

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the board room, suite 209 of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Anna H. Baucom, Chair
Ross Streater, Vice Chair
Bobby Sikes
Dr. Jim Sims
Vancine Sturdivant
• Jarvis Woodburn

Staff members present: Lawrence R. Gatewood, County Manager
Bonnie M. Huntley, CMC, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Rita James, Data Processing
Robert Thomas, Finance Officer
Mary Beck, Grants/Economic Development
Rodney Diggs, Emergency Management
Joe Dutton, Tax Collector
Lula Jackson, DSS

Others: Scott Forbes, County Attorney
Randy Gullledge, IT

Chairman Baucom welcomed those present saying April was a month of meetings for the board. Chairman Baucom called on Elder Ted Ward of Faith Builders Ministries of Lilesville, North Carolina to deliver the **Invocation**. Chairman Baucom shared that Mr. Ward was also the Veterans Service Office for the county. Chairman Baucom thanked Mr. Ward for the invocation and for the work he does with our veterans.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners: Chairman Baucom stated that Wadesboro has asked that we approve Dolly Harrington and Reverend R. E. Blount to serve on the Planning and Adjustment Board. This item was added under appointments. Chairman Baucom called for other changes or deletions from the Agenda. Chairman Baucom announced that Mr. Jones would not be with us tonight and his appearance was removed from the agenda. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Baucom reminded board members of their Ethics Policy that if any board member thinks they have a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with any matter coming before the board this evening to let it be known, identify it and reframe from any undue participation in the particular matter.

Public Hearing: Closeout of the Carolina Apparel CDG Grant – SBEA project: Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Beck stated that the Public Hearing was being conducting in order to close out the Carolina Apparel CDBG Community Development Block Grant Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance for SBEA grant. Ms. Beck stated that of the funding categories the Department of Commerce has this has been one of the most exceptional categories of funding they've ever created. Ms. Beck stated that this was for existing businesses to grow in North Carolina. Mr. Beck shared that the grant pays for such things as renovations or upgrades to an existing building, construction of a new building, towards the purchase of land for a new building, water and sewer or road improvements and the purchase of equipment. Ms. Beck stated that we generally received between \$10,000 and \$15,000 when new jobs are created and because we are a Tier 1 county we get more money. Ms. Beck explained that the SBEA category allows for \$25,000 per new full-time job created with the maximum amount of funding being \$250,000. Ms. Beck stated that we don't have to create all ten but it is lowered by \$25,000 for each job not created. Ms. Beck pointed out some of the exceptional things done by Carolina Apparel: 1)High-tech digitized pattern making machine which enables them to scan a piece of clothing, make modifications to that clothing such as size or changes, and as a result create a pattern which can be forwarded directly to the "pattern maker staff" for mark-ups; 2)digitized pattern cutting machine that enables CA employees to cut upwards of 50 pieces of cloth at a time accurately; 3)new sewing machines which have enabled Carolina Apparel to cross train workers so if someone is out they can easily be replaced with other staff and 4)shipping – new machinery that tells staff exactly how much the box weight is, exactly how much the product weights so the employee picks up a handful, places the in the box and when the total weight of the product is registered the box is ready to be sealed and shipped. Ms. Beck shared that the project was impressive to see. Ms. Beck explained that she only counted ten jobs as that was all they were required to county but they actually created twenty full time jobs. Ms. Beck shared that they have some large contracts with JC Penney and they also do flame retardant wear for the military and large fire departments. Ms. Beck stated that they also do a lot of cut and sew projects for other businesses and they've even made some American made products cut and sewn here and shipped overseas. Ms. Beck shared that during their monitoring by the Department of Commerce they noted that the Carolina Apparel Project should be recognized as a model project in this funding category. Ms. Beck added that Carolina Apparel sent them back some of their projects for a show and tell. Chairman Baucom asked if the money had already been spent and monitored with Ms. Beck answering yes. Chairman Baucom called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

*Commissioner Woodburn joined the meeting during the Public Hearing.

In regular session, motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to close the Carolina Apparel SBEA project. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Addresses to the Board: Chairman Baucom stated that this was the part of the meeting where the board hears comments from the public.

