

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for a recessed meeting/retreat on Saturday, January 28, 2017 beginning at 8:30 A.M. in the board room, Suite 209 of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Anna Baucom, Chair
Bobby Sikes
Dr. Jim Sims
Vancine Sturdivant
Jarvis Woodburn

Commissioners absent: Ross Streater, Vice Chair
Harold Smith

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

Chairman Baucom welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Chairman Baucom feels this meeting will be productive and the board members will have a lot to discuss. All board members and staff introduced themselves. Chairman Baucom noted that Dr. Sims has been involved in education for years, and served as Superintendent in our public school system. Commissioner Sikes is a third generation farmer, and grow the food that we eat.

Appearance: Dr. Maria Pharr, SPCC President said she feels connected to the community and believes the college has tremendous potential. She feels that excitement is in the air, mentioning she meet John Marek, AEDP Director on his third day and Shelby, Anson County Chamber of Commerce. She noted that she see potential in Anson County but many challenges as well. She felt that her skill set fit into the challenges of Anson County, based on her background. She started as a Biology faculty member at Lenoir Community College in Kingston, then moved to Craven Community College, where she worked up through the ranks and became Dean and then eventually Pitt Community College. Dr. Pharr acknowledges there is not a lot of activity from SPCC in Anson County, her passion/goal is to increase activity. In her three (3) weeks she has identified that she needs to focus on the bond money that the college has received from ConnectNC and Union County General Obligation. Recognizing the need of the constituents and the employers, ultimately SPCC goal is to train students to be productive citizens. Dr. Pharr noted she wants to be an important part of this

economic message, by connecting with John Marek and other entities that help get jobs.

Dr. Sims explained the start of SPCC, which Anson County had a community college charter. The only way Union County could have a college was to share with Anson. Through negotiations, Anson would be treated equally and respectfully as Union County.

Dr. Pharr shared her admiration and respect for her SPCC Board.

Dr. Pharr informed the Board that she has formed a task force to look at Anson County, in order to understand some cultural pieces. The task force members are Scott Rivers, Dean of Continuing Education, Carl Bishop, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dean of Applied Science Technology, Scott Collier, Mary Ellen Purcell, SPCC Marketing, Anthony Barber, SPCC Business Office, and Devon Gaddy, SPCC Student Services. Her charge to them is to reach out into the culture, find ways to reach people to find what the needs are, and be very creative on how SPCC can deliver. Transportation and student finances are some of the main challenges.

SPCC 2017 spring curriculum enrollment is 2719, noting last year it was 2446, up approximately 250 plus. 2017 Continuing Education enrollment is approximately 4500. CNA and Agribusiness Technology are classes offered specifically in Anson, citing that the Certified Nursing Program is moving back to the Wadesboro campus (Lockhart-Taylor). Dr. Pharr noted that the welding program is also available to students.

Commissioner Sturdivant asked about the student dress program. She reminded Dr. Simms of his donation of clothes that helped several students. Dr. Pharr explained how she wants to start a dress for success program. Commissioner Sturdivant noted that Bonnie Huntley donated a lot of clothes to help numerous students. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that she would like to volunteer with this program.

Commissioner Woodburn noted to the board that the SPCC Trustee's joint meeting with the Board of Commissioner is tentatively scheduled for April 11, 6pm, at the Polkton Depot.

Legacy: Chairman Baucom wanted her legacy to be good relationships among the Board members. Commissioner Sims wanted his to be economic growth. Commissioner Sikes wanted his to be that he did all he could do for Anson County and his community. Commissioner Sturdivant wanted hers to be the way she treat people in the community, elderly, youth, and schools. She shared that when she was in Raleigh, at the Democratic Party, it was announced that Anson County was #1 as being the most generous county in North Carolina. Commissioner Woodburn wanted his legacy to be known as a good listener and

make decision on the facts, being active in the community, being part of the solution not part of the problem. County Manager Garner wanted hers to be known for doing a good job, and doing it for the right reasons. Finance Officer Cary Garner wanted his to be a good listener, observe what's going on before having a solution on how to fix it, being a problem solver and solution finder. Clerk Denise Cannon wanted hers to be treating people with respect and having humility.

