

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for a special meeting on Monday, August 20, 2018 beginning at 2:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Anna Baucom, Chair  
Ross Streater, Vice Chair  
Vancine Sturdivant  
Jarvis Woodburn

Commissioners Absent: Bobby Sikes  
Jim Sims  
Harold Smith

Staff members present: Rita James, Interim County Manager  
Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board  
Cary Garner, Finance Officer

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Baucom called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who are present. Chairman Baucom asked Commissioner Woodburn to deliver the **Invocation**.

### **Grant Proposal (School Construction)**

County Manager James explained to the Board that Finance Officer Garner has completed research on the county finances and capital reserves. Finance Office Garner commented on the Anson County School Systems' grant application that requires a 3 to 1 local match of 5 million dollars county money. Finance Officer Garner shared some concerns with the Board surrounding the grant application, noting that the application stipulates additional costs for the county. Finance Officer Garner stated that the project itself could cost as much as \$49 million dollars and the county does not have the funds to endure such a cost match. Board members mentioned a school bond referendum. Mr. Freeman said this as a tier I grant application, if awarded, it will help decrease the \$49 million dollar prospective debt of a new middle school. Mr. Freeman explained that the grant award money must be spent within three years of award. Mr. Freeman stated if the grant is funded, they do not want to have to

return the funds due to unavailable matching funds. Finance Officer Garner stated that as of 2016's fiscal-year end, the County's unrestricted fund balance was approximately \$9.2 million, with 2017 estimating an additional \$1 million, and in 2018 adding an additional \$6 to \$7 hundred thousand to yield approximately \$10.7-8 million dollars in unrestricted fund balance. Finance Officer Garner informed the Board that any projects or future projects would have to come from the fund balance. Finance Officer Garner conversed with the Board about a referendum and the need for a potential tax increase. Finance Officer Garner believes the actual price of the school is an issue. Attorney Forbes stated that as of right now, the Board, if approved will only be responsible for the \$5 million dollar match, not the entire project. Lawrence Gatewood addressed the Board and stated that he supports the school grant proposal and the County's contribution of \$5 million. Mr. Gatewood shared an article with the Board highlighting other tier I counties who have already received grant funding to build schools. Mr. Gatewood shared a list of other counties school construction costs, citing that he has an issue with Anson County School's construction cost being too high, and believe that Anson should be able to design, construct, furnish, and equip a new school for \$25-30 million dollars.

\*Chairman Baucom asked for a break

Board members, county staff, and school staff continued to dialogue concerning the Anson County School grant construction proposal.

Commissioner Woodburn made a motion to approve a commitment from the County for the grant application for a new school and investigate doing a referendum. **Motion failed due to lack of a second.**

Motion by Vice-Chair Streater to go into close session, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Woodburn to come out of close session, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, Commissioner Woodburn made a motion for the County to move forward with purchasing said property, authorizing the Board Chair to sign the intent to purchase contract, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vice-Chair Streater to recess until Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 6:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board