Regular Session, August 18, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Catawba County Board of Commissioners

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Catawba County Justice Center, 100 Government Drive, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chair Randy Isenhower, Vice-Chair Austin Allran, and Commissioners Robert C. Abernethy, Jr., Barbara G. Beatty, and Cole Setzer.

Also present were County Manager Mary S. Furtado, Assistant County Manager Paul Murray, Assistant County Manager Justin Merritt, County Attorney Jodi Stewart, Assistant County Attorney Josh Teague, and County Clerk Dale Stiles.

- 1. Chair Randy Isenhower called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
- 2. Commissioner Robert C. Abernethy, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Chair Randy Isenhower offered the invocation.
- 4. Commissioner Abernethy made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting and Special Session of August 4, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.
- Recognition of Special Guests: Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone present.
- 6. Public Comments.

Michael McRee came forward and spoke about Soldiers Reunion week, potential school merger, and requested the monument on the grounds of the 1924 Courthouse not be removed.

Matt Sin came forward and spoke about support for firefighters, law enforcement and teachers and about local zoning authority legislation.

Sherrill Watkins came forward and spoke in support of a potential school merger.

7. Appointments.

Upon a recommendation by Chair Isenhower that came in the form of a motion which unanimously carried, the Board appointed Vice-Chair Austin Allran as voting delegate and Chair Isenhower as voting alternate at the 2025 NCACC Annual Conference on August 23, 2025.

Upon a recommendation by Commissioner Barbara Beatty that came in the form of a motion which unanimously carried, the Board appointed Stephen Wilson Blakely to the Volunteer Fire Department Trustees' Fireman's Relief Fund for a first term.

Upon a recommendation by Commissioner Abernethy that came in the form of a motion which unanimously carried, the Board appointed Michael McNally to the Social Services Board for a first term, with a term expiration of June 30, 2028.

8. Presentations.

a. County Manager Mary Furtado, Opioid SUD Program Coordinator Jamie Todd, and REACH Crew Chief Jason Powell presented the Board with the Healthy Safe Community Strategic Plan Focus Area Update. Staff requested the Board of Commissioners approve appropriation of \$162,266 from Opioid Settlement Fund to address the Catawba Valley Medical Center CARE Team Project.

In recent years, Catawba Valley Medical Center has built a formal team within the hospital tasked with addressing substance use disorder and addiction within its patient population. This team is called the CARE Team, which stands for Catawba Addiction Resource & Engagement. Through engagement with the County's Opioid Core Team and continued quality improvement activities, two key service gaps have emerged that this proposal addresses.

In 2020, CVMC hired a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS) with the CARE Team to enhance addiction and support services and to connect patients to resources upon discharge from hospital care. This position works to streamline access to the continuum of care for patients in crisis and recovery, integrate counseling services, and build new connections with community resources. The hospital's LCAS position is available Mondays through Fridays, with weekends currently uncovered. CVMC has requested \$49,015 in funding to support expansion of coverage for this critical function to include Saturday and Sunday hours. In conjunction with expansion of LCAS coverage hours, CVMC has proposed expanding the CARE Team's scope to include patient consults within inpatient floors, the emergency department and maternity ward, increasing the likelihood that a patient with substance use disorder who presents at CVMC for any reason will be offered addiction services. The LCAS engages in patient discharge planning, to ensure patients have opportunity to continue addiction services initiated during hospitalization upon release.

With the LCAS proposed to see more patients entering the CVMC system through more avenues, it is anticipated that the number of patients unable to adhere to their clinical patient discharge plans due to financial barriers will increase. Patient discharge plans developed by the LCAS typically include opioid use disorder treatment through medication and appointment support. This expense falls to patients, who oftentimes discontinue treatment due to inability to pay. In addition to funds to support expansion of LCAS coverage hours, CVMC's proposal requests \$74,250 in funds to support medication costs and \$39,000 to underwrite patient appointment costs associated with patient discharge plan adherence. These supplemental funds would be put into play by the hospital's LCAS through the clinical discharge plan development process when the LCAS determines the investment would improve patient outcomes through the discharge plan.

Embedding this comprehensive approach in a hospital setting by filling existing systemic gaps will ensure patients diagnosed with an opioid use disorder will have the best chance to establish treatment and achieve recovery after they are discharged from impatient care, the emergency department or maternity ward at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

Supplemental Appropriation

Revenue:

293-190050-639107

Opioid Settlement Revenue

\$162,266

Expense:

293-610900-861293

CVMC Opioid Settlement Grant

\$162,266

After the presentation, the Board discussed reduction in overdoses, how EMS response data is captured at the state and county level; fentanyl being the largest issue; and youth referrals not as common as 18-34 age group. Commissioner Abernethy requested the Board receive data and information updates regularly, if possible. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$162,266. The motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution applies:

Resolution # 2025- 31 A RESOLUTION BY CATAWBA COUNTY TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS Catawba County has joined national settlement agreements with multiple companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids; and

WHEREAS the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions ("Opioid Settlement Funds") are governed by the Memoranda of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation ("MOA"); and

WHEREAS Catawba County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA; and

WHEREAS section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. <u>Budget item or resolution required.</u> Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. <u>Budget item or resolution details.</u> The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, the Catawba County Board of County Commissioners authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized:

