

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 7, 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

- Harold C. Smith  
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  
Scott Rowell, ACTS Director  
Cathy Baxter, Senior Accounting Officer  
Mike Session, Utilities Director  
Jeff Waisner, Parks and Recreation Director  
Gary Fincher, Airport Manager

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney  
Janine Rywak, Cooperative Extension Director

Chairman Baucom called the meeting to **Order** and welcomed those present. Chairman Baucom recognized Reverend Rob Washington of El Bethel Baptist Church, Wadesboro to deliver the **Invocation**.

Chairman Baucom reminded board members of their Ethics policy and asked if anyone had a conflict or any perception of conflict on any item on the agenda to let it be known. Chairman Baucom asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Vice Chair Streater asked to add a discussion of contracts signed by department heads under Commissioner Concerns. Commissioner Sikes asked to add a discussion of BB&T Bank in Ansonville and Anson Rescue under Commissioner Concerns. Chairman Baucom noted that tax releases, collector's report and fund balance would not be presented tonight and felt they should be removed from the consent agenda. Commissioner Smith felt a vote regarding construction should not be done until board members had a report from the tax collector. County Manager Gatewood felt that was an excellent point but we have our audit report for the year ending June 30, 2012 and our tax collections will continue in a heavy way for the next couple of weeks and we'll have a better feel for the percentage and dollar amount at that time. County Manager

Gatewood recommended we proceed with the recommendation and they could proceed based on its merits. Commissioner Smith asked the County Manager if he knew how much had been collected or how much was out. Commissioner Smith felt the county was in a devastating position as far as people that can't get jobs and felt there had to be cuts. County Manager Gatewood noted we have had double digit unemployment rates for in excess of fifteen months however we've been frugal and have an excellent fund balance. County Manager Gatewood feels the county finances are in excellent shape and probably better shape than they've been in history. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Appearances:**

**Tim Fadul-Waste Connections:** Mr. Fadul shared that Waste Connections has been the owner and operator of the landfill since May of 2009. Mr. Fadul stated that the company was founded in 1997 and was the fourth largest solid waste provider in the United States. Mr. Fadul shared that they were publically traded on the New York stock exchange and their equity market cap was approximately two and one-half million dollars. Mr. Fadul stated that they have one of the strongest balance sheets in their sector as declared by the investment community. Mr. Fadul shared that their credit was investment grade as declared by S&P. Mr. Fadul noted they are an integrated solid waste company which means they not only want to pick it and recycle material but they also want to run the disposal system and bury it. Mr. Fadul stated that they service two million residential customers, are in thirty-one states, they have one hundred and forty seven solid waste collection operations, fifty nine transfer stations, forty-seven active landfills and forty recycling operations. Mr. Fadul stated that their operating standards were tailored to each market with centralized management. Mr. Fadul noted that he was division vice president responsible for North and South Carolina and to make changes he does not have to seek someone else's permission within the company. Mr. Fadul explained that the convenient center at the landfill accepted waste oil up until recently. Mr. Fadul stated the primary reason for discontinuing this service was because their operating permit does not allow them to accept liquids and they were receiving a lot of liquids being disposed of with the waste oil that was not waste oil. Mr. Fadul explained that a lot of unmarked containers with no description were being dropped off that included things such as pool chemicals and battery acid. Commissioner Smith asked what type oil he was talking about with Mr. Fadul answering chemicals, solvents, thinners and things that should not be mixed with waste oil. Mr. Fadul noted that because they do not receive a lot of waste oil there the liquids that were being deposited in with it contaminated the oil. Mr. Fadul felt oil should be a commodity and something they could sell. Chairman Baucom explained that they had a container there for oil and previously accepted used motor oils to be recycled and sold. Chairman Baucom stated that according to Mr. Fadul the public is taking a lot of different liquids and depositing them at the site and their permit does not allow liquids and they don't know what all the chemicals are that are being left. Mr. Fadul shared that they contracted with Safety Clean to come and test the various liquids. Mr. Fadul

