

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for a recessed (budget retreat) meeting on Monday, March 11, 2020 beginning at 2:00 pm in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present:

- Ross Streater, Chairman
- Jarvis Woodburn, Vice-Chairman
- Vancine Sturdivant
- Lawrence Gatewood
- Bobby Sikes
- Dr. Sims

Staff members present:

- Barron Monroe, County Manager
- Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
- Cary Garner, Finance Officer
- Amber Daniels, Asst. Finance Officer

Chairman Streater called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who were present.

### **DSS –Capital Plan**

County Manager Monroe reviewed the Boards four strategic focus areas:

- Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Economic Development
- Quality of Life
- Education

County Manager Monroe explained to the Board a lease opportunity for the Department of Social Services Capital Improvement Plan along with a PowerPoint handout. County Manager Monroe shared a fifteen-year cost summary for the DSS building project from two options.

Finance Officer Garner explained the cost aspect of leasing the building with approximate numbers. County Manager Monroe explained that a fifteen-year leasing is the best option for the County at this point. County Manager Monroe, Finance Officer Garner continued to dialogue with Board members about the C.F. Smith option.

Commissioner Gatewood said he would like to see an analysis on what C.F. Smith lease payments would be from year fifteen thru thirty, in order for the Board to make a sound decision.

Chairman Streater instructed the County Manager to research additional lease payments and report back to the Board for further discussion.

### **Employee Benefits**

Commissioners provided a list of items that they would like to address in the upcoming County budget.

### **Vice-Chair Woodburn**

- 5% Cola
- Continue Employee Health Insurance Coverage
- Continue the EAP Program
- Bereavement Leave
- Savings Plan

### **Commissioner Sikes**

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### **Commissioner Sims**

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## **Chairman Streater**

Chairman Streater believes giving employees a 5%, COLA will deter departmental turnover and increase employee stability.

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## **Commissioner Sturdivant**

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## **Commissioner Gatewood**

- 5% Cola as a market adjustment
- Increase 401k contribution for all employees
- Increase the Longevity Pay Plan to \$2000
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday schedule
- Hire temporary staff for the LEAP program
- Paid employee dental insurance coverage

Board members, County Manager Monroe and Finance Office Garner discussed issues and concerns with the Middle School project, noting the cost is in excess. Board members shared that the Architects, Superintendent, and project team appear before the Board for a presentation and status report on the proposed school.

## **Water Rates**

County Manager Monroe presented a proposed Anson County water rate increase. County Manager Monroe said residents who pay \$13 would increase to \$14.04, thus applying the same 8% increase to every tier, including what is charged to the county's neighboring county. County Manager Monroe shared that further information concerning water rates will be provided and discussed in future meeting.

## **Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Woodburn made a motion to recess until March 23, 2020 at 9:00 am, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board