- a. Name of strategy: Opioid / Substance Use Disorder Program Coordinator
- b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A Item 1
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$415,689
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date 8/7/2023 through End date 6/30/2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provides funding to employ an Opioid / Substance Use Disorder Program Coordinator Position and provide related operating expenses to explore /oversee / implement the County's collaborative strategic planning efforts related to Opioid / Substance Use Disorder, and criminal justice diversion programs (part of duties will be to work with Drug Court and Veterans Court).
- g. Provider: Catawba County
- h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/7/23; 6/3/24; 6/2/25

2. Second strategy authorized:

- a. Name of strategy: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Detention Centers
- b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 11
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$200,000
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date 7/1/2024 through End date 6/30/2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provides medically assisted treatment for this purpose and associated therapy for inmates in the Catawba County Detention Center.
- g. Provider: Catawba County Sheriff's Office and its contracted medical provider/s.
- h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 6/3/24; 6/2/25

3. Third strategy authorized:

- a. Name of strategy: Community Paramedicine/PORT
- b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 8
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$633,044
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date 8/26/2024 through End date 6/30/2026
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: A post-overdose response team (PORT), is an overdose follow-up program that allows Community Paramedics to visit a person who experienced an overdose within 24-72 hours of the incident. PORTs provide support, education, and access to evidence-based treatment such as medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and other life-saving resources.
- g. Provider: Catawba County Emergency Services / Emergency Medical Services

- h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/26/24; 6/2/25
- 4. Fourth strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: Newton-Conover City Schools (N-CCS) School Resilience Pilot
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$80,000
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date 8/26/2024 through End date 6/30/2025
 - f.Description of the program, project, or activity: Partner with N-CCS to continue building out School Resilience Framework. Structure as pilot program to potentially serve as model for other schools
 - i. Fund full-time School Psychologist (\$61,000); part-time Community Outreach Coordinator (\$19,000) at N-CCS as part of pilot team; roles are critical to defining and facilitating framework
 - ii. Moving forward, develop replicable, measurable model and implementation method that can be scaled to fit other school systems, based on readiness.
 - g. Provider: N-CCS
 - h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/26/24
- 5. Fifth strategy authorized:
 - a. Name of strategy: Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Opioid Grant
 - b. Strategy is included in: Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: Exhibit A, Item 2
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$162,266
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date 8/18/2025 through End date 6/30/2026
 - f.Description of the program, project, or activity: Partner with CVMC to hire a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist part-time to cover the weekends, as well as some medication and appointment costs
 - Fund part-time Clinical Addiction Disorder Specialist / Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (\$49,016).
 - ii. Medication costs based on average costs \$74,250.
 - iii. Appointment Visit Costs based on average costs \$39,000.
 - g. Provider: CVMC
 - h. Date(s) of BOC Action: 8/18/25

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$1,490,999.

This the 18th day of August, 2025.

b. County Manager Mary Furtado and Economic Development Director Nathan Huret presented the Board with the Economic Development Strategic Plan Focus Area Update.

The Catawba County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and staff requested the Board of Commissioners authorize the EDC to implement the Catawba Future-Ready Manufacturing Grant (FRMG) Pilot Program and re-allocate \$100,000 in previously appropriated funds to support this initiative.

As competition intensifies and the rapid rise of Al and automation challenges even the most established operations, Catawba County's 400+ manufacturers must embrace new technologies to stay competitive and position themselves for long-term sustainability. The proposed Catawba Future-Ready Manufacturing Grant (FRMG)—aligned with the results of the recently completed Industrial Growth Analysis (2024) and the EDC's Plan of Work—provides targeted financial and technical support to encourage Catawba County's legacy industries to explore adoption of operational technologies to increase productivity, expand production capabilities, and alleviate labor market constraints.

Many small to medium-sized companies recognize the need to adopt advanced technologies to stay competitive, yet they often face barriers—limited capital, insufficient awareness of available tools and

resources, and a lack of internal expertise. The Catawba Future-Ready Manufacturing Grant tackles these challenges by offering targeted support to help companies understand, fund, plan, and implement advanced technologies such as sensor technology, collaborative robots, big data analytics, and autonomous robots.

The proposed Catawba Future-Ready Manufacturing Grant program would be open to private manufacturing businesses operating facilities within Catawba County. Companies with active economic development agreements at the local or state level are not eligible for the FRMG program. Participating companies may receive up to \$50,000 with a minimum 1:1 match requirement, and must commit to peer sharing and contributing to case studies to capture key insights. Projects' proposed criteria for success are submitted by the applying company and include measures around project implementation, technology integration, efficiency signals, and reporting compliance.

The grant is intended to incentivize project investments that would not otherwise happen but for the grant. Any investments prior to application date are disqualified from reimbursement through the program. Projects that can be immediately started and quickly executed pending an award are preferred. Successful grant awardees must commit that proposed project implementation will not lead to reductions in workforce as a result.

While some local companies are well-positioned to adopt advanced technologies, others will require technical business support that goes beyond funding. In these cases, the EDC will host introductory workshops featuring regional and state partners (Manufacturing Solutions Center, NC State Industry Expansion Solutions, CVCC, etc.) and industry experts to highlight emerging technologies and potential applications. These workshops will serve as a platform for companies to learn from early adopters, ask questions, and explore opportunities relevant to their operations. Following these sessions the EDC will facilitate connections between companies and technical service providers to conduct deeper assessments, define project goals, outline technical requirements, and develop a clear scope of work aligned with each company's operational needs and strategic objectives.

Through regular and recurring industry visits, two existing Catawba County manufacturers had project ideas that aligned with the emerging FRMG program concept. After initial discussions regarding the objectives and potential grant uses, both companies indicated a willingness to partner with the EDC to work through program development considerations and submitted applications outlining their specific needs, proposed technologies, and total project costs.