stated that they were able to separate and remove the oil but there are two containers of liquids that they still have onsite and are waiting for the testing information to come back to tell them what it is. Mr. Fadul explained that this was liquids brought by residents of the county to the convenient center and dropped off. Mr. Fadul shared that he recently met with staff who asked him to reopen the site and his comment was they are a resource but he needs to find a way to limit their liability. Mr. Fadul stated that he needs to find a way to screen the material and insure they do not have liquids coming there that should not be coming there. Chairman Baucom asked Mr. Fadul if he planned to pursue finding such a methodology with Mr. Fadul answering yes. Mr. Fadul felt the larger issue is when the site is very active and there are multiple people there dropping off a container and leaving. Mr. Fadul added that the attendant could ask what it is but usually the person is gone. Vice Chair Streater asked what would keep them from putting it in a black plastic bag and leaving with Mr. Fadul stating nothing and quite frankly a lot of the items being set out under the rules for household hazardous material could be thrown in the trash but when someone brings it to the facility and sets it off then he becomes responsible for it and he can't put it in the trash. Chairman Baucom asked if we have any real assurance that the convenient sites are used by only Anson County residents with Mr. Fadul answering no. Chairman Baucom stated that they could be from anywhere. Mr. Fadul stated that they feel sure some of the sites in the outlying areas are being used by folks living in South Carolina or a neighboring county to the east. Chairman Baucom stated that from what we are hearing the problem is not so much the disposal of the motor oil but the collection of these other unknown and potentially hazardous liquids that are being left at the site and they have had to hire people to come in and analyze the liquids and hope to find a way to dispose of them. Mr. Fadul stated that a way to safe guard the motor oil would be to try to restrict and keep folks from contaminating. Mr. Fadul feels it will come down to education, additional signage and maybe additional staff on busy days. Commissioner Woodburn asked if he would be working with the County Manager and staff to develop a plan to address this issue with Mr. Fadul answering yes. Commissioner Woodburn commented that he understands and appreciates his concern about chemicals other than oil and he hopes this will not be a long drawn out solution. Mr. Fadul hopes to have it resolved in the next thirty days. Commissioner Woodburn agreed the first phase would be a good education to the citizens to let them know what is acceptable and what is not.

**Deneal Bennett – 2012 Audit Update:** Ms. Bennett shared that the state just approved today at Noon our June 30, 2012 budget and shared a copy with board members. Ms. Bennett stated that she would be available by phone or email to answer any questions. Ms. Bennett shared that it was a clean audit and they appreciate the opportunity to do the audit and work with staff. Ms. Bennett then pointed out different areas of the audit and gave a short description of each. Ms. Bennett explained that a clean audit meant they found no material errors that needed to be corrected or changed. Chairman Baucom asked Ms. Bennett her reaction to our debt load with Ms. Bennett feeling it was fine as we were not in over our heads. Ms. Bennett stated that

the general obligations bonds are paid off this year with the county paying \$807,000 in the governmental funds and \$57,432 in water/waste water. Ms. Bennett pointed out something new in the notes this year found on page 29. Ms. Bennett shared that in the State of North Carolina we have what is called a special separation allowance for law enforcement officers. Ms. Bennett stated that the county has not had an actuarial study of this in the past and upon the LGC's recommendation it might be to the point where the county might have a significant liability and should have an actuarial study. Ms. Bennett shared that the county did have an actuarial study of the separation allowance and this is a new note on pages 29, 30 and 31 to give the actuary estimate of what this proposed pension obligation for the separation allowance is. Ms. Bennett stated that because of this the beginning net assets were restated in the general fund for this proposed liability. Ms. Bennett stated that in the past there has been disclosure of daily deposit violations and also over budget line items and there are no such notes this year. Commissioner Smith asked if the tax rate could be reduced with Ms. Bennett stating she could not make a statement on that as she just audits the financial statements. Ms. Bennett stated that the LGC likes us to have our fund balance available to be a percentage of our general fund expenditures of at least eight percent. Ms. Bennett stated that they prefer we have twenty-five percent and Anson County for June 30, 2012 has twenty-nine percent. Ms. Bennett mentioned the general fund fund balance on June 30, 2011 was around 1.2 million and this past year it was a deficit of \$702,000. Ms. Bennett explained that this was projects such as the courthouse and the emergency services building. Ms. Bennett pointed out the management letter filed loosely in the back noting these were not necessarily findings but things they want the board to be aware of. Ms. Bennett mentioned the letter in the very back that is required communication with those charged with government. Ms. Bennett apologized that the board did not have time to review this prior to the meeting. Chairman Baucom stated that we are not broke and we can demonstrate effective management of the county's resources. Chairman Baucom voiced appreciate for their work and the report. Commissioner Sims feels we are above average with Vice Chair Streater feeling we need to make sure it stays that way. Chairman Baucom voiced that we still have to invest in the county and if we don't know one else is going to invest. Chairman Baucom feels when you hear people talk about the courthouse and the Belk building those are dollars well spent and it has impacted the spirit of the residents of this community. Commissioner Sturdivant felt the park needed to be added to the list.

**Janine Rywak – Farmers Market Update:** Ms. Rywak stated that working on local foods initiatives has been a major emphasis in their office and as part of that last year they wrote for and received a \$10,000 grant from North Carolina A&T University to be used specifically with local foods projects. Ms. Rywak shared that they have been working with multi counties to try to develop a food hub here in Anson County called Farm Fresh Ventures and Thomas Cureton was working at SPCC but is now in their office twelve hours a week under a contract program to keep the project going. Ms. Rywak stated that he was also working with some of the grant dollars on upgrades to the Farmers Market. Ms. Rywak stated that they were painting the inside of the

