

C. The Board will consider adopting a resolution amending the current list of Map Review Officers for the City of Newton, City of Claremont and Catawba County. On July 17, 1997, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified Senate Bill 875 - Maps and Plats Law. This law required all counties to appoint Review Officers who would review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for mapping. The law states that individuals have to be appointed by name, not by job title so that any time a change occurs in staffing, a new Review Officer has to be appointed and approved by resolution of the Board of Commissioners and subsequently recorded in the Register of Deeds' Office.

It is requested that the County's new planner, Ms. Lashana Marshburn be added to the list of approved Map Review Officers. It is also requested that Mary K. George be removed due to her retiring from her position. The City of Newton has requested that Mr. Maxton D. Sigler be removed due to his leaving his position. And the City of Claremont has requested that Ms. Shelley Stevens be added to their list of approved Map Review Officers. If the resolution incorporating the changes noted above is approved, the active list of Review Officers would be:

Catawba County:	Jacky M. Eubanks, Susan Ballbach, Chris Timberlake and Lashana Marshburn
City of Hickory:	Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, David Leonetti and Shamaury Myrick
City of Newton:	Alex S. Fulbright
City of Conover:	Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed
City of Claremont:	Laurie Locicero and Shelley Stevens
Town of Long View:	David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis
Town of Maiden:	Travis Ramsey
Town of Catawba:	Shelley Stevens
Town of Brookford:	Marshall Eckard

D. The Board will consider two tax refund requests totaling \$3,491.91 made to the Tax Office. Records have been checked and these refunds verified and the Tax Collector is asking for approval of the refund requests. Under North

Carolina General Statute 105-381, a taxpayer who has paid his or her taxes may request a refund (in writing) for the amount paid through error.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. PUBLIC HEALTH

The Board will receive an update on the Public Health Farmers Market, which completed a second successful year in the fall of 2014, bringing fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to an increasing number of WIC clients.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES

1. The Board will consider revising twelve budget outcomes agreed to by the Catawba County Board of Social Services. Social Services implemented a new outcome development process for Fiscal Year 2014/15. However, at the middle of the fiscal year local circumstances beyond the department's control, along with State and Federal policy changes, have necessitated twelve outcome changes. Some recommended revisions are based on identifying specific populations targeted, corrections to multi-year outcomes based on sequence of events and significant core changes within specific programs. These changes also help the agency address some State and Federal policy adjustments. The following program areas are impacted: Child Welfare, Family NET and Economic Services.

At the local level, service delivery changes such as Corner House programs or court-related items such as continuances require outcome modifications. Implementation of a Continuous Quality Improvement program will better equip Social Services to meet both State and Federal requirements. This has led to better data collection and reporting for compliance, impacting several current outcomes. And the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) program does not allow Social Services to produce reports consistent with current outcomes, necessitating revisions.

A summary of the twelve outcome revisions is presented below, with changes in the outcome noted in bold and justification for each change following the indication of the outcome revision:

Child Welfare Outcomes

1) **Current Board Outcome:** To assist children in foster care with a plan of adoption to move toward permanency during FY 2014-15, **55% (28 of 51)** of children will become adopted within two years of entering agency custody, as compared to the state rate of 36.54% and Catawba's rate of 52.94%. **Revision: 50% (25 of 51)**, due to judicial retirements and the recent election of new judges, as well as the transition to a new district attorney leading to continuances on a number of cases where a termination of parental rights petition is filed. A goal of 50% is still above the state's rate of 36.54%.

2) **Current Board Outcome:** To improve foster care placement stability and increase the well-being of children, **71% (57 of 80)** of children in foster care for 12-24 months will experience two or fewer placements (excluding moves toward permanency) during FY 2014-2015, as compared to the current Federal standard of 59.9%, and the FY 12-13 state percentage of 69.1%, large counties' 72.45%, and Catawba County's 65%. **Revision: 68% (54 of 80)**, due to mental health authorizations needed to properly address the trauma incurred and stabilize many children for permanency. Also, due to mental health reform over the last several years, mental health leveled placement capacity has significantly diminished along with placement authorizations (duration), as Managed Care Organizations incorporate a managed care model.

3) **Current Board Outcome:** To improve foster care placement stability and increase the wellbeing of children, **90%** of children in foster care less than 12 months will experience two or fewer placement changes (excluding moves toward permanency) during FY 2014-2015 as compared to the state's 88.44%, large counties 86.17%, and Catawba County's 88.72% in FY 2012-13. **Revision: 89% (104 of 116)**, due to Family In Home (FIH) services changing drastically over the past two years. This was precipitated by a Federal ruling that North Carolina's FIH program, and the use of IV-E to fund it, was not proper. The result has been more children entering care due to lack of available preventative services.

4) **Current Board Outcome (Multi-year, Year 1) 2014-2015:** To develop relationships, strengthen parental engagement, identify supports and mutual understanding of expectations in an atmosphere of mutual respect that promotes the safety of children, 75% of all families with children involved in child welfare assessments or investigations, family in-home and foster care services during Fiscal year 2014-2015 **will participate in a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting with fidelity to the CFT model at required intervals (prior to petition for custody, within 30 days of case decision,**

within 30, 60, 150 days of foster care and every six months thereafter) as measured by ISSI data and information. **Revision:** families with **children involved in Family In-Home services who participate in Child and Family Team meetings (by or within 30 days) will not have a repeat finding within six months of case closure during FY 2014-15**, due to revised language to identify Child Welfare services where Child and Family Team meetings could impact the reduction in the number of children entering foster care. A revision in language also specifies the target group as those participating in the Child and Family Team process; therefore making this outcome stronger and more concise.

5) Current Board Outcome: In order to improve self-sufficiency and increase positive support systems available to families in times of crisis, **75% of families in need of child protective services and who identify two voluntary supports (such as family members, friends, faith community, coaches, teachers, or others) that are willing to take an active role as a participant in the family's safety plan**, will not experience another need for services within six months of case closure during FY 2014-15. **Revision:** **65% of families who participate in a Child and Family Team meeting will identify two voluntary social supports (such as family members, friends, faith community, coaches, teachers, or others) that are willing to take an active role as a participant in the family's safety plan**, resulting in no need for services within six months of case closure during FY 2014-15, due to revised language specifying a targeted population to help identify families who participate in the Child and Family Team intervention in order to adequately measure longitudinal impact and better align with State policy.