Both proposals align with FRMG's objectives and in this case, focus on material handling solutions for finished and unfinished products.

- Project 1: The company would add two high-tech, self-driving robots to move parts between the
 production floor and shipping area. These robots use advanced cameras to safely navigate around
 people and equipment, making operations faster and safer. By automating this task, three employees
 will be able to shift into other important production jobs. The project represents an investment of just
 over \$220,000.
- Project 2: The company plans to add two Al-powered, self-driving robots to move parts between the production floor and shipping area a task that currently involves significant travel distance and is typically a very high-turnover, lower-paying position. These advanced machines can detect and avoid obstacles, work safely alongside employees, and connect with existing warehouse systems to keep improving operations. By automating this work, at least three employees can be reassigned to more critical, higher-paying production roles. The project represents an investment of about \$208,000.

Evaluation results must be submitted to the EDC within one year of the program award date.

If implementation of the pilot project is approved and the projects are evaluated to be successful, EDC staff will move to formalize the program on a County-wide basis. Initial steps would involve approaching municipal partners to request funding participation, developing a more robust project application and evaluation process, and formalizing relationships with technical support organizations and associations best positioned to support our local manufacturers' needs.

After the presentation and Board discussion about the pilot program, how the State may handle moving forward, support for existing industries and data sharing, Vice-Chair Allran made a motion to authorize the EDC to implement the Catawba Future-Ready Manufacturing Grant (FRMG) Pilot Program by re-allocating \$200,000 in previously appropriated funds to support this initiative, increasing the staff's recommended appropriation by \$100,000 in order to support four pilot projects instead of two. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Public Hearings.

Economic Development Director Nathan Huret requested the Board of Commissioners conduct a public hearing to consider authorizing the County Manager to execute or assign agreements for acquisition of approximately 29.18 acres across seven parcels for a total purchase price of \$3.65 million for development of a business park in Southeastern Catawba County, and authorize that any property-related reimbursements received from Catawba Valley Medical Center be deposited in the Southeastern Catawba County Business Park project.

In 2020, Catawba County purchased a 23-acre property located at the NC 16 Highway and NC 150 Highway interchange to establish an initial business park footprint in the southeastern corner of the county, with the goal of growing jobs and tax base for Catawba County and its citizens. In 2022, Catawba County purchased an additional 55.10 acres at 5378 E. Maiden Road, for a total of 78 acres in the area. Since that time, the county has extended wastewater infrastructure to these properties.

In May 2024, the Economic Development Corporation and the County completed an Industry Growth Analysis, which identified industry sectors where Catawba County could be competitive in recruiting high impact companies and jobs. The analysis included assessment of four geographic submarkets around the county. Catawba Southeast was identified as a strong opportunity market with proximity to Charlotte's workforce and international airport, but lack of market ready-sites and established business parks was presented as a weakness.

In April 2025, Catawba County executed 3 separate options to purchase a total of 29.18 acres across seven parcels located in the vicinity of the Highway 150 and E. Maiden Rd. intersection, east of Business NC 16, to strategically expand the 78-acre assemblage to a little over 107 acres of publicly controlled land that sits well positioned for Class A Trivium-style business park development.

Supported by the results of the Industry Growth Analysis, early discussions regarding an ultimate vision for the property involve targeted development of a Life Sciences campus, a concept currently being explored by a host of partners, including the County, the EDC, Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC). If this proposed acquisition is approved, next steps involve initiating master planning activities with the partners to solidify a development vision and plan.

The parcels optioned in April have had due diligence analysis performed, and no significant issues have been uncovered. The parcels and purchase options, listed by owner name, are as follows:

- Perkins: approximately 8.8 acres for \$1.3M if closing occurs before March 31, 2026, with \$75,000 in option payments applied towards purchase price, refundable until September 30, 2025. (CVMC has an agreement with the County in which the hospital agrees to accept assignment of the County's purchase option for closing and to reimburse the County for due diligence and option expenses incurred to date.)
- Beal: approximately 16 acres for \$1.6M if closing occurs by December 1, 2025, with \$148,000 in option payments applied towards purchase price, refundable through September 30, 2025.
- S&S: approximately 2.64 acres for \$750,000, with \$75,000 in option payments applied towards purchase price, refundable through September 30, 2025.

Catawba County's remaining required capital outlay for land acquisition, accounting for option payments applied towards purchase price, is \$2.127M. No funds are required to support this acquisition, as the existing capital project balance is sufficient.

Supplemental Appropriation:

Revenue:

410-460100-650410

CVMC-Catawba Valley Med Ctr.

\$95,000

Expense:

410-460100-987000-18030

SECC-Purchase of Land

\$95,000

After Mr. Huret's presentation, there were no questions. Chair Isenhower opened the public hearing. With no one coming forward the Chair closed the public hearing. Vice-Chair Allran made a motion to authorize the County Manager to execute or assign agreements for acquisition of approximately 29.18 acres across seven parcels for a total purchase price of \$3.65 million for development of a business park in Southeastern Catawba County, and authorize that any property-related reimbursements received from Catawba Valley Medical Center be deposited in the Southeastern Catawba County Business Park project. The motion carried unanimously.

