

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for a recessed (Retreat) meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 beginning at 9:00 A.M. at the Hampton B. Allen Library, 120 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, North Carolina

Commissioners present:	Ross Streater, Chairman Jarvis Woodburn, Vice-Chairman Vancine Sturdivant Dr. Jim Sims Bobby Sikes Lawrence Gatewood
Staff members present:	Barron Monroe, County Manager Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board Cary Garner, Finance Officer
Other:	David Nicholson, NCACC

Chairman Streater called the Commissioners' Retreat to **Order**, welcoming all who were present.

County Manager Monroe presented the facilitator for the morning, Mr. David Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson, Outreach advocate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, provided a brief introduction of himself and his purpose as the retreat facilitator.

Community Strengths and Future Work Areas

Board members discussed community strengths and strong points in Anson County:

- Peaceful
- People – giving (charitable)
- Friendly quite peaceful (for the most part)
- Historic
- Green Spaces
- Water Supply

- Hwy 74
- Volunteer non-profit agencies
 - Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center
 - Feed my Lambs
 - Harvest Ministries
 - Toys for Tots
- Railroad
- Monroe Expressway
- Affordable cost of living
- South Piedmont Community College
- Exceptional Schools (Competitive in the State of NC)
 - Ansonville Elementary
 - Peachland/Polkton Elementary
 - Anson Early College

County Manager Monroe reviewed and discussed several maps showing reported data of Anson County from Centralina Council of Governments.

- Median Household Income
- Median Age
- Population Density (Black, White, and Hispanic)
- Infrastructure
- Zoning
- Agriculture Land
- Permanent Open Space

Mr. Nicholson reviewed the 2018 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners County Map Book. This book included maps and data from all one hundred counties in the State of North Carolina. The Board discussed property tax rates, average property value, ratio of county taxable value to the county population, the number of mental health care providers, population without health insurance, Medicaid eligibility, and students who receive free or reduced lunch.

Break

The Board took a 10-minute break, after 10 minutes Chairman Streater called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Nicholson discussed with Board members things to make Anson County better (**wish list**).

- Jobs
- Capital Projects
- Perception of Anson County School System/County
- How to market or change Anson County's Image
- Quality of Life Improvement
- Land Use/Zoning
- Recreation
- Public Housing
- Cleaner County (trash and litter)

Focus Areas

Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Timely reporting of Audits
- Increase Property Tax Collection Rate
- Financial Software Upgrade/Integration
- Training and/or Cross training of staff
- Grant writer
- Personnel Ordinance
 - 401k contribution (3 – 5%)
 - Longevity Pay
 - Vacation Tiers
 - Bereavement Leave
- Organizational Chart
- Fleet management
 - Enterprise Car Rental works with NCACC
- Update Phone System
- Update County Website

Economic Development

- Speculation Building
- Tax Incentive program (place on the county website)
- Retention of current employers
- Agriculture
 - Support Cooperative Extension
 - Highlight Anson County Land Resources
- Continue funding for Anson County Economic Development Partnership

Quality of Life

- Hotels/Motels
- Restaurants
- Youth Centers (extracurricular activities)
- Cultural Events
- Educate citizens on what's available (enhance community knowledge)
- Use Lake/River as an asset
- Cleaner communities
- New Middle School
- Senior Citizens Population Care

Education

- New Middle School
- Maintain good relationship with School Board
- Improve perception of school system
- SPCC - Career Readiness preparation for testing/employment at the state prison
- SPCC - Increase community participation for Workforce Readiness Programs
- Utilization of SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center

The County Manager, Finance Officer, and Board members discussed funding options and alternatives for three (3) potential Anson County capital projects.

- New DSS building
- New Middle School
- Agri-Civic Center building

Chairman Streater was excused from the retreat.

County Manager Monroe continued to explain funding restrictions associated with the current fund balance, debt services and projected State reimbursements.

Commissioner Sims made a motion to recess until February 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Sikes. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board