6) Current Board Outcome: In order to promote safety of children, **80% of parents/caregivers in need of child protective services** will be able to demonstrate/explain and put into practice at least two behaviors that keep their children safe prior to closure of services as evidenced by CFT, a case closure summary, case plan and/or documentation in narrative during FY 2014-15. **Revision:** **70% of parents/caregivers involved with child protective services (Investigation/Assessment and Family In-Home) who participate in a CFT meeting will be able to demonstrate and explain at least two behaviors that keep their children safe prior to closure of services as evidenced by a CFT summary form during FY 2014-15**, due to the language specifically identifying families involved with Investigation/Assessment and Family In-Home services who participate in the Child and Family Team intervention in order to measure impact.

7) Current Board Outcome: In order to be more fully equipped to provide trauma informed services to children and families served within the division, 95% of all child welfare staff **will complete** the Child Welfare Trauma Toolkit Training and will demonstrate improved or maintained understanding of the impact trauma has on children and the impact childhood trauma experienced by parents has on their ability to parent effectively, as measured by a **14% increase** in trauma informed knowledge from pre to post test in FY 2014-15. Two additional correct responses on a 14 question post test would indicate a 14% increase. **Revision:** 95% of child welfare staff **who complete** the Child Welfare Trauma Training in FY 2014-15 will demonstrate an understanding of the impact childhood trauma has on behavior and the ability to parent effectively as measured by **an increase** in knowledge from pre to post test, due to clarification and removal of the measurement threshold for competency as it is not based on a standardized tool and there being no correlation that a 14% increase assures training competency, which was based on premature information staff had during the initial development of the outcome.

8) Current Board Outcome (Multi-year, Year 1) 2014-2015: To help facilitate parental engagement and remove barriers to reunification (or other permanency outcomes) for youth entering foster care during FY 2014-15, **75% (68 of 90) of parents/caregivers will receive a trauma-informed assessment** within 45 days of child entering care to identify needs and gaps in services. **Revision:** To help remove barriers to reunification or other permanency outcomes for youth entering foster care, **a parental /caregiver trauma-informed screening tool will be developed and piloted during FY 2014-15**, due to addressing the need for a comprehensive screening tool and assessment.

9) Current Board Outcome: To provide more timely and clinically appropriate treatment to help children in foster care heal from trauma and improve their placement stability, 80% (47 of 59) of children ages 3-17 who have entered foster care and **complete a mental health trauma informed assessment** by Family Net within 30 days, and will receive recommended treatment during FY 2014-15 as compared to 50% in FY 2013-14. **Revision:** 80% (47 of 59) of children ages 3-17 who have entered foster care **will engage in treatment as a result of a mental health trauma informed assessment** by Family Net within 30 days during FY 2014-15 as compared to 50% in FY 2013-14, due to specifying the goal of engaging children into treatment and ensuring treatment regardless of limited mental health resources beyond the treatment scope of Family NET services.

10) Current Board Outcome: In order to promote wellbeing and improved behaviors for youth during FY2014-15, **87% (12 of 14) of youth receiving services in the Corner House Programs for at least six months will demonstrate improved behaviors** on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) as measured at admission and planned discharge. **Revision:** **Proposed Revised Board Outcome:** In order to develop coping skills, build healthy relationships, and resiliency to trauma, **DSS residential services will internally develop and implement a new service delivery model to meet the needs of children served by June 30, 2015**, due to changes that have been made to the Corner House programs.

11) Current Board Outcome: In preparation for successful independent living, **90% (approximately 35 of 39) of youth aged 16-18 who actively participate in North Carolina's Independent Living Program for Foster Children (LINKS) in FY 2014-15 will meet a benchmark of 80% achievement in State-identified outcomes** (sufficient economic resources to meet daily needs, a safe and stable place to live, attainment of academic or vocational/educational goals, connections to a positive support system, avoidance of illegal or high risk behaviors, postponement of parenthood until financially and emotionally capable and access to physical, dental and mental health services). **Revision:** To prepare youth in foster care aged 16 -18 to navigate the transition to successful independent living, recognize and build upon their strengths, meet their economic, health, emotional, and daily living needs, **youth will achieve 80% (31 of 39) of their Independent Living Program for Foster Children (LINKS) goals during FY2014-15**, due to better aligning with State policy, youth participating in developing their own plans for the future are coached to tap into their strengths and desires as a way to set reachable goals towards positive and productive independent living. Also, this is a stronger outcome as 100% of children are being measured versus just those who are actively participating.

Economic Services Outcomes

12) Current Board Outcome: To support the Universal Eligibility Specialist concept, improve customer service and create efficiencies for staff, **95% of families receiving Food Assistance and Medicaid will have one case manager by June 30, 2015, as compared to the current caseload of 25%.** **Revision:** To support the Universal Eligibility Specialist concept, improve customer service and create efficiencies for staff, **95% (22,375 of 23,553) of families applying for Food Assistance and/or Medicaid will be able to complete the process within the same interview by June 30, 2015, as compared to the current process of 25%**, due to removal of case management function in original outcome as NCFAS does not support this as a universal set up as first believed by staff. The universal worker concept can only be supported during the intake process. The proposed revised outcome continues to support the objective of eliminating redundancy for customers and staff during the intake process.

2. Social Services Update: The Board will receive a general update on the programs of Catawba County Social Services.

CONTACT: DAVE HARDIN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER 465-8464

To: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

From: Barry Edwards, Director of Utilities and Engineering

Date: January 12, 2015

RE: Catawba County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
First Public Hearing

Request

Staff requests the Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on January 20, 2015 conduct the first public hearing in consideration of submitting a 2015 CDBG Infrastructure application.

Background

The purpose of this public hearing is to explain the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and allow the citizens an opportunity to express their views concerning community development needs and priorities.

The Division of Community Assistance (DCA) and Commerce Finance Center (CFC) within the North Carolina Department of Commerce, and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) administer the State of North Carolina Small Cities CDBG program to local governments in non-entitlement areas. All NC small cities are eligible to apply for these CDBG funds except for the 23 entitlement cities that receive funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All NC counties, except for HUD-designated urban counties of Cumberland, Mecklenburg, and Wake, are eligible to apply.