The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION 2025- 32 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OR ASSIGNMENT OF REAL PROPERTY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Whereas, North Carolina General Statute §158-7.1 authorizes cities and counties to acquire, assemble, and hold for resale property that is suitable for industrial or commercial use; and

Whereas, Tony Dwayne Beal, Individually and as Executor of the Estate of Rachel Lookadoo Beal, and wife Karen Beal, and Timothy Don Beal and wife Mona Beal; S&S Family Limited Partnership, and Patsy Ann Perkins, the Estate of Bobby Joe Perkins, and Patsy Beach Perkins, Individually and as Executor of the Estate Bobby Joe Perkins, ("Property Owners") are the owners of real property in Mountain Creek Township, Catawba County, more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference ("Property"); and

Whereas, the County has appropriated and will spend from its Economic Development Fund approximately \$3,650,000.00 to acquire the fee simple interest in the Property; and

Whereas, the County and Property Owners have engaged in negotiations for the option and purchase of the Property and have reached an agreement on the terms of the conveyance; and

Whereas, the County advertised and held a public hearing on August 18, 2025, to consider whether to exercise the Options and approve the purchase of the Property.

Now, therefore, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolve that:

- 1. The Board approves spending from the County's Economic Development Fund approximately \$3,650,000.00 to acquire the fee simple interest in the Property owned by the Property Owners as described on Exhibit A attached hereto.
- 2. The Chairman and County Manager, or either of them, are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do any and all other acts and to execute any and all other documents, which they, in their discretion, deem necessary and appropriate in order to consummate the transaction contemplated by this Resolution, including but not limited to the exercise or assignment of the Options and purchase of the Property, except that none of the above shall be authorized or empowered to do anything or execute any document which is in contravention, in any way, of the specific provisions of this Resolution.
- 3. All acts and doings of officers, employees and agents of the County, whether taken prior to, on, or after the date of this Resolution, that are in conformity with and in the furtherance of the purposes and intents of this Resolution as described above shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

- 4. Any prior resolutions or parts thereof of the Board in conflict with the provisions herein contained are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.
- 5. This Resolution is effective upon its adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners has approved this Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Real Property for Economic Development purposes.

This the 18th day of August, 2025.

Exhibit A Property Description

Beal

PIN 368614443110 (REID/LRK 16056)

PIN 368614447318 (REID/LRK 16057)

PIN 368614448318 (REID/LRK 800451)

PIN 368614447211 (REID/LRK 800452)

PIN 368614446172 (REID/LRK 800453)

BEGINNING at a corner in the center of SR 1855, the Little Mountain-Maiden Road, said point being the Northwest corner of Fred Martin and the old corner of Gaither Gilleland and running thence along Fred Martin South 20 deg. 30 min. West 462.4 feet to an iron, corner of Jim Gilleland and Fred Martin; thence with Jim Gilleland, South 31 deg. 42 min. West 174 feet to an iron corner of Gene Gilleland and Jim Gilleland; thence with Gene Gilleland South 36 deg. 15 min. West 300.5 feet to an iron, corner of Gene Gilleland and Ballard; thence with Ballard South 85 deg. 30 min. West 371.0 feet to an iron, corner of Ballard; thence with Ballard South 03 deg. 30 min. East 132 feet to a corner in the branch at a sweet gum on the East side of the branch, corner of Ballard and Perkins; thence up the branch along Perkins North 35 deg. West 261 feet to a sycamore at the branch, corner of Perkins; thence continuing up the branch North 16 deg. 34 min. West 260 feet to an iron pin in a cluster of maples on the West edge of the branch, corner of Perkins; thence with Perkins North 81 deg. 47 min. West 299 feet to an iron pin, corner of Perkins in the line of a subdivision; thence with the subdivision line, North 28 deg. 25 min. East 726 feet to a corner in the center of the public road, after passing an iron 30 feet back; thence with the center of the public road South 80 deg. 35 min. East 580.5 feet to the Northwest corner of Margie M. McAllister in the center of the road (Book 719 at Page 169); thence with Margie M. McAllister South 09 deg. 25 min. West 230 feet to an iron pin, her Southwest corner; thence with McAllister South 80 deg. 35 min. East 100 feet to an iron, her Southwest corner; thence continuing South 80 deg. 35 min. East 15 feet to an iron, a new corner; thence a new line North 09 deg. 25 min. East 230 feet to a corner in the center of the public road, this point being located 15 feet from Margie M. McAllister's Northeast corner; thence with the center of said Road, South 80 deg. 35 min. East 285 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 19.09 acres, more or less, according to a survey and plat thereof made by G. Sam Rowe, SR., C.E. dated April 9, 1973 entitled "Plat of W. G. Gilleland Estate."

For title reference see Deed recorded in Book 1023 at Page 445 in the Catawba County Registry.

Perkins

PIN 368614337677 (REID/LRK 16063)

BEGINNING at an iron stake and pointers in the woods a short distance West of a branch, a corner of Wade Caldwell in the line of Latt Gilleland, and runs thence along Latt Gilleland, North 32° 15' West 100 feet to an iron stake in the branch, corner of Lon Gilleland in the line of Latt Gilleland; thence along Lon Gilleland leaving the branch, North 28° 30' East 600 feet to an iron stake, a new corner in the line of Lon Gilleland; thence a new line, South 81° 15' East 292 feet to a new corner in another branch; thence down said branch as follows: South 15° East 245 feet to a sycamore tree on the East bank of said branch; thence South 35° East 261 feet to a sweet gum on the East bank of said branch, corner of Bill Ballard; thence continuing down said branch and along Bill Ballard, about South 24° East 327 feet to a corner in the center of N.C. Highway No. 150 over the center of said branch as it runs under said highway, in the line of Killian; thence with the center of said Highway, South 57° 45' West 175 feet along Killian's line to a corner in the center of said

highway, a corner of Wade Caldwell in Killian's line thence leaving the road and running along Wade Caldwell, North 32° 15' West 318.4 feet passing an iron stake on the North side of the Highway in the field, to an iron stake, corner of Wade Caldwell; thence along another of his lines, North 89° 15' West 555 feet crossing the first mentioned branch to the point of beginning, containing 8.82 acres, more or less, according to a plat and survey thereof made by G. Same Rowe C. E. on June 17, 1955, and being a portion of the lands purchased by the grantors herein from J.A. Killian about the year 1918., by deed recorded in Book 142 at page 502, Catawba County Registry.