bathrooms and stalls and also hope to replace the ceiling tiles. Ms. Rywak shared that they have a problem with starlings and sparrows roosting so they are installing a plywood drop ceiling and replacing the back lights to bring them up to code to be used over food. Ms. Rywak noted they were filling in all the open spaces around the block and mortar and have also repaired the urinal drain system in the men's bathroom and works some on the refrigerated cooler. Ms. Rywak stated that they would also be cleaning, repairing, replacing insulation and ceiling tiles so they can utilize the Farmers Market one day a week beginning this spring as an aggregate site for Farm Fresh Ventures. Ms. Rywak explained that this was a five county project where they sell subscriptions to people wanting to purchase one box of fresh produce a week. Ms. Rywak stated that as such producers from the five county region will bring their produce on Tuesday's to the Farmers Market and volunteers will rebox all the produce and ship it back out to the counties distribution sites. Ms. Rywak stated that this would go on for eighteen weeks. Ms. Rywak shared that they would also be installing an outside vegetable sink for a hand washing station. Ms. Rywak noted that all this was being done with grant money and they were not using county dollars. Chairman Baucom asked if this would be on Wednesday with Ms. Rywak answering this would be done on Tuesdays as the Farmers Market is open Wednesdays and Saturdays. Ms. Rywak noted that a local producer has agreed to help keep the outer perimeter mowed. Vice Chair Streater mentioned boxing up the produce and distributing them to the different counties and asked if the produce would come from different farmers with Ms. Rywak answering yes. Ms. Rywak noted five counties were involved and they have a handful of core producers that will produce the bulk and others will do smaller commodities. Ms. Rywak stated that subscriptions would be about \$22 per box and of that 70% goes back to the producers that provide the produce, 20% goes back to Farm Fresh Ventures for operating cost and the distribution sites in the communities will have volunteers helping out and will get \$2 a box. Ms. Rywak shared that their goal was to move 300 boxes per week. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if senior citizens would get a discount with Ms. Rywak answering that they were just getting started and have not talked about discounts yet.

**Dave Smith – TDA Quarterly Report:** Mr. Smith was unable to attend.

**Public Addresses to the Board:** There were none.

**Administrative Matters:**

**Emergency Services Center Construction Contract & Addendum:** Ms. Baxter noted they were seeking final approval of the construction Contract between Anson County and Messer Construction. Ms. Baxter introduced Chris Malinowski of Messer noting he was available to answer any questions. Chairman Baucom asked the County Attorney if he had reviewed the contract to which he answered yes and as to form he saw nothing out of the ordinary. Chairman Baucom stated that she found the estimated date of completion is January 13, 2014 and asked the consequences for this not being met. Mr. Malinowski stated that he did not have a copy of the contract with

him but believes there are liquidated damages in there. Mr. Malinowski explained that liquidated damages would be a penalty would be assessed again Messer if they did not complete the project on time. Mr. Malinowski noted it was \$500 a day. Chairman Baucom referred to the dispute resolution noting the initial decision maker is the architect and asked who owns the architect. Mr. Malinowski answered that they work for the county. Commissioner Smith stated that they have the building costing 4.255 million dollars with Ms. Baxter noting the contract price was \$4.255 but through change orders they reduced the cost by \$568,000 to bring the total construction cost to \$3.686 million. Vice Chair Streater asked what was done to bring down the cost with Ms. Baxter answering a number of things. Ms. Baxter noted that we worked on this for several months to bring the cost within the \$3.6 that has been discussed for the past eighteen months. Ms. Baxter stated that they reduced the size of the bays from six to four. Commissioner Smith asked if there was a preliminary drawing of what this would look like with Ms. Baxter answering she has several drawings. Commissioner Smith asked if it was included in the Agenda packet with Ms. Baxter answering no but she would be glad to bring him one. Chairman Baucom asked if anything had changed since the last time they saw it with County Manager Gatewood answering no not substantially. Chairman Baucom asked the number of vehicles it would house with Ms. Baxter answering four. Vice Chair Streater asked if he saw an exercise room with Ms. Baxter answering yes. Vice Chair Streater asked who would use this with Ms. Baxter answering EMS. Vice Chair Streater asked if other departments could use it with Ms. Baxter answering yes and it would also be available for deputies. Sheriff Allen stated that he would be glad to make it available to any county commissioner. Commissioner Smith stated that the commissioners were not the only ones paying taxes and asked about the general population with County Manager Gatewood explaining that we were not set up to accommodate citizens at large but it would certainly be made available to all county employees. Commissioner Sikes asked if the 9-1-1 center was set up so they would not have more visitors than they want with Ms. Baxter sharing that it would be visual screening and all accesses to the building would be secure. Ms. Baxter added that visitors would not be allowed to enter the facility unless they were approved. Commissioner Sikes noted there were a lot of people wanting to get in and feel they were being treated rude by not letting them in. Ms. Baxter stated that there would be a staff member there during regular business hours to greet the public as they enter. Vice Chair Streater asked if a receptionist would be hired with Sheriff Allen explaining that the 9-1-1 section was a secured pod inside the building and no one gets inside unless they are buzzed in or they have a pass card to come in. Sheriff Allen explained that the front of the building would be open to the public and he understands we are using existing staff for this area. Commissioner Smith asked if ambulance fees were paid in this building or the tax office with County Manager Gatewood explaining that we have an independent contractor that collects these fees for us. Sheriff Allen stated that they may have to come to the building for copies of the bill but they would not pay them there. Commissioner Smith asked if we had any accounting of the revenues/receipts from this operation with County Manager Gatewood answering not from the operation per say but as far as the ambulance service we operate it generates