The primary statutory objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low- and moderate- income (LMI). The State must ensure that at least 70% of CDBG funds are spent for activities benefitting LMI persons. Program design must meet one of three national objectives: 1) LMI benefit; 2) prevent or eliminate slum and blight; 3) address an urgent need. Grants are expected to be awarded on a competitive basis.

In 2014, the state received approximately \$42.1 million. Approximately \$26.1 million is available for infrastructure funding and \$15.9 million is available for economic development funding. Similar amounts are expected for 2015.

Economic Development (ED) grants are designed to benefit LMI persons through job creation or retention. Funding eligibility is contingent upon the creation or retention of permanent, full-time jobs, at least 60% of which are made available to persons earning 80% or less of the median income for the area. In past years, funding per program year limited to a maximum of \$1.25 million to local government. The provision of health insurance is required. In past years, applications accepted on a rolling basis.

Infrastructure: Up to \$1 million with a 25% local match required for projects located in Catawba County. The amount per job created or retained for infrastructure to a site is \$12,000 or \$7,000 based on the NAICS code (North American Industry Classification Code) with traditional manufacturing garnering the higher \$12,000.

Vacant Building Reuse: Up to \$750,000 with a 1:1 match based on the creation of jobs. With eligible manufacturing NAICS code it is \$20,000 per job and \$12,000 for others.

Shell Building Loan: Up to 50% of construction costs up to \$1 million with 5 years to pay back at 2% interest with interest only payments for the first 2 years. It is done with the local government's good faith effort to locate a company that will hire LMI jobs.

Infrastructure (IF) grants are designed to improve the quality of life in target residential areas or area wide jurisdictions by installing or replacing public water and sewer systems. The maximum grant is \$3 million over a 3-year period. Priority is given to communities with critical water/wastewater systems needs and very low income. The application deadlines anticipated are the first of March and September, 2015.

Under current program, CDBG could fund 100% of project if awarded.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on January 20, 2015 meeting conduct a first public hearing in consideration of submitting a 2015 CDBG Infrastructure grant application.

APPOINTMENTS

DAN HUNSUCKER(Due) Agricultural Advisory Board

01/15

Clarence Hood

Eligible for 3rd term

Jeremy Lee

Eligible for 2nd term

3-year terms

Commissioner Hunsucker recommends the reappointment of Clarence Hood and Jeremy Lee to the Agricultural Advisory Board. These term will expire January 2018.

KITTY BARNES (Due) Claremont Planning Board and Board of Adjustment

11/01/14

Tyler Sigmon

Does not wish reappt.

3-year terms

Commissioner Barnes recommends the appointment of Gene Monday for a first term as an ETJ member on the Claremont Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. This term will expire November 1, 2017.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Chris Timberlake, Planner

DATE: January 20, 2015

IN RE: Abandonment of State Maintenance for a Portion of GW Carson Road (SR 1219)

REQUEST

The Board of Commissioners is requested to review and recommend to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) an abandonment of maintenance for a portion of GW Carson Road (SR1219), with adoption of the attached resolution.

REVIEW/BACKGROUND

Pursuant to G.S. 136-63 the Board of Commissioners may, on its own motion or on petition of a group of citizens, request the North Carolina Board of Transportation change or abandon any road in the secondary system when the best interest of the people of the County will be served. While the road portion is in the City of Hickory's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), the statute gives the County authority to make the abandonment request and has the city's support.

NCDOT is requesting a review and consideration from the Catawba County Board of Commissioners relating to the abandonment of maintenance for a portion of SR 1219 (GW Carson Road). NCDOT recently realigned and paved GW Carson Road which serves 15 properties, nine of which contain single-family dwellings. The request by property owners at 6611 GW Carson Road made to NCDOT to remove approximately 650 feet of GW Carson Road from the state maintenance system will not adversely impact any adjacent property owners or deny any property owner access. The realignment of GW Carson Road and its intersection with Hildebran-Shelby Road (SR 1206) will benefit motorists by increasing visibility at the intersection.

Steven Lee Costner and Clifford Costner are the only property owners adjacent to the portion of GW Carson Road proposed to be abandoned. Both property owners have signed an attached petition requesting NCDOT abandon the 650 feet of road.

Attached is a letter from Michael Poe, NCDOT District Engineer for Division 12, proposing review and consideration of the abandonment by the Board of Commissioners, a petition signed by Steven Lee Costner and Clifford Costner requesting abandonment, a Vicinity Map, a map illustrating the realigned portion of GW Carson Road, and a letter signed by Brian Frazier, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Hickory, supporting the abandonment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed this request and recommends the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution requesting abandonment of a portion of GW Carson Road (SR 1219) and forwarding the recommendation and resolution to the North Carolina Board of Transportation.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

October 3, 2014

Ms. Barbara Morris
Clerk to the Board
Catawba County
P.O. Box 389
Newton, NC 28658

Dear Ms. Morris:

Please find enclosed a proposed state road abandonment for review and consideration by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners.

If you have any questions regarding this material, please contact my office at (704) 748-2400. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Poe".

Michael Poe
District Engineer
Division 12, District 3

MLP:gb

enclosures

Cc: Mr. Reuben Chandler, P.E. Division Twelve Engineer
Mr. Greg Frye, County Maintenance Engineer
File



City of Hickory
Post Office Box 398
Hickory, NC 28603-0398
828-323-7422 (Planning)
828-323-7414 (Comm. Dev./Econ. Dev.)
828-323-7410 (DAC)
FAX: 828-323-7476 (Planning)
828-323-7474 (DAC)



Department of Planning & Development
Brian M. Frazier - Director

December 22, 2014

**Mr. Chris Timberlake, AICP
Planner
Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department
100-A Southwest Blvd
PO Box 389
Newton, NC 28658**

Dear Mr. Timberlake:

The City of Hickory fully supports the abandonment of a portion of Secondary Road #1219 (G W Carson Road) from the State Maintenance System.

I do not believe that there would be any negative impact on any property owners, due to the closing of the 650' of soil/gravel roadway.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian M. Frazier".

