

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for a recessed meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present:

Jarvis Woodburn, Chairman  
Robert Mims, Vice-Chairman  
Vancine Sturdivant  
Dr. Jim Sims  
Lawrence Gatewood  
JD Bricken

Staff members present:

Phil Ponder, Interim County Manager  
Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board  
Larry Newton, Tax Assessor  
  
Scott Forbes, County Attorney

**Closed Session:**

Chairman Woodburn called the recessed meeting to Order, welcoming those present.

Motion by Vice-Chair Mims, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, to go into closed session to Consult with the Attorney North Carolina General Statute 143- 318.11(a)(3) to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim administrative procedure, or judicial action. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vice Chair Mims, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, to come out of closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the cancellation of the contract with Business Information Systems for software for tax assessment and collections, and to purchase new software for tax assessment and collections from Bi-Tex. Seconded, by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

## **Strategic Outlook:**

Board members discussed their vision, missions, and goals for the upcoming fiscal budget year. Chairman Woodburn reviewed and summarized the previous year mission and principles.

- **Mission statement:** Anson will be a dynamic and inclusive county that celebrates its rural heritage and is committed to creating a prosperous, livable community for all residents.
  
- **Principles:**
  - **Livability:** Promote the unique places and characteristics that make the county an attractive and livable community
  
  - **Economic Growth:** Foster economic development by supporting small business and providing services and opportunities for economic mobility of residents.
  
  - **Community Growth:** Support physical infrastructure investments and opportunities that promote quality of life, mobility, and health.
  
  - **Natural Environment:** Preserve the county's natural, historic, recreational, and agricultural resources and landscapes.
  
  - **Services:** Provide high-quality, responsive, and equitable services and programs to the public.
  
- Commissioner Gatewood added to provide a safe and positive work environment for county staff and citizens.

## **Budget Procedure:**

Interim County Manager Ponder informed the Board that the budget process had begun. Department Heads have already submitted their budget requests and he plan on meeting with them individually, March 21 – April 18. Discussions with Anson County Schools and other outside agencies would be

scheduled for late April. Mr. Ponder further informed the Board that by early May, he would provide the Board with an update, with the formal budget presentation planned for June. Interim County Manager Ponder shared that the county would provide data to the auditors by mid-May to complete June 30, 2021, audit, in hopes to present the audit report to the Board in August 2022. Mr. Ponder shared that in 2023, the county audits should be back on track.

Mr. Ponder mentioned that the IT Department may need some additional contract assistance because that department handles the migrating from the AS400 as well as integrating into the new county facility:

Interim County Manager Ponder shared that at this time there would not be any additional personnel requests. Emphasis is to focus on the current employees and the recruitment for already vacant positions within the county, including alleviating the compression issue.

#### **Other 2022/23 Concerns:**

Board members shared their individual and collective concerns and goals for fiscal year 2022/2023.

- Broadband expansion
- Zoning
- Litter (increased pick-up)
- Middle School Project (project plan and cost estimate)
- 401K contribution (increase from 3% to 4%)
- Longevity Pay Plan (increase cap from \$1600 to \$2000)
- COLA (no COLA/follow the lead of the Social Security administration)
- Design of the ACTS facility
- Employer paid Vision/Dental plan
- Employee gasoline stipend (\$200 per month/per employee)

Board members dialogued with the County Manager about using ARP funds for the purchase of the Former Pee Dee Electric property. Interim County Manager Ponder shared that this action could be done internally by county staff. Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to direct county staff to use ARP funds in the amount of \$575,000 (base cost), closing cost, and any cosmetic enhancements in association with the former Pee Dee Electric building. Seconded by Vice-Chair Mims, motion carried unanimously.

Board members continued to dialogue about the ARP (covid funds) usages.

- Fire hydrants and water lines in Moryen & McFarlan
- Water-sewer system assessment
- Demolition of the Middle School
- Finance & IT personnel costs
- Street signs
- Staff retention bonuses

Commissioner Sims moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted



Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board