Alex Sewell – Town Manager of Wadesboro: Mr. Sewell stated that he hopes he has exciting news to share. Mr. Sewell stated that they have seen the county make a tremendous investment in our uptown area and they town wants to do something to continue the progress in beautifying our uptown. Mr. Sewell shared that they were exploring a four faced street clock and shared copies of the clock with board members. Mr. Sewell stated the town would like to place the clock on county property next to the gazebo. Mr. Sewell respectfully requested the board allow the town, pending acquiring funding, to place this clock on their property. Mr. Sewell shared that the clock also has a jukebox feature and can be programmed to play hundreds of songs relative to the season. Chairman Baucom referring to the first picture asked if the clock would be on vacant lot with Mr. Sewell answering that the clock would be located beside the gazebo. Chairman Baucom wondered if the gazebo would fight with it and compete for viewing with Mr. Sewell thinking the rendering will show them complimenting each other. Mr. Sewell shared that they did not like it on the other corner because the light pole obstructs the view. County Manager Gatewood felt it was an excellent idea and agreed that the clock would complement the area rather than detract. Mr. Sewell voiced appreciation for the board's support and felt they were marching in the same direction. Chairman Baucom asked if there would be a way to put spotlights on the clock with Mr. Sewell replying that he understands the clock face illuminates itself but they would certainly take this into consideration. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the request. Commissioner Woodburn asked if the town would be responsible to make sure it stays in good working order with Mr. Sewell answering yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Joan Taylor stated that she recently had a summary ejectment paper served with a local officer of the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Taylor explained that this was a document when a tenant is in a house and are not paying they are served to be in court at a specific time so the judge can make a rendering on his decision. Ms. Taylor stated that in the process of the document being served by the officer they were giving legal advice to the tenant. Ms. Taylor shared that she has spoken with Sheriff Allen twice regarding this issue and he tells her this is part of the job. Ms. Taylor had a job description for the position of deputy and nowhere in all these pages did she find anything saying they can tell the tenant how long they can stay, if they have to pay or not pay, go or not go and what the property owner can and can't do. Ms. Taylor stated that this was the second incident she's had with this same officer. Ms. Taylor shared that after the document was served she went to the office to meet with Sheriff Allen a

few days later and this officer was in conversation with another officer and the officer starting questioning why she was there and would not let her see the Sheriff. Ms. Taylor shared that last summer she had direct information on meth houses with one in Wadesboro, one in the county and one across the county line. Ms. Taylor stated that went to the Sheriff's office asking to meet with the Sheriff and when the lady found out she wanted to talk about drugs she was instructed to talk with the drug officer. Ms. Taylor stated that she gave all her information to the drug officer and he promised confidentiality and the same day he knocked on a door in the county and gave her name as the informant. Commissioner Sturdivant asked Ms. Taylor if she knew for a fact that the officer called her name to the people she had turned in with Ms. Taylor answering her phone and her husband's phone was blowing up and she was in fear for her life. Ms. Taylor shared that after all this happened she came down with the shingles. Ms. Taylor feels we have issues with the department and she was not happy that her personal safety and that of her family was compromised. Commissioner Sikes voiced that he would like to read the information and asked the County Attorney his opinion. Chairman Baucom stated that their only course of action in accordance with their rules was to turn this over to the County Manager and County Attorney for them to research and provide feedback. The County Attorney offered to address the matter with Ms. Taylor during the break.

Deb Arnason: Ms. Arnason thought the board was going to discuss a Moratorium on Fracking tonight with Chairman Baucom explaining that there was a little more to this than just declaring a Moratorium. Ms. Arnason stated that she was on well water and was very concerned. County Attorney Forbes stating that the board would be holding a Public Hearing on this subject matter. Ms. Arnason asked when she should return with County Attorney Forbes answering that it should be available at the next meeting. Chairman Baucom noted the maximum for this room was sixty-six people. Vice Chair Streater mentioned that the meeting could be moved to another location. Chairman Baucom voiced that she knew this was of grave concern to Ms. Arnason but the board was not going to jump and what they do will be methodical and hopefully give us some protection.