**Brian M. Frazier,
Director of Planning & Development Services**

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Abandonment Petition

North Carolina

County of Catawba

Petition request for the abandonment of Secondary Road 1219 from the State.

Maintained System

We the under signed, being all of the property owners on Secondary Road 1219
in Catawba County do hereby request the Division of Highways of the Department of
Transportation to abandon the road from the State Maintained System.

PROPERTY OWNERS

Name

Address

Steven Lee Costner

6611 GW Carson Rd. Hickory, N.C. 28602

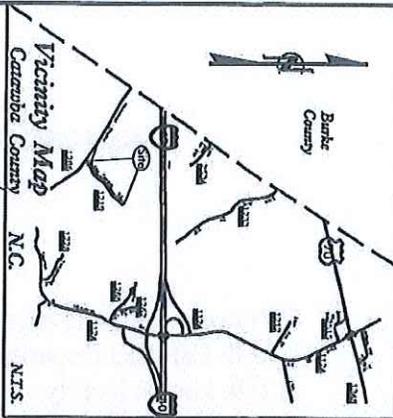
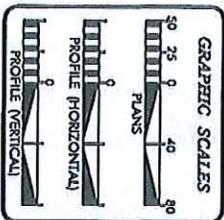
signature: Steven Lee Costner

Clifford Costner

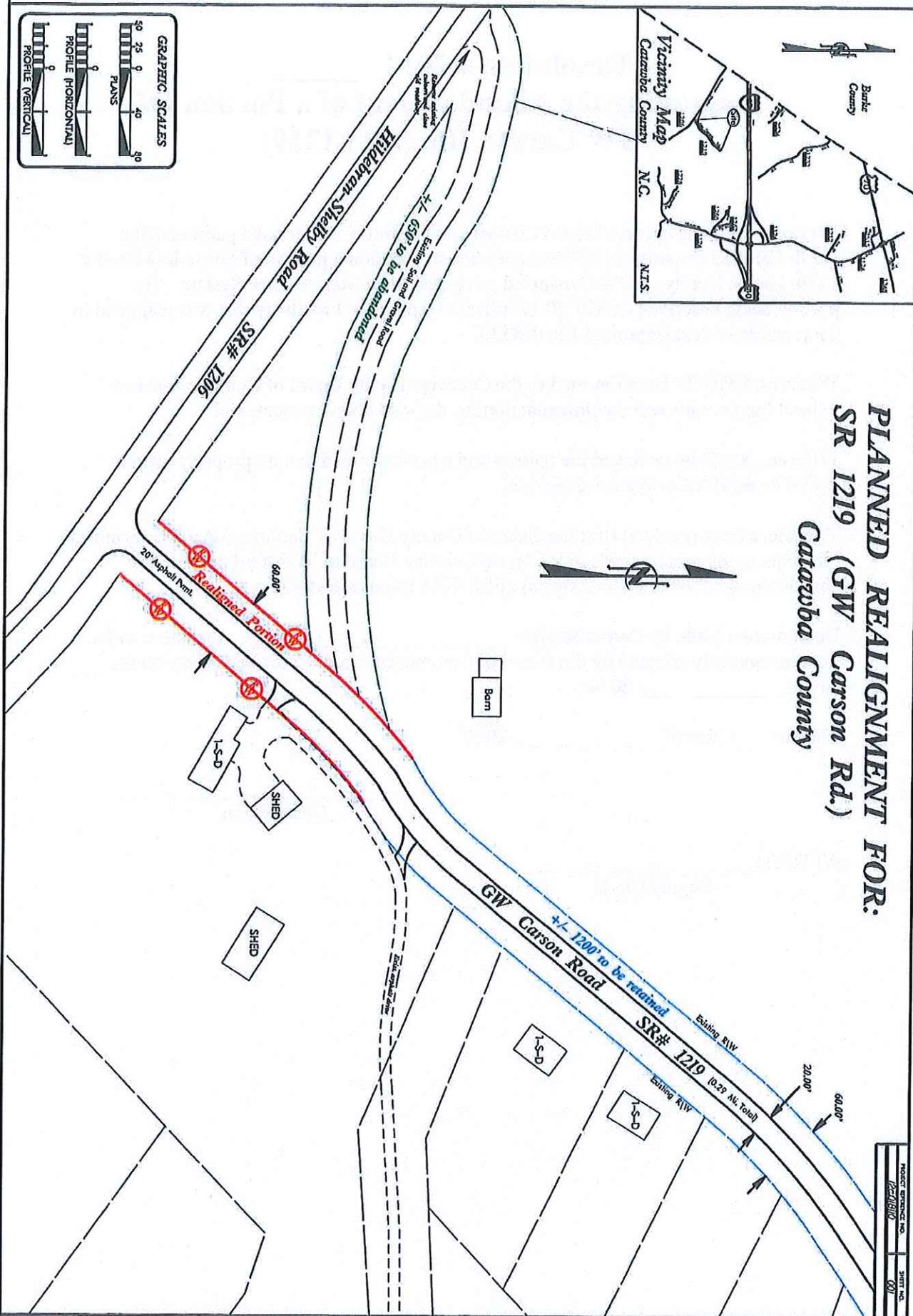
6647 Hildebran-Shelby Rd, Hickory, N.C. 28602

signature: Clifford Costner

RECEIVED
OCT 08 2014



**PLANNED REALIGNMENT FOR:
SR 1219 (GW Carson Rd.)
Catawba County**



PROJECT NUMBER	17-01810
SHEET NO.	001

GW Carson Road Vacinity Map



1 inch = 425 feet



This map product was prepared from the Catawba County, NC, Geographic Information System. Catawba County has made substantial efforts to ensure the accuracy of location and labeling information contained on this map. Catawba County promotes and recommends the independent verification of any data contained on this map product by the user. The County of Catawba, its employees and agents disclaim, and shall not be held liable for any and all damages, loss or liability, whether direct, indirect or consequential which arises or may arise from this map product or the use thereof by any person or entity.