Five most serious problems in Anson County: Chairman Baucom said poverty, Commissioner Woodburn said the literacy rate, and workforce development, Chairman Baucom added perception, image and attitude. Commissioner Woodburn included drugs which go along with literacy. Chairman Baucom mentioned litter was a part of image, and wanted to know the highest fine possible for littering. Attorney Forbes was assigned that task, and will bring more information to the board. County Manager Garner noted that fines are assigned through statutes, different classes of littering, for example a cup would have a maximum fine, oppose to an entire house, and obviously the fines would be higher; the state tells us the maximum fines to charge. Chairman Baucom mentioned adopt a highway and the inmates used to clean the highways. Commissioner Sturdivant noted that the inmates have an option now to participate or not. She also mentioned the inmates were currently in the Lilesville area now cleaning the roadsides. Commissioner Woodburn and Commissioner Sturdivant acknowledged that an example needs to be made. Chairman Baucom stated the Board might need to think about hiring a deputy for litter control.

Best Decision the Board has Made: Commissioner Woodburn feels funding for the Agr-civic Center, Commissioner Sturdivant agreed. Chairman Baucom noted that some movement needs to start concerning this project. Commissioner Woodburn cited being committed and conversing about improving the facilities of the Social Services and the Health Department. Commissioner Sims commented on the Board decision to increase teachers' pay, increasing the chances of bringing good teachers to Anson County. Commissioner Woodburn also noted the Board made a good decision with the private/public partnership with Economic Development, Chairman Baucom agreed including Southeastern.

Improve the Board Meetings: Commissioner Sturdivant liked the Chair and Vice Chair having meetings about the agenda prior to the Board meetings. Commissioner Woodburn suggested electronic board packets, noting all the information is at hand instead of looking through paper packets. Commissioner Woodburn cited that SPCC use Boarddocs. iPads and/or laptops would be utilize

to access the agenda packets. Commissioner Woodburn mentioned translation programs for the clerk, making her job a little easier. County Manager Garner noted that according to the School of Government, the minutes should only reflect the action taken by the Board, so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding of what took place. Therefore reducing the amount of pages. Chairman Baucom mentioned a formula for the minutes.

Appearance: John Marek, Anson County Economic Development Partnership Director, discussed product development, having the buildings and sites available in Anson County. Mr. Marek wants to narrow down to 5 or 6 really good sites, with a variety of different things available, such as rail. Mr. Marek has about seven sites that are really prime, and have different characteristics, with one site out by the airport owned by the county. The Airport Industrial Site, approximately 136 acres, Light Industrial, with water/sewer nearby. Some improvements are needed like clearing some of the trees, approximately an acre, a couple of dump trucks full of stone to have a place to stop while showing the site. Mr. Marek noted a standardized incentive policy. Majority of counties, towns, and cities have this policy in place. The advantages are transparency, consistency, self-funding, self-limiting, and speed of response. This would be entirely at the discretion of the Commissioners. Chairman Baucom wanted this Policy on the agenda for the February Board meeting. Mr. Marek discussed workforce development, Certified Workforce Readiness Program. Requirements include education and a certain percentage of the companies sign up and acknowledge this certificate. He anticipates this program taking about eighteen months to get done. He has spoken with the Superintendent and will meet with the CTB director concerning this program, along with SPCC. Mr. Marek in conjunction with the Anon County Chamber of Commerce is planning a Manufacturing Appreciation Day, sometime in April, approximately 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Primarily for the manufacturers, providing lunch and a skeet shoot at the ball field. He will be asking the Board for a proclamation. He has talked to all the major manufactures with the exception of Triangle Brick. Commissioner Sturdivant suggested that the workers are invited along with the managers, because without the workers there would be no management.

Appearance: Tyler Fitzgerald, Anson County Landfill, discussed the overall changes in the trash world. Anson is located east of main source of revenue, Charlotte Mecklenburg area. Most of Anson's trash market is coming from the sixty mile radius of the landfill. There are numerous landfills in the marketplace, Anson County, Speedway Site, Uwharrie, and Union County, SC. The Speedway Site has limited life, through their annual submittals, they have

