

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their recessed meeting on Friday, January 18, 2019 beginning at 1:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present:

- Ross Streater, Chairman
- Jarvis Woodburn, Vice-Chairman
- Vancine Sturdivant
- Dr. Jim Sims
- Bobby Sikes
- Harold Smith
- Lawrence Gatewood

Staff members present:

- Barron Monroe, County Manager
- Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
- Cary Garner, Finance Officer
- Chris Joffson, IT Manager
- Rodney Diggs, Emergency Services

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Streater called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who were present. Vice-Chair Woodburn delivered the invocation.

Department of Social Services Bids:

Ms. Lula Jackson, Director of Anson County Department of Social Services introduced Mr. Chris Steude (Project Manager) of Moseley Architects to address, update, and report tabulation bids to the Board on the new DSS building project. Mr. Steude reviewed the site plan and floor plan (PDF presentation) with in-depth explanations of the interior and exterior spaces and layout.

Mr. Stuede stated the bids were opened on January 10, noting the proposed budget was for 5.5 million dollars with the lowest bid being 6.6 million dollars. Mr. Stuede cited increased construction costs and lack of skilled trade as a factor in the increased amount.

Mr. Stuede informed the Board the lowest bid was provided by Randolph & Sons, a company that he has worked with before and shared that they are responsible contractors, with all credentials in place, and recommends moving forward. Mr. Stuede discussed the Value Engineering Process, in association with removing varied sections of the building, strategizing and finding solutions that do not take away from the operations of the building.

Mr. Stuede stated that once the Value Engineering Process is complete, he will appear before the Board for the official award of the contract.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the site plan, floor plan and rendering, seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve Randolph and Sons Builders, Inc. (Pineville, NC) as the lowest responsible bidder, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the recommendation to complete the VE process by February 1, 2019, seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the preparation of a proposed construction contract with Randolph and Sons Builders, Inc., seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Officer Cary Garner stated that he and County Manager Monroe needs more information before providing a finance recommendation for the new DSS building. Finance Officer Garner stated that additional information is needed of the 1571 expense/reimbursement process, as to how it applies to capital purchases (building) as opposed to monthly expenses. Finance Officer Garner said he and County Manager Monroe would collaborate on a finance recommendation for future meetings.

EMS Rules/Regulations:

Board members discussed issues and concerns with Rodney Diggs, Emergency Management Director on procedures and policies that staff members are currently using when arriving on the scene of a deceased individual. Mr. Diggs explained that some cases go to the medical examiner, but not all. Mr. Diggs said the State Statute requires a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner sign a death certificate, EMS personnel cannot. Commissioner Smith shared his concerns with finding the correct person to sign the death certificate. Mr. Diggs said the State claims they are not responsible for whomever signs the death certificate, Commissioner Smith disagreed with such a claim. Commissioner Smith reflected on a recent case where the deceased was not removed from the premises, nor had the individual been under a doctor's care, therefore it would be a medical examiner issue and the individual should have been transported to the Anson County Morgue. Mr. Diggs explained that the ambulance did leave while law enforcement conducted an investigation, but the body was never left unattended, as law enforcement was constantly present until removal. Commissioner Sturdivant shared her concerns with EMS leaving the scene of the deceased individual. Chairman Streater shared that a similar situation happened a few weeks ago, noting that an individual was deceased and transport by ambulance was a concern. County Manager Monroe stated that Mr. Diggs did send him information about the State Examiner, new information regarding death registration, citing that the funeral home director or representative can assume custody of a dead body and can file a death certificate with the local registrar.

Commissioner Smith said that a funeral home director cannot be held responsible to obtain a doctor's signature on a death certificate. Commissioner Sturdivant said the problem is knowing and understanding that everyone is somebody and addressing the family cordially would have been beneficial. Commissioner Sturdivant shared a situation at her home and praised first responders; shared with Mr. Diggs that everybody deserves dignity and should be treated in an equal and respectful manner. Commissioner Sims asked why EMS cannot take the deceased to the local hospital, Mr. Diggs replied because it becomes a medical examiner case and they are not at liberty to move a body until the Medical Examiner gives authorization. Lieutenant Rick Little stated that the EMS staff was very personable and nice to his family during his brother's passing but, feels policies are at question and his family was hurt because the body remained present at the scene for several hours after passing. Vice-Chair Woodburn feels that a procedure needs to be in place where the deceased can be taken to the hospital so the appropriate people can complete the death certificate process. Commissioner Gatewood stated that the procedure needs clarification and this can be a training opportunity involving Sheriff's Office, EMS, medical examiners, and local morticians to address sensitive cases such as deceased homeless individuals. Chairman Streater stated that until a solution is obtained, Mr. Diggs is to instruct his staff to take deceased bodies to the county morgue. Chairman Streater initiated that Commissioner Smith, Attorney Forbes, and the County Manager, work with Mr. Diggs on an appropriate solution to the issue and report back to the Board in March.

Budget Amendment:

Finance Officer Garner discussed with the Board the need to move funds from the water fund to the sludge lagoon project fund to address fines against the county. Finance Officer Garner stated that the recommendation is to pay it and to seek contribution from other parties in the future. Attorney Forbes stated that if Anson County is to pay the fines, that paying them at this time under a "reservation of rights" that Anson County intends to seek contribution from the other parties will prevent interest and other potential penalties. Attorney Forbes said other parties are notified as to the "reservation of rights" in paying the fines. Commissioner Sims made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Motion carried unanimously.

New Middle School Planning Committee:

Chairman Streater shared that he and Dr. Truman, Chairman of the Anson County Board of Education, agreed to have a Board member(s) on the planning committee for the new middle school project. Chairman Streater asked for volunteers with Commissioner Sturdivant and Vice-Chair Woodburn agreeing to serve along with the County Manager and the Finance Officer.

County Manager Monroe presented the Anson County Schools Form of Agreement (FY 2018-2019) to the Board for the Chairman's signature. County Manager Monroe explained this form is confirming the county's commitment of five million dollars and the State's (grant) commitment of fifteen million dollars to the new middle school project. Commissioner Sims made a motion for the Chairman to sign the Anson County School form, seconded by Vice-Chair Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-chair Woodburn made a motion to excuse Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Vice-Chair Woodburn shared that he attended the NCACC Chairman and Vice-Chairman classes/training. Vice-Chair Woodburn placed reading materials at the Commissioners seats for review and explained that the material included rules, procedures, and general statutes that basically governs the County Commissioners. Vice-Chair Woodburn also shared information on the Legislative Goal Conference, noting the goal of the association is to represent all one hundred counties. Vice-Chair Woodburn stated that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners keeps their hand on the pulse of the Legislation, making sure the things that are important to the counties make it to the Legislation.

Commissioner Sikes shared his concerns about the Agri-Civic Center, and feels that everything is moving ahead of the project.

Closed Session:

Motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, to go into closed session to:

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 by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood to come out of closed session, motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board