about one million dollars a year. Vice Chair Streater asked if that money would be used to pay for the facility with County Manager Gatewood stating it was used to pay for the operating expenses of the ambulance service. County Manager Gatewood added that the ambulance service was about one hundred thousand dollars shy of breaking even. Vice Chair Streater asked the County Manager to explain how we plan to pay for this facility. County Manager Gatewood again shared that we have a problem with our tax collection rate and 92.68% was one of the lowest in the State of North Carolina. County Manager Gatewood stated that the statewide average was 95 and change and our goal over the next several years is to move up to 95% and once we do that it will generate an additional two hundred fifty to three hundred thousand dollars in annual revenues. County Manager Gatewood stated that some years ago we took out an energy efficiency contract with Progress Energy and this debt will be paid in full in 2015-2016. County Manager Gatewood stated that Anson County government was one of the largest landowners in the county and he feels we have an opportunity to surplus some of our land holdings and monetize these assets. County Manager Gatewood stated that we have tracts of land with 86.5 acres with nice timber, another with 40.34 acres with nice timber, 84.6 acres with some timber, 47.3 acres, 96.5 acres and 37.5 acres and we have no known need for these properties and his goal over the next several years is to sell some of the property but first he plans to sell the timber on the land. County Manager Gatewood stated that we will continue to sell surplus property and Ms. Huntley has proven that she is a jewel and does a yeoman's job in this regard. County Manager Gatewood explained that we applied to Golden Leaf and they rejected our preliminary application and the next window of opportunity is the state 9-1-1 board. County Manager Gatewood believes that later this month we will have an opportunity to apply not only to help equip the building but also to pay some of the construction. County Manager Gatewood added that before they will take us very seriously we need approval of this board saying this is a bonafide project and one that the county commissioners support. County Manager Gatewood stated that we just heard that the county is in very good shape and our fund balance is very healthy and if we run into a tight spot we can always pull from fund balance to make the payment but we do not envision this happening. Commissioner Sikes asked the County Manager if we foresees a tax increase to cover this with County Manager Gatewood answering he can never say never but to pay for this building he does not envision a tax increase based on what he knows today. Commissioner Sikes asked if this would have any affect or delay the Ag Center with County Manager Gatewood stating he does not envision it being delayed at all. County Manager Gatewood recapped the schedule for the Ag Center by saying 2013 we focus on land acquisition, 2014 preliminary plan development, 2015 develop the site and 2016 break ground and start construction. At this point County Manager Gatewood recognized Ms. Rywak to share some of the fundraising efforts. Ms. Rywak stated that they have not embarked on their official fundraising because we've not signed the land option but understands it is ready. Ms. Rywak stated that this fall they were given their first monetary contribution without asking for it in the amount of \$10,000 from Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation. Ms. Rywak explained that they were able to pull down \$5,000 of a special grant and match it with their own \$5,000

and their Board of Directors directed it to be put towards the Ag Civic Center. Ms. Rywak stated that the Anson Economic Development Corporation graciously agreed to house the funds since they are a 501C3. Ms. Rywak stated that in October, she, Chairman Baucom and County Manager Gatewood attended a meeting where she made a presentation on the Ag Center and afterwards a major contributor pledged \$300,000 over the next ten years and to get them jump started she received a check in the amount of \$48,342. Ms. Rywak noted again that AEDC was housing the funds until they get further into this. Ms. Rywak stated that once the land is finalized she plans to put together a fundraising committee and she has already had three people ask to help. Commissioner Sims felt with the sale of timber and property we would have several hundred thousand dollars with County Manager Gatewood feeling it would be closer to a million or two. Vice Chair Streater asked how long before the building is paid off with County Manager Gatewood answering they have been working with Anson Bank & Trust for a fifteen year commitment for up to 4.7 million dollars at an interest rate of 2.37%. Commissioner Sims commented that one day we would need a new jail and felt we should leave a little room for this. Commissioner Smith asked the cost of the Agri-Civic Center with County Manager Gatewood answering right at ten million dollars and the Ag community has already committed to 25% of that amount. Vice Chair Streater commented that this was what everyone wants with County Manager Gatewood stating there was wide spread and deep support for the Agri-Civic Center. Chairman Baucom noted there were people in this community and outside this community that think this community deserves neither a nice Emergency Center or an Agri-Civic Center or anything else. Chairman Baucom stated again that if we don't invest in ourselves nobody else is going to. Commissioner Sims commented that our courthouse was now one of the finest looking courthouses in the State of North Carolina. Commissioner Smith asked how the courthouse looked inside and if the bathroom was still below standard. County Manager Gatewood then called on Jeff Waisner to speak to the courthouse renovation. Mr. Waisner stated the upstairs bathrooms have not been renovated as they are included in the second phase of work but they have completed about 90% of the renovations to offices on the first floor. Mr. Waisner stated that they were getting bids for the middle corridor and east and west wings and depending on the bids the work may have to wait until next budget year. Mr. Waisner shared that the pigeons were gone from the third floor. County Manager Gatewood respectfully asked for their approval of the contract and change orders and allow them to start construction on this new facility at a rate of 3.6 million dollars and change and they hope to break ground in February. Commissioner Smith voiced that they would be well in taking a break at this time. Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to approve the contract. Motion carried 6 to 1 with Commissioner Smith opposed.

