

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their recessed meeting on Tuesday June 9, 2020 beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Ross Streater, Chairman
 Jarvis Woodburn, Vice-Chair
 Vancine Sturdivant
 Bobby Sikes
 Lawrence Gatewood

Staff members present: Barron Monroe, County Manager
 Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
 Cary Garner, Finance Officer
 Chris Joffson, IT Manager

Chairman Streater called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who were present. Commissioner Sturdivant delivered the invocation.

Budget Discussion:

Chairman Streater addressed all Commissioners present with instructions on allowing each Board member the opportunity to express and dialogue about their concerns and/or issues with the upcoming 2020-2021 budget.

Commissioner Gatewood asked could the county afford a (1 ½%) one and a half percent increase COLA for all employees. County Manager Monroe stated that there is an issue of unpredictable revenue. With the current sales tax issues and the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, an increase in COLA cannot be provided. Vice-Chair Woodburn asked about sources of funds to grant a COLA increase. County Manager Monroe said you do not want to add ongoing expense to fund balance.

Commissioner Gatewood mentioned the sell back of land to Wade Manufacturing and using those funds to provide a COLA increase. County Manager Monroe said that would be a one-time revenue and would not be continuous.

Board members and the County Manager dialogued about the county property previously purchased from Wade Manufacturing. By consensus, Board

members agreed that their intention is to honor the “initial intent of the agreement” of reverting the land to Wade Manufacturing since the Agricultural Center is not being built.

Commissioner Gatewood shared his concerns with the possibility of increased water rates. County Manager Monroe said the county is losing net position every year, noting that the county is losing money by having overly-low water rates. County Manager Monroe explained the 10-year CIP plan to the Board for clarity of increasing the water rate of one dollar for the low tier users.

Commissioner Gatewood mentioned a letter from the Town of Wadesboro, urging the Board not to increase the water/sewer rates. County Manager Monroe explained that the county needs the increase in order to keep the county’s wastewater system viable; noting that the County’s rate is currently \$13 and Wadesboro’s rate is \$31. Chairman Streater shared that the County system has to be kept viable because he does not want the County to have to end up purchasing water. Vice-Chair Woodburn suggested a possibility of an increase next year rather than this year. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that an increase is needed for sustainability. Board members continued to dialogue about their concerns of a water rate increase and the sustainability of the system without an increase.

Commissioner Gatewood shared that DSS is requesting three income maintenance employees, noting reimbursements on the positions are viable. County Manager Monroe said he only recommends one new position for the year. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that other Department Heads have asked for positions as well, noting the Sheriff’s office is in the greatest need of positions. County Manager Monroe said better procedures are better than more people. Commissioner Sturdivant felt that more training for the employees at DSS would remedy the need for additional personnel. Commissioner Gatewood mentioned using the CARES act funding in conjunction with contract employment for DSS. County Manager Monroe shared that this may be the time to do more with less. Allocation for CARES act funding is needed in other crucial areas to boost job productivity. Commissioner Gatewood asked County Manager Monroe to correspond with Ms. Jackson in reference to contract employees.

County Manager Monroe reviewed the CARES act recommended funding stream for Anson County and noted that moving forward will be in conjunction with Board guidance and approval.

Commissioner Gatewood mentioned sharing the funds with municipalities. County Manager Monroe said the county has not considered the municipalities, because they are getting county services already and with the CARES Act funding the county will be able to provide increased services to the municipalities. Commissioner Gatewood encouraged the County Manager to reach out to the surrounding municipalities to see if they have encountered any extra cost due to covid-19.

Vice-Chair Woodburn stated that he would like to get back to funding the community college and teacher's supplement. However, does understand the uncertainty of these times and county budget restraints.

Chairman Streater thanked the County Manager and Finance Officer for a great job on the budget.

Board members briefly reviewed the Governing body budget, noting the Christmas luncheon may need to end; instead each employee would receive a \$25 gift card. Board members also agreed to cut other funding agencies contributions.

Vice-Chair Woodburn felt that the county needs to provide better training for employees rather than more people. Changing the way of doing things is better than adding additional personnel.

Commissioner Gatewood moved to recess until June 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:



Denise Cannon

Clerk to the Board