It is understood between the parties hereto that the calls above mentioned down the second mentioned branch are approximately in the center of the branch and the parties on both sides of the branch are to have the right to use the water in said branch.

For title reference see Deed recorded in Book 2983 at Page 930 in the Catawba County Registry.

S&S

PIN 368614337127 (REID/LRK 803655)

Being all of Lot Number Two (2) containing 2.645 acres in the Scott Gilleland Family Subdivision in Mt. Creek Township, Catawba County as the same was planned, platted and recorded in Plat Book 67 at Page 102 in the Catawba County Registry.

10. Consent Agenda.

County Manager Mary Furtado presented the following four items under the consent agenda. Chair Isenhower asked if any commissioner wished for an item to be broken out of the consent agenda for individual consideration. None was requested.

- **a.** The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended the Board of Commissioners declare the following equipment surplus and approve the donation requests, including a 2015 Chevrolet ambulance to Maiden Rescue Squad; a Stryker Power System cot for ambulance to Catawba Rescue Squad; a Stryker Power System cot for ambulance to Claremont Rescue Squad; a 2015 Chevrolet ambulance to Catawba Valley Community College; Forty-seven (47) Motorola XTS2500 portable radios to Catawba Valley Community College; and authorize the Purchasing Manager to conduct the transfer of property if the donation requests are approved.
- N.C.G.S. § 160A-279 authorizes the County to convey personal property to entities carrying out a public purpose without monetary consideration as long as the property will be used for a public purpose. The process begins with the governing board adopting a resolution authorizing the conveyance of the property and then the County publishing a ten-day notice summarizing the contents of the resolution.

Catawba County has a local vehicle donation policy that supports local fire departments, rescue squads, public educational institutions, and police departments by making surplus vehicle donations available when a need is present and vehicles meeting that need are available. The two vehicle donation requests being considered by the Board of Commissioners at this time meet these criteria.

Maiden Rescue Squad is in need of an additional ambulance and has requested donation of a 2015 Chevrolet Ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL5F1175618, with 249,668 miles and an approximate value of \$12,500. If the donation request is approved, Maiden Rescue Squad will utilize this ambulance to deliver medical services and serve as a primary back-up to the County's EMS Department. In addition, the schools are required to have an ambulance on scene for all sporting events, and Maiden Rescue Squad covers multiple schools. This additional ambulance will allow them to cover more than one school when school events overlap.

Both Catawba Rescue Squad and Claremont Rescue Squad are in need of Stryker Power System cots for their ambulances. They currently use the traditional non-powered cot when transporting patients. Stryker Power Systems uses a powered hydraulic system to lift and lower patients, reducing the physical strain and preventing injuries EMT's and paramedics may otherwise sustain. The Stryker Power Systems have an approximate value of \$7,600 for both.

In support of its Emergency Medical Science Program, CVCC requests donation of a surplus 2015 Chevrolet Ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL8F1175211 with 226,668 miles and an approximate value of \$12,500. If the donation request is approved, the ambulance will serve as a training unit allowing students to gain hands-on experience by practicing emergency scenarios in a realistic environment.

In support of its Basic Law Enforcement Training Program, Catawba Valley Community College requests donation of forty-seven (47) surplus Motorola APX2500 portable radios, with a total approximate value of \$2,820. APX2500 portable radios are no longer used by the County, as they are not compatible with the current digital system that has been implemented. If the donation request is approved, the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program will utilize these portable radios for scenario-based training exercises by receiving and transmitting information during exercises providing a more realistic training experience.

An alternative is to sell the ambulances, Stryker Power Systems and APX2500 radios on GovDeals, with total estimated revenues to the County of \$35,420, based on GovDeals selling points for equipment of similar age, condition, and mileage.

The following resolution applies:

RESOLUTION No. 2025-33

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND DONATION TO MAIDEN RESCUE SQUAD, CATAWBA RESCUE SQUAD, CLAREMONT RESCUE SQUAD AND CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-279, the County has the authority to declare property no longer needed as surplus and donate said property to a nonprofit organization for which the County is authorized to appropriate funds so long as the property will be used for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Catawba County has personal property items that are no longer needed for the County's governmental purposes but various agencies in the County do have a public purpose use for the items, including a 2015 Chevrolet ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL5F1175618; two (2) Stryker Power System cots; a 2015 Chevrolet ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL8F1175211; and forty-seven (47) Motorola APX2500 portable radios.

THEREFORE, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

- 1. The above referenced personal property items are declared surplus and shall be donated without monetary consideration as follows:
 - a. 2015 Chevrolet ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL5F1175618, donated to Maiden Rescue Squad.
 - b. Stryker Power System cot donated to Catawba Rescue Squad.
 - c. Stryker Power System cot donated to Claremont Rescue Squad.
 - d. 2015 Chevrolet ambulance, VIN No. 1GB6G5CL8F1175211, donated to Catawba Valley Community College.
 - e. Forty-seven (47) Motorola APX2500 portable radios donated to Catawba Valley Community College.
- 2. The Purchasing Manager is authorized to conduct the transfer of property and shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution and the property shall be conveyed ten days after the Notice of Publication.

