

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present:                    Ross Streater, Chair  
  Jarvis Woodburn, Vice Chair  
  Bobby Sikes  
  Vancine Sturdivant  
  Dr. Jim Sims  
  Lawrence Gatewood

Commissioners absent:                    Harold Smith

Staff members present:                    Barron Monroe II, County Manager  
  Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board  
  Cary Garner, Finance Officer  
  Larry Newton, Tax Assessor  
  Roshunda Terry, Cooperative Extension  
  Dr. Thompson, Health Department  
  Evonne Burr, Health Department

Other:    Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Streater called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who were present. Chairman Streater asked Reverend Vivian Williams to deliver the **Invocation**.

**Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:**

Commissioner Gatewood moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Sims moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, property tax refunds/releases/adjustments, surplus items, and two Health Department budget amendments, seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

## **Public Addresses:**

**Randy Gulledge**, IT Consultant appeared before the Board to present options for relocating the podium. Mr. Gulledge said detaching the podium and making it mobile would be less than \$1100. To replace the microphones with wireless ones would be approximately \$150 each, plus a little wiring in the back, total being \$1500-\$1700. Mr. Gulledge stated to update the existing desktop-wired microphones would cost approximately \$1500-\$1600. Mr. Gulledge explained that a cochlear loop could be installed in the ceiling to increase volume and broadcast directly to those that are wearing hearing aids for approximately \$2700. Chairman Streater asked the County Manager to review these options.

**Curtis Hall** introduced himself and his organization, the Maggie-Daisy Kids Foundation and asked the Board for their support. Mr. Hall stated that Maggie-Daisy Kids is a non-profit organization that he and his brother created in efforts to bring back extracurricular activities and to help develop critical thinking skills for kids in the community. Mr. Hall is asking for the Board's support and direction to any resources available. Mr. Hall shared that the Maggie-Daisy Kids is an organization that seeks to build and connect with the youth ages 7-17, with goals of creating productive citizenship in the community. Mr. Hall shared the origin of the organization's name, citing his grandmother and aunt.

**Tyler Fitzgerald** appeared before the Board to discuss challenges with out-of-county usage at the convenience waste sites. Mr. Fitzgerald shared that in the last six months, the sites are being filled by non-residents, noting that the sites are for Anson County residents only. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the sites would have increased security to monitor and check identification, along with additional signage.

## **Appearances:**

**Tommy Allen** appeared before the Board to request that Board members begin videotaping, broadcasting, and archiving their monthly Commissioners meetings electronically. Mr. Allen said this would establish an audio and video archival record of actions and allow citizens who cannot attend meetings to search and see how their county business is handled. Mr. Allen further discussed how audio and video records could be available for legal issues as well as

clarification. Mr. Allen suggested that the meeting could be live streamed over the county's website or on Spectrum cable channel 1301, which is designated as the "government channel." Mr. Allen said he has spoken to Randy Gullledge, IT Consultant and the estimated initial cost should be \$1500 or less, (two cameras and minimum cable cost). Mr. Allen stated that this would be a great opportunity to reach county citizens and become more transparent. Mr. Allen shared his support for the relocation of the podium and the cochlear loop for the hearing impaired.

Chairman Streater instructed the County Manager to research the video and audio initial setup, podium relocation, and report back to the Board with cost estimates.

Commissioner Sims offered a motion to approve and accept the recommendation that the Board begin videotaping the monthly Commissioner meetings, directing the County Manager to proceed forward with the process, Commissioner Gatewood seconded.

Commissioner Gatewood said he supports Sheriff Allen's recommendation. In fact, last month he informed County Manager Monroe that a number of citizens in his district have requested that the County consider live streaming Board of Commissioners meetings and archiving the videos on the County's website for future reference. Commissioner Gatewood stated over this past weekend, he has visited the websites of all 100 North Carolina counties to determine how many are live streaming their Commissioner meetings. Commissioner Gatewood said he was surprised that nearly 60% of the counties (58 to be exact) in North Carolina, live stream Board meetings and archive the videos on the County's website or YouTube. Commissioner Gatewood further explained that there are 24 Counties in North Carolina with populations greater than 100,000 and 22 of them (around 91%) live stream their Commissioners' meetings. The 2 counties with populations over 100,000 that do not live stream Commissioners Meetings are: Catawba County (Hickory/Newton) and Johnson County (Smithfield), noting that neighboring counties Union, Stanly and Montgomery all livestream Board meetings; Richmond County does not.

Chairman Streater asked for the vote, Motion carried 5-1.

Vice-Chair Woodburn, Commissioner Sturdivant, Commissioner Sims, Commissioner Sikes, and Commissioner Gatewood all voted: **Yes**.

Chairman Streater voted: **No**.

Commissioner Smith: **Absent**.

Chairman Streater stated he would like to get cost estimates from the County Manager before voting in the affirmative.

**John McCormick** of Lilesville appeared before the Board to request that the Board consider approving a NCDOT resolution abandoning sections of Apple Orchard Road and S. Railroad Street, Lilesville.

Commissioner Sims made a motion to support a NCDOT resolution abandoning sections of Apple Orchard Road and S. Railroad Street, Lilesville, with special appreciation to Commissioner Sturdivant for her diligent background work with NCDOT on this project. Commissioner Gatewood seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Matters:**

#### **Old Hospital Deed**

County Attorney Scott Forbes informed the Board that he is steadily working on the old hospital property deed and anticipates completion soon. Attorney Forbes stated he is awaiting hospital authority to sign and return the deed. Attorney Forbes confirmed that the County has the authority to use the property at this point, but wants an extra layer of protection for the County.

Commissioner Sturdivant recognized Reverend Vivian Williams and her willingness to support the community.

