



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014, 7 P.M.
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON, N.C.**



Kitty Board, Chair of the Board, reported on the Board's attainment of its Fiscal Year 2013/14 Goals.

The Board's first goal read, "Prepare a Fiscal Year 2013/14 budget which provides needed County services within available revenues, including no property tax increase, ensuring that the County addresses its short term needs while planning for long term growth, and maintaining the Board of Commissioners' policy of two months of operating expenses." The Board's FY 2013/14 budget kept the property tax rate stable at 53 cents per \$100 of property valuation (eighth lowest among North Carolina's urban counties and 28th lowest among all 100 counties), the seventh consecutive year without a property tax increase.

The Board's second goal read "In partnership with the private sector, support a coordinated effort to create jobs and property tax base by investing in infrastructure, the development of the County's quality of place, and educational opportunities." In FY 2013/14, the County extended the Old Shelby Road water line, improving quality of life by bringing water to 131 people in 63 households. The Board adopted a resolution in support of the completion of the Highway 16 widening project and maintaining project funding. The Board defined solar farms, setting specific standards that protect the community's aesthetics while preserving property owners' rights to use their property as they deem fit. And the Board partnered with the City of Claremont and EDC Committee of 100 in the development of a shell manufacturing building.

The Board also entered into an Economic Development Agreement with HSM Solutions and the State for expansion of several HSM facilities in the County, creating 162 new jobs and a target investment of \$3.3 million in the facilities and equipment. The Board entered into an Economic Development Agreement with GKN Driveline and OHM Holdings for expansion of existing industry, creating 278 new jobs and ensuring that GKN Driveline remains in the county, with guarantees of \$130 million in investment construction and personal property. And the Board continued support of the Chamber's Edison Project recognizing creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. In the County FY 2014/15 budget, adopted in June 2014, the Board allocated funds for Innovate Catawba, supporting the initiative to keep young people in Catawba County and ensuring the community has jobs for them.

Under this goal, the Board also approved a LEED certified design for a new Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library, which opened on September 29, 2014; awarded a bid for the Justice Center/Public Safety Expansion Project, which will provide much needed space for court services, 911 Communications and an Emergency Operations Center; and finalized construction of a new County Animal Shelter, which opened on June 26, 2014.

The Board's third goal read, "Review recommendations of the Food and Farm Sustainability Committee and work to implement strategies consistent with the County's area of responsibilities." Strategies and actions that are on schedule include the Public Health's Farmers Market, which continued for a second year with a goal, in partnership with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, to improve individual and community health by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Steps toward this goal also include the successful Eat, Drink & Be Local Event with farm tours, gardening and cooking classes, a local foods feast, local beer and wine tasting and local restaurants featuring local foods. And, in March 2014, the Board adopted an ordinance to ensure the County's definition of a bona fide farm was consistent with North Carolina General Statutes, with local farmers in support of this amendment.

The Board was also shown a new format for reporting the goals, designed to be understood and received by younger audiences, called an Infographic. The Board's Fiscal Year 2013/14 Goals Infographic may be seen at

<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/pio/BOCgoals.jpg>

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