Chairman Baucom called for a fifteen minute break.

\*Commissioner Smith left the meeting during the break.

After the break, the next item of discussion was **System Safety Program Plan – ACTS:** Commissioner Sims asked the number of changes from last year and what they were. Mr. Rowell stated there were too many changes to numerate and the plan was in seven sections. Mr. Rowell noted the board voted on this in 2011 and a few months ago they called with changes to bring it up to date. Commissioner Sims referred to grievance and appeal on page 127 stating that a positive test or test refusal was not subject to arbitration. County Attorney Forbes was of the opinion in had something to do with a driver under the influence. Mr. Rowell stated that they have a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy. Mr. Rowell stated that alcohol was legal but the seven other drugs were totally illegal. County Attorney Forbes added that this was a federal regulation. Chairman Baucom asked if the part about maintenance was part of the entire thing or separate with Mr. Rowell answering it was a part of it. Mr. Rowell stated that they now have software to keep up with maintenance and to project when vehicles are due service. Mr. Rowell noted that we are not penalized for servicing the vehicles early but we are penalized if it is more than 10% beyond the five thousand miles or fifty-five hundred miles. Mr. Rowell shared that the federal government still requires the section on maintenance be included in the safety plan. Commissioner Sims asked other than the new van what kind of money were we talking. Mr. Rowell stated that there was no additional money. County Manager Gatewood called attention to page 45 stating it should be the 2013 plan not the 2011 plan. Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Airport Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP):** Mr. Fincher stated that this was a five year plan for upcoming projects and was updated yearly. Mr. Fincher noted one of the upcoming projects was the apron rehabilitation project that will be paid for by discretionary funds along with the county's match that is already in place. Mr. Fincher noted the other project was the obstruction removal runway approach project of runway 34. Mr. Fincher noted this would also be paid by discretionary funds and Vision 100 money. Mr. Fincher stated that they have an upcoming third project but the grant has yet to be issued. Mr. Fincher noted this was land acquisition in the hangar area and will also be paid by discretionary funds along with Vision 100 money. Chairman Baucom asked whose discretionary funds with Mr. Fincher answering the state. Chairman Baucom asked if we had matching money in here with Mr. Fincher answering 10% with the rehabilitation project but the funds are already there. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Airport Safety Maintenance Agreement:** Mr. Fincher explained that this was an agreement between the state and county for repairs to be done concerning pavement that has deteriorated on the runway and taxiways along with markings that need to be repainted and sealing of the runway. Mr. Fincher stated that we need to sign the agreement with the state for them to come do the repairs. Mr. Fincher added that the County Attorney has reviewed the agreement. Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sims asked what was the biggest plane we've had to land at the airport so far with Mr. Fincher answering a gulf stream 4. Mr. Fincher noted this was a large corporate jet belonging to Valley Protein. Mr. Fincher noted they mostly use a King Air 350 which is a twin engine turbo prop plane that still burns jet fuel. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if we could accept any airplane with Mr. Fincher answering they were limited by the weight bearing capacity of the runway. Mr. Fincher explained that it was twelve thousand pounds for a single axle airplane or sixty thousand pounds for a multi axle aircraft. Mr. Fincher shared that the C-130 military aircraft we see flying low could probably land out there hopefully without any damage but the lightest you can get those is about one hundred thousand pounds. Commissioner Woodburn asked if the length of the runway was sufficient for a C-130 with Mr. Fincher answering yes and for most of the aircraft it would be more about the load bearing capacity than the length of the runway.

**Legislative Goals:** Chairman Baucom noted that last month Commissioner Woodburn agreed to be our representative at the conference and she suspects all board members received in the mail one hundred counties one state. Chairman Baucom explained that it states the Association's core values and it talks about their legislative goals. Chairman Baucom was of the opinion that earlier the board talked about this and she asked that they think in terms of the association taking a position on fracking. Chairman Baucom stated that there was nothing in the information from the association about fracking and asked Commissioner Woodburn if he could find a way to work it in. Chairman Baucom noted that during the election the democratic candidates for the state house and state senate were both scared of fracking and both of the republicans were in favor. Chairman Baucom noted that our senator was a democrat and our representative was a republican and she doesn't know if they have any gas deposits in Union County or not but she is concerned about this and it doesn't look like we are going to get any help from the Association. Vice Chair Streater asked how many counties were involved in fracking with Commissioner Sims stating he did not know who has the oil and gas but we surely have the water base. Chairman Baucom felt Lee County has a huge deposit and their representatives pushed a lot of the environmental rules to favor fracking. Commissioner Woodburn stated that we would need to put some wording together to present. Commissioner Sims asked the County Attorney his thoughts with County Attorney Forbes answering from the research he has done he is against it. Chairman Baucom felt the board had to walk a thin line and they did not need to position themselves to prevent people from making money off their land but on the other hand they have an obligation to protect the natural resources, farmland, timberland and the water supply for everybody else. Chairman Baucom felt this would be a delicate dance.