Administrative Matters:

Redrawing of Fire District – Rodney Diggs: Mr. Diggs shared that over the past year the Department of Insurance and the State Fire Marshal's office is starting to crack down on insurance companies on customers living outside the five mile area from a fire station. Mr. Diggs stated that they are classifying people as a ten, which is unprotected, and their homeowner's is double and in some cases tripling. Mr. Diggs stated that he is receiving phone calls and he and the County Manager feels we need to redraw the lines to make it more efficient for our citizens. Mr. Diggs cited a situation with a citizens that lives three miles from a fire department but the district he is in he is eight miles from that department. Mr. Diggs feels we should not only draw five miles districts but also do six miles district. Mr. Diggs stated that he will send all this to Raleigh for their approval and once it is return he will bring it before the board for

approval. Chairman Baucom asked Mr. Diggs if he was going to do this with Mr. Diggs replying with the board's blessing. Motion by Commissioner Sturdivant, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, that we allow Mr. Diggs to redraw the fire districts. Mr. Diggs hopes to have the information back from Raleigh in three months. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chair Streater asked by redrawing the lines how many people would be in a fire district with Mr. Diggs saying he doesn't know until they start redrawing. Mr. Diggs commented that it will help some people and some it won't, especially those in the White Store area because they are so far away from a department. Mr. Diggs stated the only way to rectify this would be another fire department and that was cost prohibitive. Vice Chair Streater stated that he saw something about McFarlan having a satellite station with Mr. Diggs saying they've not come to him about this. Vice Chair Streater asked if it would help White Store if they had a satellite station there with Mr. Diggs saying it would help if Gulledege, Peachland or someone would put one out that way. Mr. Diggs explained that the way the Office of the State Fire Marshall and the Office of Insurance do it is actual driving miles and not the way the crow flies.

Tax Collection Update – Joe Dutton: Mr. Dutton stated that he was disappointed that they were a little behind at the end of March from where they were last year by .23%. Mr. Dutton shared that in dollars that was \$28,750 based on a 12.5 million levy. Mr. Dutton explained that he worries about the dollars not the percentages. Mr. Dutton stated that they heard our unemployment had gotten worse in the last six weeks. Mr. Dutton stated that there were three or four taxpayers that were normally good taxpayers that have not paid for this year. Mr. Dutton shared that he has been in contact with all of them and they thought two would have paid by April 1m which would have put them ahead, but they have not. Mr. Dutton stated that last year they did Anson's Most Wanted and it was very successful collecting approximately \$325,000 mostly in delinquent dollars. Mr. Dutton stated soon he will have another twenty-five most wanted ad in the paper. Mr. Dutton stated that as the vehicle tax makes its change from our responsibility to a state responsible it will mean less window time for his staff and they will be able to do normal collection procedures for these people. Mr. Dutton stated that they only have so much leverage and their primary leverage is the use of foreclosure. Chairman Baucom questioned the \$28,000 difference from what was collected this time last year with Mr. Dutton answering that based on percentages is was about \$28,000 but because the levy is higher their actual dollars collected was probably a little higher. Vice Chair Streater asked how we compared to the rest of the state with Mr. Dutton answering we were generally in the lower tier. Mr. Dutton stated that our free money was Wal-Mart and power companies and a lot of our levy was guaranteed. Mr. Dutton added that the little lots really drag us down. Mr. Dutton felt he did more knocking on doors than his predecessor. Commissioner Woodburn asked if debt set-off was an option with Mr. Dutton with Mr. Dutton stating that they have used it some but the down side is that most of the people that don't pay don't work or receive a tax refund. Vice Chair Streater voiced that if we don't get the tax money in we can't provide services that we have to pay for in the county. Mr. Dutton feels his staff does a good job collecting from those that walk in the

door. Chairman Baucom asked if the ability to do credit cards would be helpful with Mr. Dutton answering that it could help him a great deal by being able to take payments while talking with citizens on the phone. Chairman Baucom asked to see a plan by the next meeting for putting credit card payments in place or good reasons why we could not do this. Mr. Dutton felt it would not affect their percentages dramatically but there are a good number of people from out of town that could use the card the most. Ms. Arnason stated that Florida used to be their primary residence and Anson County was their secondary and last summer their tax bill was mailed to their Florida residence and they were here in Anson County. Ms. Arnason stated that the postcard did not get forwarded and she had no idea until she was in Florida in February and received a pink postcard saying her property would be sold at a tax sale if she did not pay her bill. Ms. Arnason suggested tax bills be sent regular mail with return receipt requested so it will be forwarded. Mr. Dutton understood and explained that the cost of mailing in an envelope would be cost probative and that the assessing office actually mails the bills and they can't anticipate where any taxpayer might be at any given time so they have to work off the best address provided by the taxpayer. County Attorney Forbes was of the opinion statute required them to be mailed in this manner. Vice Chair Streater asked how many responded from the long list published in the paper with Mr. Dutton answering not as many as they had hoped. Mr. Dutton is hopeful that those receiving checks the first of the month will come in and pay. Mr. Dutton shared that beginning with the 2011 tax year they raised their advertising cost from three dollars to ten dollars and it actually cost more than ten dollars. Mr. Dutton stated that they could raise the price again in hopes of putting a little more pressure on the taxpayer to pay in a timely fashion to avoid paying this fee but the downside is those dollars are added on for those that don't pay and it makes their outstanding delinquencies artificially larger.