### **Appointments:**

Vice-Chair Woodburn made a motion to re-appoint Dr. Danny Wright to the Anson County Board of Health, seconded by Commissioner Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Woodburn made a motion to appoint Carolyn James as a General Public member to the Board of Health, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sims moved to re-appoint Vice-Chair Woodburn to the Centralina Economic Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to appoint John Marek to the Centralina Economic Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Manager's Report:**

County Manager Monroe informed the Board that the Commissioners' Retreat would be at the Hampton B. Allen Library on February 19, 2019 at 9:00 am, with David Nicholson, NCACC as the facilitator.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Streater shared that Vice-Chair Woodburn and Commissioner Sturdivant will be attending class/training in Kernersville, NC.

### **Commissioner Concerns:**

Commissioner Sims shared his concerns about the north side water line at Peachland/Polkton School. The water line is old, rusty, decayed and broken, thus sometimes causing the school to be without water. Commissioner Sims requested that the County Manager work with Mike Sessions, Utilities Director, to research connecting the school to the south side water line. This would lessen the chance of Peachland Polkton Elementary School from being without water.

Commissioner Sims also shared his concerns about the mailing process of the quality of water notices. Commissioner Sims said the Water Department turns this work over to the small town departments to address, buy postage, and mail these notices. He believes this needs to be the responsibility of the County Water Department. Commissioner Sims asked the County Manager to research this matter.

Commissioner Sikes shared that a representative from Feed My Lambs is in the audience and would like to discuss their tax-exempt status. Attorney Forbes

advised them to seek legal counsel and advised the Board not to give legal advice on such matters. Larry Newton, Tax Assessor explained the process of completing the property tax exemption form and agreed with Attorney Forbes in reference to Feed My Lambs seeking legal counsel.

Commissioner Sikes shared his concerns with the progress of the Agri-Civic Center. County Manager Monroe shared that the Agri-Civic Center Committee met on January 23, 2019 and decided to terminate the current architectural contract and restart the process. Chairman Streater asked for this topic to be discussed at the Commissioners Retreat.

Commissioner Gatewood said he would like to share several observations with Board members.

Commissioner Gatewood shared that he attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Harvest Ministries along with Commissioner Sturdivant and others. Commissioner Gatewood thanked everyone that organized, participated, and attended the MLK Jr. Celebration at Harvest Ministries on January 15, 2019. Commissioner Gatewood said it was a cold day but the program was warm spirited, uplifting, and well planned. He gave special thanks to Pastor Adams and Harvest Ministries for hosting the event, stating, "They did an excellent job!"

Commissioner Gatewood said he attended (along with Commissioners Sturdivant and Woodburn, and County Manager Monroe), the East Carolina University Honors Seminar in Economic Development on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Horne Library (SPCC Polkton Campus). Commissioner Gatewood said it was an excellent workshop, well organized and well attended by a variety of key stakeholders, including representatives from industry, government, elected officials, Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Wadesboro, Anson County Schools, SPCC and volunteer board members. Commissioner Gatewood further expressed how he appreciated the frank discussion on the realities of economic development, key issues we face, and the implications for Anson County's future growth, noting it was a great 1/2 day session. Commissioner Gatewood said he is also encouraged by the report made by Mr. Marek that said the unemployment rate is less than 5% and has steadily declined in recent years and is coupled with a steady increase in average hourly wages

(around \$16.04/hour) in Anson County over the past couple of years. Commissioner Gatewood feels the county is on the right track and needs to keep it going. He thanked Mr. Marek for the invitation and encouraged him to keep up the excellent work.

Commissioner Sturdivant shared that it was a pleasure to meet the President of all the Community Colleges.

Commissioner Sims and Chairman Streater acknowledged Mr. Marek for his great work.

Commissioner Gatewood informed the Board that the Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2020 Census. Commissioner Gatewood explained that the Department of Commerce budget is down and will not have funds to employ enumerators and plan on using online filing, which may be an issue for some. Commissioner Gatewood said the County would have to organize and set up locations where citizens can come and fill out their census forms. Commissioner Gatewood shared he would like to request that the County Manager contact the Census Bureau (Asheboro) and invite them to give the Anson County Board of Commissioners an update, including plans, schedule and job opportunities for Anson County Citizens and to make sure every person in Anson County is counted.

Commissioner Gatewood informed the Board that the Value Engineering process will be completed later this month, and a formal presentation will be made to the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gatewood said at that same meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, they will seek approval for the proposed construction budget and contract, the funding plan, the proposed date for the groundbreaking ceremony and the program. Commissioner Gatewood shared the official address of the new DSS Facility is 410 Anson High School Road and he is pleased to report that Piedmont Natural Gas has agreed to extend the natural gas line from the High School to the DSS Building site at no cost to the county, a \$50,000 savings to the County. Commissioner Gatewood also shared information about the North Carolina Department of Transportation is requiring a turning lane on Anson High School Road for the DSS driveway as a safety feature, costing the county \$106,000. Commissioner Gatewood shared that this is an opportunity

to contact NCDOT officials to design and fund the turning lane; justifications would be the school and the location of the new ACTS facility. Commissioner Gatewood suggested a letter from the Board of Commissioners to be delivered to the NCDOT's district supervisor and Anson County native, Mr. Lee Ainsworth. Vice-Chair Woodburn recommended contacting legislators, Representative Mark Brody and Senator Tom McInnis. Commissioner Gatewood said he would assume this task of contacting the legislators.

**Closed Session:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, to go into closed session for:

**Economic Development:** North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body.

**Personnel:** North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

**Consult with the Attorney:** North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(3) to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

In regular session, Vice-Chair Woodburn made a motion to recess until Tuesday, February 19, at 9:00 am, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board