**Manager's Report:** County Manager Gatewood mentioned that the courthouse, the Belk building and the Parks and Rec. buildings were featured in the top stories of 2012 in the Anson Record. Mr. Waisner again mentioned that they were 90% completed with the office space on the first floor and invited board members to go take

a look. Mr. Waisner shared that they have received a lot of positive response especially from the Clerk of Court and the Judges. Mr. Waisner commented that this will hold its place long after we are gone. Mr. Waisner noted that we've had a couple of heavy rains recently and they have pretty much solved all of the water problems at the courthouse. Mr. Waisner shared that inside the old Register of Deeds office they had the old ancient metal shelves that would roll the books in and out and they have been replaced with new shelves stained to match the wood around the windows. Mr. Waisner stated that they sold the old shelves for \$970. Mr. Waisner mentioned the light wells at the windows of the basement where rain puddles and people throw items in there and they plan to build removable covers to prevent trash from being thrown in there. Mr. Waisner stated that at the right time they will remove the rules posted on the front of the courthouse to the lobby area and the architect will coat that portion of the building. Mr. Waisner shared that they were almost finished with the color coating chemical on the Belk building that will also seal the building and keep water from going back through the brick. Mr. Waisner stated that the color goes well with the colors on the courthouse. Mr. Waisner stated that the metal for the awnings should be here Wednesday and will be a deep burgundy. Mr. Waisner stated that the last rung of brick on the top of the building will have a stone cap weighing 175 pounds each and the Belk sign on top will be similar to the color of the wording on the courthouse. Mr. Waisner feels the courthouse and Belk building should be complete in about three weeks, weather permitting. Mr. Waisner stated that the illuminated flag pole at the top of the Belk building would be the last thing installed. Vice Chair Streater mentioned the sign and asked if it would still be Belk with Mr. Waisner answering yes. Mr. Waisner mentioned that it was almost impossible to get to the top of the Belk building so a fire escape type ladder will be installed for an easier and safer access to the roof. Commissioner Sturdivant commended Mr. Waisner on the work at the courthouse. County Manager Gatewood mentioned the Christmas luncheon for county employees that took place on December 7 noting it was well attended and Ms. Huntley and her team did a yeoman's job of making all the arrangements. County Manager Gatewood thanked the commissioners for their attendance and financial support. County Manager Gatewood shared that the senior luncheon took place on December 6 and hundreds of citizens packed the Ingram Room. County Manager Gatewood reported that on December 12 Blue Cross Blue Shield and county employees participated in four nutrition seminars. County Manager Gatewood stated that our stretch goal was 134 employees and we ended up with 219. County Manager Gatewood noted several retirements in December that included Pam Vernon from the health department with 31 years, Fulton Redfearn from the water department with 29 years, James Pratt from the water department with 21 years and next month Steve Natoli, superintendent of water distribution will retire with 14 years. County Manager Gatewood reminded board members that the health director vacancy had been out there since July 2010. County Manager Gatewood reported the following job vacancies: utility maintenance worker with a hiring rate of \$23,316, distribution field supervisor with a hiring rate of \$29,843 and the superintendent's position with a range of \$38,000 to \$59,000. County Manager Gatewood pointed out that the superintendent has to have a Grade A water distribution

certification and we would like someone with experience. Mr. Sessions added that certification can't be gotten without experience. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if it could be male or female with County Manager Gatewood answering it could be either. County Manager Gatewood mentioned that last month our contingency fund was \$31,497 and we are at the same with about six months into the fiscal year. County Manager Gatewood reminded those present that county offices would be closed January 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. County Manager Gatewood confirmed that our new website would go live later this month. County Manager Gatewood mentioned his email to employees indicating their take home pay will be two percentage points lower and that is a federal mandate and not a county decision. Vice Chair Streater commented that maybe we can make it up at raise time. County Manager Gatewood asked board members to mark their calendars for the Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 6 and the Grace Center luncheon scheduled for December 5 at Lockhart-Taylor. County Manager Gatewood noted the budget planning retreat was set for Saturday, March 2 and presented the proposed agenda to board members for review. County Manager Gatewood stated that we plan to start out at eight o'clock with a light breakfast followed by a discussion of priorities, policies and key legislative issues at 8:30. County Manager Gatewood shared that he wanted to talk about the five year capital improvement plan so we could see the timing for the Agri-Civic Center and various other projects underway. County Manager Gatewood stated that there was a lot of discussion about salary compression and we will come forward with a recommendation. County Manager Gatewood forewarned board members that the recommendation may suggest that we can't afford to do anything to affect it this time around. County Manager Gatewood shared that we plan to review the progress of the current capital projects and Jeff Waisner and Cathy Baxter will serve as co-project leaders for the new emergency services center. County Manager Gatewood noted that Ms. Rywak and the Ag community would join us for the discussion of the Agri-Civic Center. County Manager Gatewood asked board members if there was anything else they could like to see in this half day session with Chairman Baucom asked if they could think about it. Vice Chair Streater asked if board members would have what departments want in their budget at this retreat with County Manager Gatewood stating that he would have the schedule next month. Vice Chair Streater stated that he would like to know at this meeting what departments are asking for with County Manager Gatewood stating he would not have it by that time. Vice Chair Streater felt this information was needed in order to decide what to do about salary compression. Vice Chair Streater voiced that he would like to see the wish list from each department cut back in order to work on salaries. County Manager Gatewood stated that that might be their recommendation. Chairman Baucom stated that she understands this is not a budget retreat but one for planning, policy and issues. Chairman Baucom felt they probably needed to have another one to talk about budget. County Manager Gatewood asked the time frame for another meeting with board members wanting it after receiving the information from department heads.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Baucom asked to reserve her comments or report until later.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:** Approved minutes dated December 4, 2012, December 7, 2012 and closed session minutes dated December 4, 2012.