Path: E:\projects\planning\GW_Carson_8x11.mxd

Resolution # 2015 - _____
Requesting the Abandonment of a Portion of
GW Carson Rd. (SR# 1902)

WHEREAS, property owners Steven Costner and Clifford Costner have petitioned the North Carolina Department of Transportation to abandon a portion of Secondary Road #1219, known locally as GW Carson Rd., from the State Maintenance System. The portion being described as 650' (0.12 miles) of soil\gravel roadway that was realigned in conjunction with state project 12c.018110.

WHEREAS, NCDOT has submitted to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners a request for a review and recommendation for the road abandonment; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the request and has determined that no property owners would be deprived or ingress or egress;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Catawba County Board of Commissioners has reviewed this request and recommends to the North Carolina Board of Transportation for the abandonment of the 650' (0.12 miles) of SR 1219 as described above.

Upon motion made by Commissioner _____, the above order was unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Catawba County on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

This the ____ day of _____, 2015.

Chairperson

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk

Memo

To: Catawba County Board of Commissioners
From: Jacky Eubanks, Director of Planning and Parks
Date: January 20, 2015
Re: 2013 Urgent Repair Program Project Budget Ordinance Amendment - Interest Earned

Request

Staff requests the Board of Commissioners amends the 2013 Urgent Repair Project Budget Ordinance to appropriate the interest earned. A total of \$207 has been earned to date.

Background

Catawba County received a \$75,000 Urgent Repair Grant in June 2013 to rehabilitate sixteen (16) houses at \$5,000 or less a house. The County is allowed to earn interest on the funds that were received from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. During the last eighteen (18) months, interest has been earned on this project. A total of \$207 has been earned to date and these funds will need to be expended through the **rehabilitation** line item by January 31, 2015.

Twenty-two (22) homeowners scattered throughout Catawba County have benefited from this grant. The repairs on the houses have consisted of installation of new roofs; plumbing repairs; installation of heating systems and floor repairs.

Recommendation

The Planning staff recommends the Board of Commissioners approves this Project Budget Ordinance Amendment to the 2013 Urgent Repair Project Rehabilitation Line Item.

Revenue:

280-420113-627000	Interest Earned on Revenue	\$207
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Expenditures:

280-420113-849120	Rehabilitation (URP)	\$207
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ORDINANCE# _____
AMENDMENT#1
CATAWBA COUNTY PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE
FOR THE 2013 URGENT REPAIR GRANT

The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this Project:

Revenues

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency-URP

NCHFA-URP Grants Revenue	\$ 75,000
Interest Earned on Revenue	\$ 207
	<u>\$ 75,207</u>

Section 4. The following Expenditures are appropriated for the project:

Expenditures

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency-URP

Rehabilitation-URP	\$ 65,902
WPCOG Administration	\$ 9,305
	<u>\$ 75,207</u>

Adopted this the 20th of January, 2015.

Chair, Catawba County Commissioners

Attest:

County Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Jacky Eubanks, Planning Director

DATE: January 20, 2015

IN RE: Map Review Officer Designation

REQUEST

Request is hereby made by the City of Newton, City of Claremont and Catawba County Planning for the Board of Commissioners to amend the list of Map Review Officers by adoption of the attached resolution.

BACKGROUND

On July 17, 1997, the General Assembly ratified SB 875 - Maps and Plats Law. This law required all counties to appoint Review Officers who would review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for mapping. The law states that individuals have to be appointed by name, not by job title, so that any time a change occurs in staffing, a new Review Officer has to be appointed and approved by resolution of the Board of Commissioners and subsequently recorded in the Register of Deed's Office.

It is requested that the County's new planner, Lashana Marshburn be added to the list of approved Map Review Officers. It is also requested that Mary K. George be removed due to her retiring from her position.

The City of Newton has requested that Maxton D. Sigler be removed due to him leaving his position. Also, the City of Claremont has requested that Shelley Stevens be added to their list of approved Map Review Officers.

With approval of the attached resolution incorporating the changes noted above, the active list of Review Officers will be:

Catawba County: Jacky M. Eubanks, Susan Ballbach, Chris Timberlake and Lashana Marshburn

City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, David Leonetti and Shamaury Myrick

City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright

City of Conover: Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed

City of Claremont: Laurie Locicero and Shelley Stevens

Town of Long View: David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis

Town of Maiden: Travis Ramsey

Town of Catawba: Shelley Stevens

Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution which amends the Map Review Officers for the City of Newton, City of Claremont and Catawba County.

RESOLUTION #2015-_____
APPOINTMENT OF MAP REVIEW OFFICERS

WHEREAS, S.L. 1997-309 (SB875) made a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the law was to transfer the responsibility for reviewing plats to determine whether they meet recording requirements from the Register of Deeds to a Review Officer; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by resolution, to appoint a person or persons to serve as Review Officer to review each plat or map before it is recorded and certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to insure an expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by G.S. 47-30.2 before they are presented to the Register of Deeds for recording.

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on June 3, 2013 adopted Resolution #2013-18 which included names of individuals who were appointed as Review Officers for representative jurisdictions in Catawba County; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in Book 3191 Pages 0741-0743; and

WHEREAS, staffing changes have occurred in the City of Newton, the City of Claremont and Catawba County, which necessitate an amendment to the approved list of Map Review Officers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Lashana Marshburn is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officer for Catawba County and Shelley Stevens is hereby appointed to perform the responsibilities as required for Map Review Officers for the City of Claremont as indicated in accordance with the appropriate General Statutes; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mary K. George is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for Catawba County and Maxton D. Sigler is hereby removed from the list of appointed Review Officers for the City of Newton.

With the above changes, the comprehensive list of Map Review Officers is as follows:

Catawba County: Jacky M. Eubanks, Susan Ballbach, Chris Timberlake and Lashana Marshburn
City of Hickory: Brian Frazier, Cal Overby, John Furmage, David Leonetti and Shamaury Myrick
City of Newton: Alex S. Fulbright
City of Conover: Q. Lance Hight, and Cara C. (Chris) Reed
City of Claremont: Laurie Locicero and Shelley Stevens
Town of Long View: David Epley, and Charles T. Mullis
Town of Maiden: Travis Ramsey
Town of Catawba: Shelley Stevens
Town of Brookford: Marshall Eckard

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officer be recorded in the Catawba County Register of Deed's Office and indexed in the names of the Review Officers.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Attested

Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Barbara Morris, County Clerk

C. Randall Isenhower, Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Lori Mathes, Tax Collector

DATE: January 20, 2015

IN RE: TAX REFUND REQUESTS

REQUEST

Two refund requests totaling \$3,491.91 have been made to the Tax Office. The records have been checked and these refunds verified; therefore, the Tax Collector is asking for approval of the refund requests.