Credit Card and Website Update – Randy Gulledge: Mr. Gulledge stated that the card readers arrived yesterday and the project is complete. Mr. Gulledge stated that they had a lot of hoops to jump through with the credit card providers and there was a change in ruling a couple of months ago where we had to pay fees. Mr. Gulledge explained that they tried originally with another provider that had exorbitant fees that required us to calculate the amount of fee verbally with the customer before adding that to the credit card charge. Mr. Gulledge stated that about the same time another provider called and said the rules had changed and now we don't pay any fees because the customer pays the fees for everything, even the water bills. Mr. Gulledge added that previously they were going to take fees out of water bills and now we take no fees out of anything. Mr. Gulledge noted that the health department was fee free, water department is fee free, debit cards are fee free and tax department is fee free. Chairman Baucom asked if this meant he would not give her a plan on how he would do this with Mr. Gulledge answering that next month he hopes to say everyone has brought money in using credit cards. Mr. Gulledge shared that they did some hardware testing today to make sure it will work with all departments and found some that won't work and will resume testing tomorrow. Mr. Gulledge stated that they will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and one other. Mr. Gulledge shared that American Express was

another whole animal and hopefully we can do this one later on. Mr. Gullledge stated that phase 1 of the website was complete and they are still tweaking some contact with department heads. Mr. Gullledge stated that phase 2 involves health department, Economic Development and Sheriff and the Sheriff page is live internally and they are waiting on some content changes before live. Mr. Gullledge stated that the artists are working on Economic Development and health department. Mr. Gullledge stated that the next piece was to bring credit cards and website together. Commissioner Woodburn thanked Mr. Gullledge for the credit cards.

NCFAST/Work Support Strategies – Lula Jackson: Ms. Jackson shared that work support strategies was going to be a new way of doing business at DSS in relation to economic services with food stamps, Medicaid, SA, employment services and TANIF checks. Ms. Jackson stated that this would be working under the auspices of families coming in to tell their story once and receive the benefits and services they need instead of seeing a Medicaid worker, a food stamp worker, a childcare worker or an energy worker. Chairman Baucom asked if this would be like having a case worker with Ms. Jackson answering it would be like having a case worker that for all the economic services that they may be eligible for, this one person would help them receive those benefits and they would not have to see different workers. Ms. Jackson noted this was a challenge for them at the department because now they have workers that are specialized in all the different program. Ms. Jackson stated that work support strategies plans to help the workers to do this better by streamlining policies, having income policies the same for all programs where now they have different guidelines for adult Medicaid, family and children's Medicaid, food stamps and childcare. Ms. Jackson shared that each of these programs count different incomes but work support strategies is going to be working to streamline the policy, income eligibility, the application process and one of the ways they plan to get this done is with NCFAST. Ms. Jackson explained that NCFAST was North Carolina families accessing services through technology. Ms. Jackson stated that NCFAST will be implemented in phases and they are in the process of phase one with the food and nutrition services program which is food stamps. Ms. Jackson noted that the old program has been closed down and all of their 2800 cases have been placed into NCFAST system and the workers are working diligently to close those cases in one system and open them in the new system. Ms. Jackson shared that they have some staff members putting in extended hours to try to learn a new system and get cases converted so that customers can receive their benefits in a timely manner. Ms. Jackson shared that right now they have about six cases where the customers have not received their benefits since January but they are working with Feed My Lambs Ministries, Crisis Ministries and the Burnsville Learning Recreational Learning Center to help make sure they have food to make it through. Ms. Jackson shared the reason they have not received their benefits has nothing to do with the work they are doing as it has to do with the system doing what it needs to do. Ms. Jackson shared that the State was in the process of implementing phase 2 and 6 which will include adult Medicaid, family and children's Medicaid, special assistance, nursing home assistance, TANIF and work first employment. Ms. Jackson reported that they