This the 18th day of August, 2025.

b. The Policy and Public Works Subcommittee recommended the Board of Commissioners award the construction bid for the Sherrills Ford Convenience Center Improvements to Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. of Pineville, NC in the amount of \$1,144,743.35; authorize the County Manager to execute all documents associated with the project; and approve a budget revision in the amount of \$275,000.

In 1976, the County initiated operations of the Sherrills Ford Convenience Center on property leased from Duke Energy. In December 2022, the County purchased the property from Duke Energy. Prior to the purchase of the property, the County was reluctant to expend funds on major improvements to the Convenience Center. Now that the County owns the property, staff has identified several improvements that will enhance the safety of operations for both citizens and attendants utilizing and operating the Convenience Center. These improvements include improved internal traffic flow, alleviation of traffic congestion on Sherrills Ford Rd., separation of customer traffic from operational truck traffic, increased waste and recycling capacity, and the potential for expanded service offerings in the future.

To this end, the County opened bids for this project on July 25, 2025. A total of three bids were received as follows:

1. Eagle Wood, Inc. \$1,417,615,00 2. Gais Construction, Inc. \$1,224,941.00 3. Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. \$1,144,743.35

The project generally consists of the following improvements:

- Constructing an additional entrance and access road
- Constructing a new elevated drop-off pad
- · A prefabricated attendant shelter
- · Additional electrical service
- Retaining wall with an integrated railroad tie railing
- · Concrete and asphalt pavement
- Concrete pads for additional compactors and containers
- Storm drainage
- · Security cameras and lighting
- New perimeter security fencing and gates at the three entrances/exits

McGill Associates (McGill), County's project engineers, have evaluated the bids and found Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is funded by user fees; no ad valorem tax dollars are used to support the Fund.

The alternative is to do nothing and maintain the status quo at the Convenience Center or postpone this work until a later date.

\$275,000,00

APPROPRIATION

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525-350050-690100 \$275,000.00 Fund Balance Applied 485-351100-695525

From Solid Waste Management Fund

Expenditure

525-350050-995485 \$275,000.00

Transfer to Solid Waste Capital

485-351100-989000-22023 \$275,000.00

SF Convenience Center Improvements

A copy of the letter from McGill Associates, P.A. and Certified Bid Tabulation is hereto attached:



Shaping Communities Together

July 29, 2025

Mr. Rodney Hamby
Landfill Supervisor
Catawba County Utilities & Engineering
Catawba County
25 Government Drive
Post Office Box 389
Newton, North Carolina 28658

RE:

Recommendation of Award Sherrills Ford Convenience Center Improvements Catawba County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Hamby:

On July 25th, 2025, bids were opened and read aloud at Catawba County Government Center for the above referenced project. Three (3) bids were received with the apparent low bid submitted by Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. of Pineville, North Carolina with a total bid price of \$1,144,743.35. A certified bid tabulation with the bid results is included as an enclosure to this letter.

Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. holds an Unlimited license with the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors. Randolph & Son Builders, Inc. appears to have the capability to complete the work required for the project.

McGill looks forward to teaming with Catawba County for the construction phase of this project. If you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

MCGILL ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Cela Alm

COLLIN SELMAN, PE

Project Engineer

Enclosures: Certified Bid Tabulation dated July 25, 2025

P:\2023\23.00721-CatawbaCoNC-Sherrills Ford Conv Ctr Imp\Bidding\Recommendation of Award 07.29.25.docx

MCGILL ASSOCIATES 55 BROAD STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801 / 828.252.0575 / MCGILLASSOCIATES.COM