BACKGROUND

According to General Statute 105-381, a Taxpayer who has paid his taxes may request a refund (in writing) for the amount that was paid through error. The attached sheet gives the information for the Taxpayers' requests.

RECOMMENDATION

The refund requests are approved as shown on the attached sheet.

REFUND REQUESTS – JANUARY 2015

Peoples Bank
P.O. Box 467
Newton, NC 28658-0467

Location: 1333 2nd Street NE

ABSTRACT # 0001810098

COUNTY				HICKORY			TOTAL
YEAR	VALUE	RATE	TAX	RATE	TAX		
2013	74,198	.53	393.25	.50	370.99	764.24	
2012	74,668	.53	395.74	.50	373.34	769.08	
2011	74,762	.53	396.24	.50	373.81	770.05	
2010	1,128	.535	6.03	.50	5.64	11.67	
2009	1,222	.535	6.54	.50	6.11	12.65	
Totals			1,197.80		1,129.89	2,327.69	

Peoples Bank listed Real Estate Improvements in error on their Business Personal Property (BPP) listing form from 2009 -2013 and was billed as BPP and Real Estate as improvement to the property. This made it a double taxation for Peoples Bank. For tax year 2009 and 2010 the BPP included only a small portion that was double taxed. For tax year 2011 thru 2013 the amount of \$296,791 was billed both on BPP and Real Estate. After research was completed the property record card did indicate that listed improvements were picked up as real estate and should not have been listed and billed as BPP.

*This is in the City of Hickory

Braxton Gate Homeowners Association Inc
C/O Treasurer
P.O. Box 9672
Hickory, N.C. 28603-9672

Location: 4737 Braxton Gate Lane Hickory, N.C.

Abstract #'s 2914472-2014-2014
 2914472-2013-2013
 2914472-2012-2012
 2801729-2011-2011
 2638494-2010-2010
 2239581-2009-2009

YEAR	VALUE	COUNTY RATE	TAX	HICKORY RATE	TAX	Fees	TOTAL
2014	17,500	.53	92.75	.50	87.50		180.25

2013	17,500	.53	92.75		.50	87.50		180.25
2012	17,500	.53	92.75		.50	87.50		180.25
2011	17,500	.53	92.75		.50	87.50	10.66	190.91
2010	17,500	.535	93.63		.50	87.50	27.00	208.13
2009	17,500	.535	93.63		.50	87.50	43.30	224.43
							Totals	\$1,164.22

PRISM Property Management, LLC manages the homeowners association for Braxton Gate HOA, Inc. It has been determined that parcel # 3701-14-23-6076 is a dedicated common area and has been charged property taxes in error. The HOA has been paying property taxes on the common area parcel and is requesting to have the amount paid reimbursed. The allowable bills total \$1,164.22.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Policy and Public Works Subcommittee
DATE: January 20, 2015
RE: Revisions to Fiscal Year 2014/15 Social Services Board Outcomes
REQUEST: Accept Revisions to Fiscal Year 2014/15 Social Services Board Outcomes

BACKGROUND

Social Services implemented a new and robust outcome development process for Fiscal Year 2014/15. However, at the mid-year local circumstances beyond the department’s control, along with State and Federal policy changes, has necessitated 12 outcome changes. Some recommended revisions are based on identifying specific populations targeted, corrections to multi-year outcomes based on sequence of events, and lastly significant core changes within specific programs. These changes also help the agency address some State and Federal policy adjustments. The following program areas are impacted: Child Welfare, Family NET, and Economic Services.

At the local level, service delivery changes such as the Corner House programs or court-related items like continuances require outcome modifications. Implementation of a Continuous Quality Improvement program will better equip our agency to meet both State and Federal requirements. This has led to better data collection and reporting for compliance, impacting several current outcomes. Additionally, NCFAST does not allow us to produce reports consistent with current outcomes, necessitating revisions.

Below is a table identifying the level of change and the impacted outcome(s):

Level of Change	Outcomes #
Local	4, 7, 8, 10
State	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12
Federal	1, 2, 3

Child Welfare Outcomes

1) Current Board Outcome: To assist children in foster care with a plan of adoption to move toward permanency during FY 2014-15, **55 percent (28 of 51)** of children will become adopted within two years of entering agency custody, as compared to the state rate of 36.54 percent and Catawba’s rate of 52.94 percent.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To assist children in foster care with a plan of adoption to move toward permanency during FY 2014-15, **50 percent (25 of 51)** of children will become adopted within two years of entering agency custody, as compared to the state rate of 36.54 percent and Catawba’s rate of 52.94 percent.

Justification: Judicial retirements and the recent election of new judges, as well as the transition to a new district attorney, have already led to continuances on a number of cases where a termination of parental rights petition is filed. This means that most of these cases will surpass the two year mark before they can move to adoption (which can take another 9 months to a year), impacting the ability to meet this outcome. The agency has limited influence in mitigating these court-related issues. The goal of 50% is still above the state's rate of 36.54%.

- 2) **Current Board Outcome:** To improve foster care placement stability and increase the well-being of children, **71 percent (57 of 80)** of children in foster care for 12-24 months will experience two or fewer placements (excluding moves toward permanency) during FY 2014- 2015, as compared to the current federal standard of 59.9 percent, and the FY 12- 13 state percentage of 69.1 percent, large counties' 72.45 percent, and Catawba County's 65 percent.

Proposed Board Outcome: To improve foster care placement stability and increase the well-being of children, **68 percent (54 of 80)** of children in foster care for 12-24 months will experience two or fewer placements (excluding moves toward permanency) during FY 2014- 2015, as compared to the current federal standard of 59.9 percent, and the FY 12- 13 state percentage of 69.1 percent, large counties' 72.45 percent, and Catawba County's 65 percent.