plan to implement all this the second week of June of this year. Ms. Jackson noted that three counties will pilot June 17 and the remaining ninety-seven counties will begin implementation in July, August and September. Ms. Jackson stated that this was in preparation for the Affordable Care Act which will go into effect January 1, 2014. Ms. Jackson shared that there would be a lot of transition happening at DSS under the eligibility program. Chairman Baucom asked if the employees were enjoying the challenges and learning new things with Ms. Jackson answering absolutely not. Chairman Baucom asked Ms. Jackson if she thought this would be a better system or worse with Ms. Jackson feeling it will be a better system in that right now they have nineteen different systems and none of them communicate. Ms. Jackson added they would be going from nineteen systems to one system. Ms. Jackson stated that the other advantage is once the system does what it is supposed to do they will process applications in a more timely and efficient manner. Commissioner Sturdivant mentioned that some have called her about funds running out in childcare with Ms. Jackson stating that the amount of money in childcare would not change. Commissioner Sims voiced that the problem we face is that the federal government passes the debt to the state and the state passes it to the county and the buck stops here when in reality people in counties like Anson are paying the price for the service. Chairman Baucom shared that in addition to DSS Ms. Jackson was also dedicated to helping people move out of poverty to self-sufficiency.

Moratorium on Fracking: Chairman Baucom understands we need to take a deep breath and prepare to hold a Public Hearing. County Attorney Forbes advised that because it will last over sixty days under North Carolina General Statute 153A-340H it mandates that we hold a Public Hearing to address the impact of this ordinance. County Attorney Forbes suggested that the board direct staff to publicize the Public Hearing to comply with Statute 153A-323 requirements for Public Hearing in North Carolina. Chairman Baucom asked for an explanation of the sixty days with County Attorney Forbes stating that we have to advertise the Public Hearing for two weeks and the sixty days is the threshold. County Attorney Forbes explained that if you have an Ordinance that only last for fifty-nine days you would not have to hold a Public Hearing but because this is over sixty days we have to hold a Public Hearing. Chairman Baucom asked if he anticipates any problems with County Attorney Forbes answering no. Chairman Baucom stated that we should be in position at our May meeting to do this with County Attorney Forbes answering yes.

Chairman Baucom called for a ten minute break.

After the break, the County Manager presented the **Manager's Report**. County Manager Gatewood stated that he had one hundred dollars for anyone that could tell him what was in the bag. Commissioner Sims guessed a lot of paper with Commissioner Sturdivant thinking it was glass. County Manager Gatewood stated they were not even close and brought out three bottles of used oil saying he had waited years to dispose of it properly. County Manager Gatewood stated that he would be

going to the landfill tomorrow to test the new system. County Manager Gatewood noted that there would be an article in the paper tomorrow in the Anson Record giving you all details about the new system launched on schedule April 1. County Manager Gatewood stated that board members asked and our colleagues at Waste Connections did a super job responding as well as Mike Sessions in making this happening. County Manager Gatewood applauded Ms. Rita James and Randy Gullledge for delivering our website and credit cards. County Manager Gatewood shared that he had received a lot of positive comments about the website and our goal is to keep it attractive and current and if anyone has any news items to get them to him or Cathy Baxter. County Manager Gatewood noted that yesterday the talk of the town was the new floors at the courthouse, stating that they had been cleaned and buffed. County Manager Gatewood encouraged board members to walk through. County Manager Gatewood stated that the lighting had been enhanced, the painting of the hallways has been completed and it really is the talk of the town. Chairman Baucom asked if they were the original floors with County Manager Gatewood answering yes and all we did was clean and buff. Commissioner Sims voiced that he never thought the Belk building would look this good and voiced that it looks great. County Manager Gatewood stated that in next year's budget they are requesting funds to complete the south and north sides of the building so it looks like a completely renovated building from the exterior. Commissioner Sims felt the town manager was correct in saying the county has helped the town to look much better. County Manager Gatewood reported that in next year's budget they will be requested a quarter of a million dollars to complete the second floor of the courthouse, the DA's office and courtroom #1. County Manager Gatewood feels there will be funds left over to pressure wash and clean the Law Enforcement Center. County Manager Gatewood felt we owed a great deal of gratitude to Jeff Waisner and Lower Construction for their work on the courthouse and doing it within budget constraints. Chairman Baucom asked if we could get something in the planter at the jail with County Manager Gatewood answering he has talked with Jeff Waisner and the Sheriff and this spring they will beautify this area. County Manager Gatewood reported our contingency still remains at \$31,497. County Manager Gatewood reported that last month twenty-six employees were involved in our random drug testing and all twenty-six passed. County Manager Gatewood reminded board members of the highway dedication for H. Pat Taylor on April 9 at 11 AM at the Lockhart-Center Ingram Room. County Manager Gatewood stated this was the renaming of a portion of highway 52 north in his honor and the Department of Transportation and Bonnie Huntley have been actively involved as well as the Taylor family and Chairman Baucom. County Manager Gatewood reminded board members of their recessed meeting on Monday, April 15th to review the proposed fiscal year 2013/2014 utilities budget and the water and sewer rates for the next fiscal year here in this room at 6:00 P.M. County Manager Gatewood reminded board members of the joint meeting with SPCC Trustees on Tuesday, April 16th at 6 PM at the Polkton Depot. Commissioner Sims shared that he might be out of town that week with County Manager Gatewood asking the clerk if she needed a count. The clerk asked members to let her know as soon as possible if they plan to attend so she can let SPCC know. County Manager Gatewood noted the following week we meet with the

