

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for an emergency meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the boardroom, Suite 209 of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Mr. Ross Streater, Chairman
Mr. Jarvis Woodburn, Vice-Chair
Mr. Bobby Sikes
Mr. Harold Smith
Mr. Lawrence Gatewood

Staff members present: Mr. Barron Monroe II, County Manager
Ms. Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
Ms. Lula Jackson, Social Services
Dr. Thompson, Health Department
Ms. Evonne Burr, Health Department
Ms. Dana Thomas, Health Department
Ms. Kristy Davis, Health Department
Ms. Rodney Diggs, Emergency Mgt.
Mr. Chris Joffson, IT Department
Sheriff Landric Reid, Sheriff's Office

Also Present: Scott Forbes, ESQ Anson County Attorney

Chairman Streater called the emergency meeting to **Order**, welcoming those present.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Dr. Thompson addressed the Board to inform them of the Governor Cooper's executive order to close all restaurants in the state and expanding unemployment benefits. Dr. Thompson explained that he just got off a conference call, informing him of approximately forty cases of coronavirus, in sixteen different counties, noting Anson County has none, yet. Dr. Thompson said he has guidelines in place at the Anson County Health Department, to assist individuals that are feeling sick, feverish, and possibly infected. Steps are set to make sure the sick do not enter the building. A nurse is available for curbside assistance.

Dana Thompson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor appeared before the Board to explain the guidelines of Covid-19 testing, noting that private facilities, urgent care, hospitals, and/or physicians' offices can test. The Health Department is notified when someone is tested for the virus and the Health Department follows up with monitoring. Ms. Thomas said, "As of this date, Anson County has no positive covid-19 cases, but are monitoring two people that have been tested for the virus" (awaiting results).

Kristie Davis, Public Communicable Disease Nurse gave a breakdown and explanation of several items associated with Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Davis and Board members dialogued in detail about the following subjects.

- Communication with all agencies
- Person under investigation (PUI)
- Actual testing procedures
- Positive results
- Quarantine procedure and Order
- How to monitor confirmed cases
- REDCAP - Research Electronic Data Captured (Web-based program for Clinical Research)
- Public Health Visits
- Quarantine violations
- Coronavirus deaths
- Origin of the Virus

Rodney Diggs, Emergency Management said his staff is low on supplies and are filtering calls. Lula Jackson, Director of DSS gave a brief update on her staff and their duties during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Thompson informed the Board that there is no visitation at the jail, long-term care facilities, no school, optional daycare centers and recommended emergency dental procedures. Dr. Thompson said the county would be dealing with Covid-19, at least through the end of May.

Ms. Davis advised that the local physician's offices, urgent cares, and hospitals, all have Covid-19 testing available.

Dr. Thompson said to protect county employees, he recommends for older citizens to stay at home, use hand sanitizers, and limit customer service.

County Manager Monroe said Anson County has suspended work related travel and has instructed people to go home if they feel sick or exhibit symptoms of the Coronavirus. If staff is going in high-risk areas, they are asked to report their travels to their Department Head. County Manager Monroe said he has asked all Department Heads for a reduced work plan, this will promote staff interactions along with social distancing.

Commissioner Gatewood shared his feelings about employees not having enough sick days available for the crisis. Commissioner Gatewood suggested giving every employee ten paid sick days, from now until June 30. Employees that become sick can use this without worrying about penalties.

County Manager Monroe said employees would be able to donate sick leave to each other forthcoming (sick leave to sick leave), noting that guidance on this very matter is coming from the Federal Government and the State.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion in response to the evolving coronavirus healthcare crisis, for Anson County to grant emergency paid sick leave (10 days maximum) to full-time employees who are diagnosed with confirmed coronavirus, coronavirus in the home or quarantined due to the coronavirus. This emergency one-time leave applies to all full-time employees regardless of hire date and is effective immediately through June 30, 2020. Second by Vice-Chair Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion that the Anson County Board of Commissioners send a letter to Governor Cooper and Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy K. Cohen requesting additional supplies of hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes and masks which are urgently needed to help ensure the safety of County employees and citizens during the evolving coronavirus healthcare crisis. Seconded, by Vice-Chair Woodburn, motion, carried unanimously.

Chairman Streater shared his concerns with having physical meetings until further notice amid this pandemic. Attorney Forbes advised that Governor Cooper's Directive does not over-ride statutes enacted by the NC General Assembly and that by those aforementioned statutes, a regular, monthly Board meeting is required. Attorney Forbes mentioned alternative meeting forums such as assembling citizens

in adjacent rooms to view the meetings, providing a viewing method for online lookers; even a conference telephone call may be implemented.

Chairman Streater addressed the list of concerns expressed by Dr. Sims. The Board dialogued about when/ and if to declare a State of Emergency for Anson County.

Vice-Chair Woodburn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board