Justification: For many children in foster care, mental health authorizations are needed to properly address the trauma incurred and stabilize the child for permanency. Due to mental health reform over the last several years, mental health leveled placement capacity has significantly diminished along with placement authorizations (duration) as MCOs incorporate a managed care model. These MCO time-limited authorizations have an impact on the number of placement changes for a child in foster care as when the child is no longer authorized at a certain level, homes are unable to keep the child in many instances. Couple this with a limited number of Foster Families and the extensive matching process, we are now seeing an increase in placement moves.

- 3) **Current Board Outcome:** To improve foster care placement stability and increase the wellbeing of children, **90 percent** of children in foster care less than 12 months will experience two or fewer placement changes (excluding moves toward permanency) during FY 2014-2015 as compared to the state's 88.44 percent, large counties 86.17 percent, and Catawba County's 88.72 percent in FY 2012-13.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To improve placement stability for children in foster care and increase their well being, **89 percent (104 of 116)** of the children in care less than 12 months will experience two or fewer placement changes (excluding moves toward permanency) in 2014-15, compared to the large county average of 86.17 percent and our most recent average of 88.72%.

Justification: Over the past 2 years, Family In Home (FIH) services has changed drastically. This was precipitated by a federal ruling that NC's FIH program and the use of IV-E to fund it, was not proper. Due to this ruling, the State redefined FIH services and greatly focused its efforts on only the most at risk families/children. This change in focus also caused a change in the duration the service could be provided which typically cut the timeframe in half. The result has been more children entering care due to lack of available preventative services. In fact, the number of children entering foster care has increased by 42% in the first quarter compared to FY2013-14. Additional challenges include the limited capacity of mental health leveled placements and the time-limited approval for services by the MCO,

which requires a placement change for the child. The goal of 89% is higher than the state and large county rates.

- 4) **Current Board Outcome (Multi-year, Year 1) 2014-2015:** To develop relationships, strengthen parental engagement, identify supports and mutual understanding of expectations in an atmosphere of mutual respect that promotes the safety of children, 75 percent of all families *with children involved* in child welfare assessments or investigations, family in-home, and foster care services during Fiscal year 2014-2015, **will participate in a Child and Family Team meeting with fidelity to the CFT model at required intervals (prior to petition for custody, within 30 days of case decision, within 30, 60, 150 days of foster care and every 6 months thereafter) as measured by ISSI data and information.**

Proposed Revised Board Outcome (Year 1) 2014-15: To improve participation and engagement of families in their own plans, leading to a decrease in children entering care and/or preserving their family unit, 75 percent (67 of 90) of families with **children involved in Family In-Home services who participate in Child and Family Team meetings (by or within 30 days) will not have a repeat finding within 6 months of case closure during FY 2014-15.**

Justification: Revised language to identify Child Welfare services where Child and Family Team meetings could impact the reduction in the number of children entering foster care. Revision in language also specifies the target group as those participating in the Child and Family Team process; therefore, making this outcome stronger, and more concise. Those families not served by Family In-Homes services are captured in the following CFT outcomes. The original outcome had one goal to capture CFT data across multiple programs that have different objectives for utilizing the CFT meeting. Based on the different purposes of the CFT for each service the outcome was revised to ensure specific goals for each service was adequately addressed and measured.

- 5) **Current Board Outcome:** In order to improve self-sufficiency and increase positive support systems available to families in times of crisis, **75 percent of families in need of child protective services and who identify two voluntary supports (such as family members, friends, faith community, coaches, teachers, or others) that are willing to take an active role as a participant in the family's safety plan,** will not experience another need for services within 6 months of case closure during FY 2014-15.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome:

In order to improve self-sufficiency and increase positive support systems available to families in times of crisis, **65 percent of families who participate in a Child and Family Team meeting will identify two voluntary social supports (such as family members, friends, faith community, coaches, teachers, or others) that are willing to take an active role as a participant in the family's safety plan,** resulting in no need for services within 6 months of case closure during FY 2014-15.

Justification: Revised language to specify a targeted population to help identify families who participate in the Child and Family Team intervention in order to adequately measure longitudinal impact and better aligns with state policy. This revision also addresses the need for engagement and to identify adequate supports to prevent recidivism. With the decrease in total population we cannot maintain the previous percentage achievement goal. This will still be a challenging threshold to meet. The scope of achievement for this specific outcome will include 80 of 122.

- 6) **Current Board Outcome:** In order to promote safety of children, **80 percent of parents/caregivers in need of child protective services** will be able to demonstrate/explain and put into practice at least two behaviors that keep their children safe prior to closure of services as evidenced by CFT, case closure summary, case plan, and/or documentation in narrative during FY 2014-15.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: In order to promote safety of children, **70 percent of parents/caregivers involved with child protective services** (Investigation/Assessment and Family In-Home) who participate in a CFT meeting will be able to *demonstrate and explain at least two behaviors that keep their children safe prior to closure* of services as evidenced by CFT summary form during FY 2014-15.

Justification: Revised language to specifically identify families involved with Investigation/Assessment and Family In-Home services who participate in the Child and Family Team intervention in order to measure impact. This outcome focuses on developing child safety competency for parents/caregivers. With regard to child protective services, CFT meetings are primarily implemented in Family In Home services and the outcome targets only those who participate. By identifying the targeted population, the scope of achievement for this specific outcome will now include 72 of 103 parents/caregivers. With the decrease in total population, we cannot maintain the previous percentage achievement goal. This will still be a challenging threshold to meet.

- 7) **Current Board Outcome:** In order to be more fully equipped to provide trauma informed services to children and families served within the division, 95 percent of all child welfare staff **will complete** the Child Welfare Trauma Toolkit Training and will demonstrate improved or maintained understanding of the impact trauma has on children and the impact childhood trauma experienced by parents has on their ability to parent effectively, as measured by a **14 percent increase** in trauma informed knowledge from pre to post test in FY 2014-15. 2 additional correct responses on 14 question post test would indicate 14% increase.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To provide more appropriate, trauma-informed services to families, 95 percent of child welfare staff **who complete** the Child Welfare Trauma Training in FY 2014-15 will demonstrate an understanding of the impact childhood trauma has on behavior and the ability to parent effectively as measured by **an increase** in knowledge from pre to post test.