about eight or nine years of life left. They are not going to close, but will have to start cutting back on their volume. Two years ago they were doing four thousand tons a day, they are doing three or less tons today, trying to expand the life of the landfill. Because of this some of their volume is shifting to Anson County. 60% of what Anson receives comes from operations and collection from transfer stations, 20-25% comes from municipalities, and 10-15% are third party special waste. Mr. Fitzgerald explains as business grows on the collection side, obviously it feeds the landfill, delivering a check to the county for \$387,000 for three months, noting that January, February, and March will be better. He states that there are some challenges such as their tonnage cap, and the market is continuing to increase. Owning a little under 1200 acres with 133 acres permitted, Mr. Fitzgerald would like to address the county and talk about a phase five lateral expansion, increasing the 133 to another number. Increasing the volume coming out of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area, thus increasing the volume - increasing the host fee. Mr. Fitzgerald shared this will create great opportunities for everyone even though, some public pain will be involved, citing economic growth and jobs in the county. Chairman Baucom would like grass planted, Mr. Fitzgerald said it was one of his top priorities. Mr. Fitzgerald asked for any questions or thoughts. Chairman Baucom and Commissioner Woodburn shared concerns about the bad road conditions going into the landfill, also broken glass on the roadway. Mr. Fitzgerald agreed and is aware the roadway needing repair and glass cleaned up. Commissioner Sims asked how much time does he spend at the Anson site, Mr. Fitzgerald responded full time. Commissioner Sturdivant thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for correcting a citizen's issue at the Lilesville landfill, the very same day. Commissioner Sturdivant thanked him for his donation to the Anson County Toys for Tots. Commissioner Sikes shared a concern of a smell. Mr. Fitzgerald explained there may be an odor from time to time, due to the active gas system.

County Manager Garner asked the board for budget goals for the upcoming fiscal year. Last year, cost of living for employees was a top priority. Some of needs are software and healthcare. Commissioner Woodburn mentioned the Economic Development Incentive Plan.

*Chairman Baucom requested a break.

* Dr. Sims left the meeting.

County Manger Garner noted that the HR Manager, Beth Dunn has inquired into the NC State Health Plan. Currently the county pay BCBS \$746.69 per employee, a total cost of a little over 2 million dollars per year. In 2017, BCBS increases are anywhere from 9% -28%. In the current fiscal year, once they factor in all of the claims it was started at 17% increase and was lowered to 9%. Georgia, BCBS

representative, without factoring in any loss ratio, the county is looking at a least a 10% increase, \$206,000, probably higher. County Manager Garner noted the State Health plan is \$479.48 per employee, total cost \$1.3 million dollars per year. Saving of \$737,000 a year. The State Health Plan has three options that the employee can choose: 70/30 plan, 80/20 plan, and 85/15 plan, with different deductibles, HRA amounts, etc. Only cost to the employee is if they are a smoker, which is a forty dollar cost. The State Plan will not take Commissioners or retirees. Ms. Garner explained that the county would have to go out into the market to get health coverage for them. County Manager Garner recommended the State Health Plan, which the Board would have to vote upon a resolution with intent to join, ninety days before enrollment. She estimates open enrollment would be sometime around May. Commissioner Woodburn shared he thought it was a good move for the county. Chairman Baucom noted she wanted to give county employees a little more than 2% cost of living increase. Chairman Baucom asked the board was there anyone that do not agree with the State Health Plan; Commissioner Sturdivant, Commissioner Sikes, and Commissioner Woodburn were all in favor of the State Health Plan.

County Manager Garner discussed new software, first will be payroll, time collection for employees, etc. She has had several different demos from different companies in order to see what they offer plus cost. County Manager Garner stated she will be addressing the Board in March with a recommendation for the payroll part, where employees will have to clock in and out, whereas now they have an excel timesheet/spreadsheet. Commissioner Woodburn shared a concern with inspections and permitting, after speaking with Larry Newton, he understood that sometimes in the process of permitting, it hangs up or shut down, you lose everything you have done. Finance Officer Cary Garner noted the county has no way of getting analytical information. With the current program now, getting information would take weeks, noted there are so many possibilities for the county to get better. County Manager Garner asked if paperless packets something she should look into and include the cost in the upcoming budget year. County Manager Garner asked about the minutes, Chairman Baucom wanted to give it a test run. County Manager Garner was contacted by the Town of Wadesboro, and was asked about the trees on the side of the Belk building. The town is willing to share in the cost to get those trees down and clean up the area. Commissioner Woodburn shared concern about working on the side of the building due to the basement. County Manager Garner advised she would ask Jeff Waisner to get a price from the architect that did the courthouse to look and see if removing the trees would affect anything structurally.

Chairman Baucom shared a phone call she received from an upset citizen about the convenience site in Burnsville. People are coming in from Union County dumping their trash. County Manager Garner noted she will speak with Tyler Fitzgerald on the issue.

Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board