CERTIFIED BID TABULATION

Sherrills Ford Convenience Center Improvements Catawba County

				Eagle V	Vood, Inc.	Gais Cons	truction, Inc.	Randolph & Son Builders, Inc.	
				P.O. E	P.O. Box 1046		. Hwy 16	1010 0	Culp Road
				Denver, NC 28037		Denver, NC 28037		Pineville, NC 28134	
ITEM#	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
SECTIO	N A - BASE BID		157700	Son Horb Silvery			Notesperinesso)		
1	Mobilization/General Regulrements	1	LS	\$106,500.00	\$106,500.00	\$246,620.00	\$246,620.00	\$33,480.00	\$33,480.00
2	Demolition	1	LS	\$28,500.00	\$28,500.00	4= 10/023780	42.10/020100	\$37,501.00	\$37,501.00
3	Clearing & Grubbing	1	LS	\$27,100.00	\$27,100.00		Ī	\$41,219.00	\$41,219.00
4	Seeding, Fertilizing, & Mulching	1	LS	\$6,700.00	\$6,700.00	\$92,522.00	\$92,522.00	\$26,627.00	\$26,627.00
5	Erosion Control	1	LS	\$26,400.00	\$26,400.00	,,	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	\$57,934.00	\$57,934.00
6	Slope & Ditch Matting	1920	SY	\$3.50	\$6,720.00			\$3.18	\$6,096,38
7	Riprap (All Types) w/ Filter Fabric Underlayment	36	TON	\$85.00	\$3,060.00	\$189.50	\$6,822.00	\$94.55	\$3,403.94
8	Earthwork	1	LS	\$163,200.00	\$163,200.00	\$200,978.00	\$200,978.00	\$80,925,00	\$80,925.00
9	Striping & Signage	1	LS	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,900.00	\$7,900.00	\$39,551.00	\$39,551.00
10	Retaining Wall - Concrete	1210	FF	\$200.00	\$242,000.00	\$76.38	\$92,419.00	\$157.41	\$190,470.96
11	Retaining Wali - Wood Railing	690	FF	\$32.00	\$22,080.00	\$14.65	\$10,108.00	\$33.18	\$22,896.00
12	Fall Protection Fence	125	LF	\$71.00	\$8,875.00	\$46,85	\$5,856.00	\$25,92	\$3,240.00
13	Pole Frame Shelter Structure	1	LS	\$24,600.00	\$24,600.00	\$14,490.00	\$14,490.00	\$25,037.82	\$25,037.82
14	Angle Wheel Stops	140	LF	\$21,00	\$2,940.00	\$106.20	\$14,868.00	\$19.19	\$2,686.82
15	Bollards - 6"	20	EA	\$850.00	\$17,000.00	\$421,35	\$8,427.00	\$1,188.00	\$23,760.00
16	Concrete Pads for Containers	275	SY	\$210.00	\$57,750.00	\$151,58	\$41,684.00	\$103.09	\$28,348.65
17	Concrete Paving - 8"	630	SY	\$209,00	\$131,670.00	\$158.67	\$99,962.00	\$103.09	\$64,944.18
18	Heavy Duty Asphalt Paving	900	SY	\$55.00	\$49,500.00	\$71.61	\$64,448.00	\$59.65	\$53,683,56
19	Standard Duty Asphalt Paving	3000	SY	\$40.00	\$120,000.00	\$2.33	\$7,000.00	\$39.29	\$117,871,20
20	18' Electric Slide Gate	1	EA	\$16,300.00	\$16,300.00	\$14,343.00	\$14,343.00	\$15,338.00	\$15,338.00
21	24' Manual Slide Gate	1	EA	\$5,900.00	\$5,900,00	\$7,130.00	\$7,130.00	\$5,572.00	\$5,572.00
22	25' Electric Slide Gate	1	EA	\$17,400.00	\$17,400.00	\$16,268.00	\$16,268.00	\$15,810.00	\$15,810.00
23	32' Manual Slide Gate	1	EA	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,403.00	\$7,403.00	\$6,403.00	\$6,403.00
24	Electrical Installation, Complete	1	LS	\$113,100.00	\$113,100.00	\$99,908.00	\$99,908.00	\$86,400.00	\$86,400.00
25	RCP Pipe - 18"	45	LF	\$108.00	\$4,860.00	433/300100	455,500.00	\$70.08	\$3,153.65
26	Pipe End Section	1	ĒA	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000,00	\$2,169.18	\$2,169.18
27	Catch Basins	1	EA	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	4,	402/000100	\$3,402,00	\$3,402.00
28	Attendant Building	1	LS	\$115,500.00	\$115,500.00	\$50,805.00	\$50,805.00	\$86,554.00	\$86,554.00
29	Chainlink Fence - 8'	1080	LF	\$38.00	\$41,040.00	\$38.01	\$41,051.00	\$29.64	\$32,006.02
30	CMU Extension Wall	20	FF	\$452.00	\$9,040.00	\$799.15	\$15,983.00	\$448.58	\$8,971.67
31	Concrete Flumes	35	SY	\$358.00	\$12,530.00	\$248.83	\$8,709.00	\$135,00	\$4,725.00
(\$0,50).50	SECTION A - SUBTOTAL				\$1,402,865.00		\$1,207,704.00		\$1,130,181.03
SECTION	B - ADDITIONAL WORK IF ORDERED BY THE	OWNE	9/FNG	TNEED	Mark SASPO GASSA (Spectors	ontropy and System La.	V		
32	Landscaping	1	LS	\$5,000,00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	4E 000 00	\$5,000.00	AF 000 00
33	Undercut Excavation	100	CY	\$23,00	\$2,300.00	\$22.30	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
34	Select Backfill	100	CY	\$23.00	\$2,300.00	\$22.30 \$52.13	\$2,230.00	\$10.80	\$1,080.00
35	Washed Stone	50	TONS	\$73.00	\$2,500.00	\$58,50	\$5,213.00	\$16,20 \$113,40	\$1,620.00
36	Bl-axial Geogrid	300	SY	\$5.00	\$1,500.00	\$4.73	\$2,925.00 \$1,419.00	\$113,40 \$3,97	\$5,670.00
MERCET HERE	SECTION B - SUBTOTAL	200	31 (2000)	42.00	\$14,750.00	37./3		\$3.9/	\$1,192.32
	apatterna apprentit	\$5155\$ \$			\$14,730.00		\$16,787.00	nematica productiva	\$14,562.32
20000000	TOTAL BID (SECTION A + SECTION B)			6/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/20/	\$1,417,615.00		\$1,224,491.00	Secretaria de la composição de la compos	\$1,144,743.35
					T-, 127 JUZU100		4-1-5-11157100		91,177,173,33





This is to certify that the bids tabulated herein were publicly opened and read aloud at 3:00 p.m. on the 25th day of July 2025, in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room at the Catawba County Government Center in Newton, North Carolina and that said bids were accompanied by acceptable certified checks or bidder's bonds in the amount of 5% of the bid.

Project # 23.00721 Bid # 25-1023

PAGE 1 OF 1

c. Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners reject all bids received at the July 22, 2025 bid opening for construction of the Cooperative Extension Cattle Load-out and Education Facility.