**Monthly Jail Report:** approved as follows:

**ANSON COUNTY JAIL**

**December 1, 2012**

1. As of 9:00am today (December 1, 2012) the Anson County Jail (capacity of 60) held **45** inmates in Anson County; **0** inmates housed in the other County Jails; **1** inmate in DOC/Butner for medical/safe-keeping; and **0** inmates awaiting transfer to DOC.

2. The following is a breakdown of the Average Daily Population:

<u>Year</u>	<u>ADP</u>	<u>Total Booked</u>	<u>Booked/Month</u>
2003	51	1920	160
2004	54	1954	163
2005	58	2119	177
2006	55	2027	169
2007	55	----	----
2008	53	1707	142
2009	62	1919	160
2010	68	1483	124
<b>2011</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>139</b>

3. **2011 Totals**

January	59	113
February	61	136
March	56	144
April	59	170
May	59	145
June	53	162
July	58	124
August	66	177
September	62	126
October	57	136
November	60	132
December	46	104

4. **2012 Totals**

January	40	117
February	45	125

March	48	158
April	45	146
May	48	146
June	55	138
July	56	117
August	44	134
September	45	157
October	56	124
<b>November</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>108</b>

**Annual Meeting with SPCC Trustees:** Board members approved the joint meeting date of April 16, 2013 beginning at 6 PM at the Polkton Depot.

**Budget Amendment – Emergency Management:** to appropriate revenues from gov sale of 1997 Ford Econoline Ambulance to the Emergency Management Department to cover costs for fiscal year 2012-13.

**AMENDMENT**

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2012/13

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY2012/13 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General fund Expenditures:

Increase:	Emergency Management 11-4330	\$ 3,061
Increase:	Emergency Management 11-4330	<u>\$ 249</u>
Total Increase:		\$ 3,310

Section 2. General Fund Revenues:

Increase:	Emergency Management 11-4330	<u>\$ 3,310</u>
Total Increase:		\$ 3,310

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

**Budget Amendment – Health Department:** to appropriate additional revenues received from NC Division of Public health for the Anson County health Department Child Health Programs.

**AMENDMENT**

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY2012/13

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY2012/13 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures:

Increase:	Health Programs 11-5110-5181	\$ 7,800
Increase:	Health Programs 11-5110-5181	<u>\$ 908</u>
Total Increase:		\$ 8,708

Section 2. General Fund Revenues:

Increase:	Health-All Programs 11-5100	<u>\$ 8,708</u>
Total Increase:		\$ 8,708

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

**Budget Amendment – Social Services:** to appropriate additional revenues received from the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for the Anson County Department of Social Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance program.

**AMENDMENT**

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY2012/13

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY2012/13 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures:

Increase:	Social Services 11-5310-5580	\$ 25,454
Total Increase:		\$ 25,454

Section 2. General Fund Revenues:

Increase:	Social Services Administration 11-5310	\$ 25,454
Total Increase:		\$ 25,454

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

**Budget Amendment – ACTS Transportation:** to appropriate unspent funds from ACTS for the NCDOT ROAP Employment Program for 2011-2013 budget which has to be refunded to the NCDOT.

**AMENDMENT**

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY2012/13

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY2012/13 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General fund Expenditures:

Increase:	Transportation 11-4521-4522	\$ 4,074
Total Increase:		\$ 4,074

Section 2. General Fund Revenues:

Increase:	Governing Body-Gen Admin 11-4110	\$ 4,074
Total Increase:		\$ 4,074

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

**Commissioner Concerns:**

**Vice Chair Streater-Contracts Signed by Department Heads and amounts:** Vice Chair Streater asked if contracts signed by department heads were also signed by the County Manager. County Manager Gatewood answered that it varies depending on the size of the contract and what we are committing ourselves to but normally for departmental purposes such as printer contracts, etc., the department heads take care of it themselves. Vice Chair Streater asked if there was a set amount with County Manager Gatewood answering there was no set amount in our policy. Vice Chair Streater stated that according to the Institute all contracts are supposed to be signed by the County Manager and/or the Chairman and approved by the board. Vice Chair Streater feels the board is to give the manager an amount he can approve up to before coming to the board. County Manager Gatewood shared that he has taken the liberty to process the contracts utilizing the review of Scott Forbes and he wasn't aware of a state statute. Vice Chair Streater then asked the clerk if she had that information available. The clerk then read a comment from Fleming Bell, SOG: the county board of commissioners is ultimately responsible for all county contracts and it is up to the board to set all policies that must be followed in bringing particular contracts to it or delegating approval authority over some contracts to department heads, including the Sheriff. Of course, authority to approve certain contracts, such as formal construction and repair contracts, cannot be delegated by the board. Chairman Baucom felt this was something to look at during retreat with Vice Chair Streater thinking after an amount it should be signed by the manager.

**Commissioner Sikes** felt there were a few things from the meeting last month concerning Anson Rescue that was stated to the public like we had two paid ambulance services. Commissioner Sikes noted we did not and Anson Rescue operates on the money they collect. Commissioner Sikes stated that it was also noted that the financial impact to taxpayers was approximately \$135,000 annually and commented that this was not taxpayer money but patient money. Commissioner Sikes stated this was not coming from the taxpayers. Commissioner Sikes stated that the object was if Anson Rescue went twenty-four hours it was going to impact EMS but the way we set it up with EMS responding immediately to wrecks it was going to affect Anson Rescue the same amount. Commissioner Sikes added that he just wanted to make that clear that we are not paying two ambulance services and \$135,000 was not tax money but patient money coming in. Vice Chair Streater voiced agreement with Commissioner Sikes and felt if the newspaper reporter was to clear this up in the paper it would help us. Commissioner Sikes shared that originally when this started his impression of it and that of Anson Rescue was that when we asked them to add an ambulance the county had decided we needed another ambulance and Anson Rescue could provide it cheaper than EMS. Commissioner Sikes stated that Anson Rescue agreed to furnish the ambulance but they did not intend for it to go against their rescue service. Commissioner Sikes explained that they wanted to run the rescue service like they've been running but furnish the ambulance to help run the medical calls. Commissioner Sikes feels this is why a lot of the bickering has come about is that they lost a lot of their wreck calls and they were put on the third ambulance rotation too. Commissioner Sikes voiced that everything was working better and they would see how it works out. County Manager Gatewood reported that the contract has been signed and runs for six months on a trial basis and we will reassess and go from there.

**Commissioner Sikes** noted that BB&T in Ansonville wants to close and he wanted to know what affect the board could have on it. Commissioner Sikes then recognized the Mayor of Ansonville Mr. Ingram. Mayor Ingram confirmed that BB&T has mentioned that they would be closing at the end of March because of profits. Mayor Ingram shared that he talked with a regional manager and they seem to have their mind made up even though Ansonville has a dollar store coming in. Mayor Ingram shared that they have asked Churches and citizens to write letters and make phone calls to the regional office to voice their opinion. Mayor Ingram stated that suggestions from the public were to start looking at other financial institutions to come to Ansonville. Mayor Ingram stated that he told the regional manager that a lot of their citizens were senior citizens with no transportation to Norwood or Wadesboro and they do all their financial business in Ansonville. Mayor Ingram noted that they also have some industries that do business with them and BB&T has been there over thirty-seven years. Chairman Baucom asked Mayor Ingram if he had been given any indication as to whether they would agree to give up the building with Mayor Ingram answering they were willing to give it up. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that their old BB&T was now Lilesville's town hall and the same thing in Morven. Chairman Baucom felt the game plan should be to find a bank to move in and take the building. Vice Chair Streater felt

the first step if they are leaving is to get them to give the building to the town then work with another institution. Commissioner Sturdivant asked Mayor Ingram if it was possible for him to find out exactly what citizens, churches and businesses use BB&T. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that he might be surprised that even though they live in Ansonville they may bank somewhere else. Commissioner Sturdivant mentioned that there is talk of closing several of our post offices in Anson County and she has told citizens of Lilesville to start using the post office. Commissioner Sims voiced that if you don't have a post office, school or bank you don't have a town. Vice Chair Streater added that they've already put Morven on notice that they were closing the post office. Commissioner Sikes shared that he told them if they leave he is not going with them and will go to another bank and a lot of others have said the same thing.

**Closed Session:** Chairman Baucom noted a closed session for Economic Development under North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) and Personnel under North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6). County Manager Gatewood asked to address the personnel issue and include Mike Sessions. Chairman Baucom mentioned the letter received from DOT approving the honorary designation of Highway 52 from the town limits of Wadesboro extending five miles north in honor of Pat Taylor, Jr. and asked if the board wanted a dedication ceremony. Board members asked Chairman Baucom to talk with Ms. Taylor and if ok to move forward with a ceremony. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if she could invite our new Senator with Chairman Baucom answering yes. Motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to go into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to come out of closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, that the County Manager's contract be approved for an additional two years. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the water contract with the Town of Marshville. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 3 hr. 35 min.