Board of Education on Tuesday, April 23rd at 6 PM with dinner at Grace Center. Commissioner Sturdivant asked the County Manager if he had the meeting with the Board of Alcoholic Control with County Manager Gatewood thinking that was on Friday and asked the time. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that it was at 10 AM at Lockhart-Taylor Ingram Room. County Manager Gatewood shared a copy of a suggested Agenda for the joint meeting with the board of Education for review. Commissioner Sims asked if it would be out of place to either say verbally at the meeting or prepare a small letter saying we think highly of Mr. Freeman as the possible superintendent as well as encouraging a very strong African American to be his assistant. Commissioner Sims felt this was the thing to do rather than spending thirty thousand dollars to bring someone in here that won't stay or worry about us. Chairman Baucom felt as individuals we could say exactly what we think but as a board she felt it might not go over well. Vice Chair Streater stated that he liked the agenda but felt this was going down the same road as in past years where the superintendent did all the talking. Chairman Baucom voiced that this was our meeting with the Board of Education and she expected it would be a part of her job was to make sure it goes in an orderly fashion and that everybody gets to ask the questions they need to ask. Chairman Baucom stated that she wants feedback on the survey and encouraged the board to go to the public school website and do the survey as what we as a community are looking for in a superintendent. County Manager Gatewood also shared a copy of the program for the Taylor ceremony on Tuesday with board members. County Manager Gatewood referred to the concerns raised at the last meeting about the ACTS parking lot saying that we have resurfaced the main driveway and the employee parking lot will be repaired as soon as weather permits. County Manager Gatewood shared that we were in the process of preparing two grant proposals with one regarding the Carolina Thread Trail and known as the Anson County Thread Trail Project and due Friday. County Manager Gatewood reported we were looking at a Blue Way canoe and kayak launch site with parking area, walking trail and restroom facilities. County Manager Gatewood stated that we've had super cooperation from a particular landowner and he has provided a letter of intent to sell approximately 2.9 acres at a very affordable price. Chairman Baucom asked if this was on the river with County Manager Gatewood answering yes and in fact it has right at three hundred plus or minus feet of water frontage. County Manager Gatewood stated the team working on the grant includes Jessica Anderson, Josie Lodder, Dana Stoogenke, Travis Morehead, Wendell Small, Bonnie Huntley and the County Manager. County Manager Gatewood noted the grant application would go in Friday and they are prepared to update the board at the May meeting. County Manager Gatewood shared that the other grant application that is being prepared is for the Emergency Services Center to the North Carolina 9-1-1 Board. County Manager Gatewood explained that we would be requesting approximately one million dollars towards the construction and equipping the building. County Manager Gatewood stated that Cathy Baxter, Sheriff Allen, Randy Gullledge and the County Manager have been working collectively on the grant application. County Manager Gatewood stated that during the break there was a question regarding our return check fee and he called on Ms. James to address the question. Ms. James stated that she

deals mostly with bad checks at water and collections and each department has their own set of fees. Ms. James noted the return check fee for the health department was different from these. Ms. James explained that for collections it was twenty dollars or 10% so up to two hundred dollars you will pay twenty dollars. Ms. James noted after two hundred it could be as much as 10%