Through Session Law 2023-134, Catawba County was awarded a directed grant in the amount of \$750,000 for the purpose of constructing a new livestock facility and Cooperative Extension education facility. The facility, as designed, consists of a covered education/demonstration corral system, education building, storage buildings and necessary appurtenances. The facility is intended to provide educational programming and consultation space to assist cattle and forage producers with increased profitability through improved management and product marketing, and to develop cattle related educational programs for youth to learn life skills relating to cattle ranching. The total estimated cost of the project was approximately \$1,112,730.

On July 22, 2025, County staff held a public opening of construction bids for the Cattle Load-out and Education Facility. The County received 5 responsive and responsible bids from qualified contractors. The apparent low bid was submitted by Neill Grading and Construction; however, the bid exceeds available funding for the project.

Bidders	Total Bid Amount
Neill Grading and Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,855,500.00
DDI of Hickory	\$1,960,000.00
V. Stewart McKee General Contractors	\$1,991,091.00
Wilkie Construction Company	\$2,008,700.00
Miles-McClellan	\$2,065,000.00
Atriax Building Solutions, LLC	No Bid
WC Construction Company	No Bid

Staff have worked with the low bidder to determine if the project, as designed, can be modified to reduce costs to a level more in-line with the original estimate. After these discussions, it has been determined that the best course of action is to reject all bids, re-design the project and re-bid at a later date. As has been the case throughout this project, staff will work with Cooperative Extension and representatives of the Cattlemen's Association to ensure any modifications will maintain the functionality of the facility for the intended use. Representatives of the Cattlemen's Association have indicated they are supportive of this course of action.

A copy of the Certified Bid Tabulation is hereto attached:



BID TABULATION
CATAWBA COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION EDUCATION CENTER
NEWTON, NORTH CAROLINA
CBSA Project No. 2024.008

JULY 22, 2025

County Bid No. 25-1027

CONTRACTOR / BIDDER	NC LICENSE	BID ATTACHMENTS						ADDENDA			BASE BID	
		BID BOND	ME		E ERIFY	NON COLLUSION	REF DISCLOSE	i	2		DOLLARS	
ATRIAX BUILDING SOLUTIONS,	51979											
DDI OF HICKORY	63496	х	x		х	х	х	х	×		\$1,960,000.00	
MILES-McCLELLAN	63358	х	х		x	х	х	х	х		\$2,065,000.00	
NEILL GRADING & CONSTRUCTION	07539	х	х		х	х	х	x	x		\$1,855,500.00	
V. STEWART MCKEE GENERAL CONTRACTORS	26824	х	х		x	х	х	х	x		\$1,991,091.00	
WC CONSTRUCITON COMPANY	63557											
WILKIE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	71862	х	х		х	х	х	х	х		\$2,008,700.00	

d. Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners approve 70 Motor Vehicles Bill adjustments / refunds totaling \$5,166.87 requested during the month of July.

North Carolina General Statute 105-381(b) states upon receipt of a taxpayer's written request for release or refund, the taxing unit's governing body has 90 days to determine whether the taxpayer's request is valid to either approve the release or refund of the incorrect portion or to notify the taxpayer in writing that no release or refund will be made.

During the month of July Tax Office staff have checked records and verified the legitimacy of 70 Motor Vehicle Bill adjustments / refunds totaling \$5,166.87.

Common reasons for the motor vehicle bill adjustments include pro-ration of tax bill amounts to account for mid-year transfers of ownership, change in values, and change in situs.

The consent agenda items came in the form of a motion by Chair Isenhower, which carried unanimously.

- 11. Other Items of Business. None.
- 12. Manager's Report.

County Manager Mary Furtado presented an overview of a proposed Schools' Community Engagement Process to the Board, which included projected delivery dates for Hickory City Schools Enrollment Forecast and Capacity Analysis results from McKissick & Associates; Community Listening Sessions in Conover,

Hickory, Maiden and Sherrills Ford; launch of the Community-Facing Web Page; and Focus Groups: Business and Industry and Higher Education Perspectives. The Board indicated general support and consensus for implementation of the plan as presented. Chair Isenhower indicated such, directing the Manager to move forward with implementation.

12. Attorney's Report.

a. Potential Property Acquisition-LRK: 904315 (0.13 acres).

Staff recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of approximately 0.13 acres located on Southwest Boulevard adjoining South Newton Elementary School and authorize the County Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the purchase.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) contracted with Iron Horse Auction Co., Inc. to market and sale residual parcels of land owned by NCDOT. The County was contacted by Iron Horse Auction regarding a 0.13-acre parcel located on Southwest Boulevard, which contains a portion of South Newton Elementary's access road. County staff made an initial bid of \$2,000.00 (tax value = \$2,200.00). The upset bid period expires at 4:00 pm on August 20, 2025. Staff will be notified if any upset bids are received prior to expiration of the upset bid period. Since NCDOT and South Newton Elementary School are the only adjoining property owners, it is unlikely there will be any additional bids.

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to approve the purchase of approximately 0.13 acres located on Southwest Boulevard adjoining South Newton Elementary School and authorize the County Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the purchase. The motion carried unanimously.

b. County Attorney Jodi Stewart requested the Board consider moving into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a))(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged and (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. Attorney Stewart did not anticipate any action upon return to open session. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to enter closed session for that purpose. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment. No further action was taken. Upon a motion by Commissioner Beatty which unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Randy Isenhower, Chair

Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Dale R. Stiles County Clerk