

Regular Session, September 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Appointments

K-64 Education Board – Robbie Gonzales
K-64 Education Board – Kimberly George
K-64 Education Board – Stephen Shuford
K-64 Education Board – Amanda Hetzel
K-64 Education Board - Guy Guarino
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - Chrissy Triplett

112 09/03/2024

Awards

2024 Mission: Lifeline Gold Award

112 09/03/2024

Budget

Budget Transfers

113 09/03/2024

Closed Session

Economic Development
County Manager Performance Evaluation

114 09/03/2024

114 09/03/2024

Emergency Services

2024 Mission: Lifeline Gold Award

112 09/03/2024

Finance

Interbasin Transfer Appropriation

112 09/03/2024

Legal

Interbasin Transfer Appropriation

112 09/03/2024

Presentations

2024 Mission: Lifeline Gold Award

112 09/03/2024

Interbasin Transfer Appropriation

112 09/03/2024

Public Comment

Kimberly Turk

112 09/03/2024

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 3, 2024, 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 Cole Setzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Vice-Chair Austin Allran offered the invocation.
4. Commissioner Robert Abernethy, Jr., made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting of August 19 and Special Meeting of August 26, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Recognition of Special Guests:
Chair Isenhower welcomed everyone present.

6. Public Comments.
Kimberly Turk came forward and spoke about City of Hickory water.

7. Appointments.
Upon a recommendation by Commissioner Abernethy that came in the form of a motion which unanimously carried, the Board made the following appointments/reappointments to the K-64 Education Board:
Robbie Gonzales to a first term (Newton-Conover City Schools), with a term expiration of May 15, 2025;
Kimberly George and Stephen Shuford to third terms, with a term expiration of May 5, 2025; and Amanda Hetzel and Guy Guarino to second terms, with term expirations of May 15, 2026.

Upon a recommendation by Commissioner Abernethy that came in the form of a motion which unanimously carried, the Board appointed Chrissy Triplett to fill Debra Dunn's unexpired term as the Social Services Director's designee to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, with a term expiration of June 30, 2025.

8. Presentations.
a. Commissioner Barbara G. Beatty presented the 2024 Mission: Lifeline Gold Award to EMS Manager Sylvia Fisher and Community Engagement Specialist Melanie Sigmon.

b. County Attorney Jodi Stewart requested the Board of Commissioners appropriate \$53,121 to support regional efforts to oppose Charlotte Water's proposed inter-basin transfer increase of 33 million gallons per day.

Earlier this year, Charlotte Water filed notice of intent to request a 30-million gallons per day (MGD) increase in its authorized water transfer from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin, a tributary of the Yadkin/Pee Dee River. The increase, if granted, would allow Charlotte Water to go from its current authorization of 33 MGD to 63 MGD.

Inter-basin transfers (IBTs) are regulated and approved by the state through the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) within the NC Department of Environmental Quality. In 2002, Charlotte Water received approval to transfer 33 MGD from the Catawba River to the Rocky River Basin. In 2005, Concord and Kannapolis requested 36 MGD from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin. The compromise approved in 2007 allows for 10 million gallons per day from the Catawba but reduces that number during drought. This occurred after extensive public debate, and the state law was amended to further define the inter-basin transfer approval process. Concerns were raised about the negative impacts on the Catawba River and the communities it serves. Those concerns apply to the new Charlotte IBT request.

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is providing coordination of our region's discussions and response to the Charlotte IBT request. Many local governments in our region have adopted resolutions opposing the Charlotte IBT, which will not be decided upon until at least 2026. The WPCOG Policy Board approved a preliminary budget and cost allocation to fund the expenses associated with this initiative. Catawba County's estimated share of these expenses is \$53,121 over two years, for services including legal, lobbying / legislative advocacy, and public relations.

After the presentation there were no questions. Vice-Chair Allmade a motion to appropriate \$53,121 to support regional efforts to oppose Charlotte Water's proposed inter-basin transfer increase of 33 million gallons per day. The motion carried unanimously.

Supplemental Appropriation:

Revenue:

110-190050-690100	Fund Balance Applied	\$53,121
-------------------	----------------------	----------

Expense:

110-480050-868145	WPCOG-Administrative Services	\$53,121
-------------------	-------------------------------	----------

9. Other Items of Business. None.

10. Manager's Report.

Budget Transfers.

Pursuant to Board authority granted to the County Manager, the following four budget transfers have been completed:

Special Contingency Transfers:

(1) ABC Mental Health Funds

Transfer

From:

110-190100-691500	Special Contingency Revenue	\$22,084
110-190100-994200	Special Contingency Expense	\$22,084

To:

110-530900-680200	7% ABC Profits	\$22,084
110-530900-861025	MHP- ABC Board Contract Exp.	\$22,084

Special contingency transfer to recognize 7% ABC Profits received above budgeted amount in Fiscal Year 2023/24 and allow payment to Partners Health Management for contracted substance use services, as statutorily required.

(2) Register of Deeds Preservation Grant

Transfer

From:

110-190100-691500	Special Contingency	\$2,714
110-190100-994200	Special Contingency	\$2,714
110-190100-994000	Contingency	\$2,714

To:

110-160050-631070	ROD Preservation Grant	\$2,714
110-160050-868270	ROD Preservation Grant	\$5,428

The Register of Deeds Office was awarded a grant from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management totaling \$2,714 for records preservation, which requires a 100% county match. A special contingency transfer is needed to recognize the \$2,714 grant, and a contingency transfer is needed to provide the \$2,714 in matching funds.

(3) Catawba County Tax Office – NCAAO Western Piedmont Tax Association Fall Meeting 2024

Transfer

From:

110-190100-691500	Special Contingency Revenue	\$1,500
110-190100-994200	Special Contingency Expense	\$1,500

To:

110-130050-680100	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,500
110-130050-849029	NCAAO-Western Piedmont Conf.	\$1,500

Special contingency transfer needed to support the Tax Office's hosting the NCAAO Western Piedmont Tax Association meeting in October 2024. Participant fees are the source of miscellaneous revenue being recognized, which will cover meal costs.

(4) NCACC Clerk Association Western Regional Academy

Transfer

From:

110-190100-691500	Special Contingency Revenue	\$3,000
110-190100-994200	Special Contingency Expense	\$3,000

To:

110-120050-680100	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,000
110-120050-849028	NCACC-County Clerks Conference	\$3,000

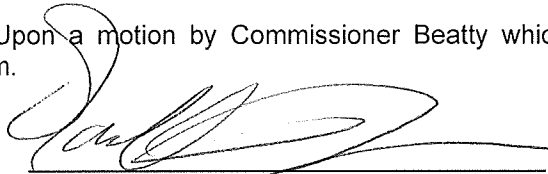
Special Contingency transfer to recognize reimbursable expenses from the NC Association of Clerks to Catawba County for hosting the Western Regional Academy at the Hickory Convention Center.

12. Attorney's Report.

County Attorney Jodi Stewart requested the Board consider moving into Closed Session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 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; (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; (5) to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; and (6) and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee public officer or employee. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to move into closed session for the stated reason. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon return to Open Session, Commissioner Abernethy made a motion that the Board amend the County Manager's contract by setting the annual salary at \$255,000.00, retroactively effective as of July 1, 2024. 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 8:21 p.m.



Randy Isenhower, Chair
Catawba County Board of Commissioners



Dale R. Stiles
County Clerk