Justification: Revision for clarity and to remove the measurement threshold for competency as it is not based on a standardized tool and there is no correlation that a 14% increase assures training competency, which was based on premature information we had during the initial development of the outcome. Achieving a specific increase in score on the post test doesn't assure the ability to practice using a trauma informed approach nor does missing a few questions on the post test negate the training experience. Skill reinforcement will be supported through supervision and case reviews. The scope of achievement for this specific outcome will include 69 of 73 child welfare staff.

- 8) **Current Board Outcome (Multi-year, Year 1) 2014-2015:** To help facilitate parental engagement and remove barriers to reunification (or other permanency outcomes) for youth entering foster care during FY 2014-15, **75 percent (68 of 90) of parents/caregivers will receive a trauma-informed assessment** within 45 days of child entering care to identify needs and gaps in services.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome (Multi-year, Year 1) 2014-2015: To help remove barriers to reunification or other permanency outcomes for youth entering foster care, **a parental /caregiver trauma-informed screening tool will be developed and piloted during FY 2014-15.**

Justification: Revised language to address the need for a comprehensive screening tool and assessment. Current standardized tools did not include many of the core factors necessary to provide a comprehensive screening and assessment. The agency is developing a screening tool and assessment to identify parents/caregivers who have experienced trauma and assess for services. In FY2015-16 (year 2) parents/caregivers identified as experiencing trauma, evidenced by the trauma screening tool, will receive a trauma-informed assessment within 45 days of child entering care.

- 9) Current Board Outcome:** To provide more timely and clinically appropriate treatment to help children in foster care heal from trauma and improve their placement stability, 80 percent (47 of 59) of children ages 3-17 who have entered foster care and **complete a mental health trauma informed assessment** by Family Net within 30 days, will receive recommended treatment during FY 2014-15 as compared to 50% in FY 2013-14.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To provide more timely and clinically appropriate treatment to help children in foster care heal from trauma and improve their placement stability, 80 percent (47 of 59) of children ages 3-17 who have entered foster care **will engage in treatment as a result of a mental health trauma informed assessment** by Family Net within 30 days during FY 2014-15 as compared to 50% in FY 2013-14.

Justification: Revised language to specify the goal of engaging children into treatment and ensuring treatment regardless of the limited mental health resources that are beyond the treatment scope of Family NET services. If the MCO will not approve a recommended higher level of service, Family NET will provide services to prevent further decline in treatment and/or sustain progress. Ensuring a mental health trauma informed assessment for children when entering care could be a model for the state.

- 10) Current Board Outcome:** In order to promote wellbeing and improved behaviors for youth during FY2014-15, **87 percent (12 of 14) of youth receiving services in the Corner House Programs for at least six months will demonstrate improved behaviors** on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) as measured at admission and planned discharge.

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: In order to develop coping skills, build healthy relationships, and resiliency to trauma, **DSS residential services will internally develop and implement a new service delivery model to meet the needs of children served by June 30, 2015.**

Justification: Changes have been made to the Corner House programs. Therefore, the recommendation is to replace the original outcome with an outcome focused on developing a service delivery model focused on supporting the well-being of children in foster care.

- 11) Current Board Outcome:** In preparation for successful independent living, **90 percent (approximately 35 of 39) of youth aged 16-18 who actively participate in North Carolina's Independent Living Program for Foster Children (LINKS) in FY 2014-15 will meet a benchmark of 80 percent achievement in State-identified outcomes** (sufficient economic resources to meet daily needs, a safe and stable place to live, attainment of academic or vocational/educational goals, connections to a positive

support system, avoidance of illegal or high risk behaviors, postponement of parenthood until financially and emotionally capable, and access to physical, dental and mental health services).

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To prepare youth in foster care aged 16 -18 to navigate the transition to successful independent living, recognize and build upon their strengths, meet their economic, health, emotional, and daily living needs, **youth will achieve 80 percent (31 of 39) of their Independent Living Program for Foster Children (LINKS) goals during FY2014-15.**

Justification: To better align with state policy youth participating in developing their own plans for the future are coached to tap into their strengths and desires as a way to set reachable goals towards positive and productive independent living. Also, this is a stronger outcome as 100% of children are being measured versus just those who are actively participating.

Economic Services Outcomes

12) Current Board Outcome: To support the Universal Eligibility Specialist concept, improve customer service and create efficiencies for staff, **95 percent of families receiving Food Assistance and Medicaid will have one case manager by June 30, 2015 as compared to our current caseload of 25 percent.**

Proposed Revised Board Outcome: To support the Universal Eligibility Specialist concept, improve customer service and create efficiencies for staff, **95 percent (22,375 of 23,553) of families applying for Food Assistance and/or Medicaid will be able to complete the process within the same interview by June 30, 2015 as compared to the current process of 25 percent.**

Justification: Revised language to remove case management function in original outcome as NCFAST does not support this as a universal set up as first believed. The universal worker concept can only be supported during the intake process. Proposed revised outcome continues to support the objective of eliminating redundancy for customers and staff during the intake process.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommends that the following FY 2014-15 Outcomes be modified as proposed to better align with the work and objectives of services throughout Social Services. These proposed modifications have also been prior approved by the Social Services Board.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Catawba County Board of Commissioners

FROM: John Eller, Social Services Director

DATE: January 20, 2014

IN RE: Social Services Update

REQUEST

To provide a high level update and data snapshot of Social Services programs.

BACKGROUND:

There are many changes taking place at the state and national level that have impacted many program areas within Social Services. A data review will be provided to inform the Board regarding volume increases within Social Services.

Social Services mission remains unchanged: To strengthen, with dignity and respect, the quality of life for all citizens through supportive services and advocacy.

These efforts are strengthened through our strategic planning process which includes a focus on the following Board goals:

- Vulnerable children are in safe, nurturing, financially stable environments.
- Citizens will become or remain economically independent.
- Vulnerable seniors and disabled adults are safe and have opportunities to remain in their own homes.
- Citizens will be knowledgeable of and satisfied with Social Services.
- Social Services will operate with the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency.
- Children and families will have access to nurturing, education, support and treatment services to maximize family functioning.

RECOMMENDATION:

No action is required as this presentation is for the board's information only.