

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Anna Baucom, Chair  
Ross Streater, Vice Chair  
Bobby Sikes  
Vancine Sturdivant  
Jim Sims

Commissioners absent: Harold Smith  
Jarvis Woodburn

Staff members present: Andy Wilkison, 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 Reverend Tom Kakadelis to deliver the **Invocation**.

#### **Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:**

Commissioner Sims moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Hearing:**

Commissioner Sikes made a motion to open the public hearing for Project Hoist, Commissioner Sims seconded, motion carried unanimously.

John Marek, Anson Economic Development Director was sworn in by the Clerk. Mr. Marek shared with the board that an existing industry with a facility in Wadesboro is planning to add an assembly line for a new type of product. The new line would involve a different product than is currently being produced at the facility.

The expansion would take place within the current building footprint (there would be no increase in square footage) but will require significant upfit to the building as well as the addition of new capital equipment. The company is planning to begin the project in 2018 with an annual stream of investments running through 2022 and totaling \$5.4 million. The project will create approximately 20 new jobs, with 12-15 of those coming online by 2020 and the rest added through 2022. The company is requesting a tax grant incentive from the county in accordance with the county policy approved in April 2017. Based on the policy, the company would be eligible for a total of \$135,500 in grants. Projects which involve a stream of investments over multiple years are difficult to monetize for grant purposes. In consideration of the way the state looks at these projects, I have broken the total investment into two phases, Phase One incorporating the planned investments from 2018 to 2020, and Phase Two incorporating the investments from 2021 to 2022. It is important to note that this is for state calculation purposes only and the company views this as one continuous project. Because the company is located within the town limits, Mr. Marek will be making a similar request of the Town of Wadesboro. Mr. Marek reported that industrial tax grants are self-funding and self-limiting. The company will only receive the grant once they have paid property taxes on the new investment and met the employment criteria.

**Fiscal Impact:** At the current Anson County property tax rate, the new investment would be expected to generate \$180,600 in new property taxes over the first five years, while paying \$3 million in wages. Evidence was presented and received that this expansion project will not negatively impact the surrounding community nor in any way present risk to the safety, health, and welfare of the surrounding community. Further evidence was presented and received that no significant increase to traffic should occur due to this expansion project.

**Current Status:** The company has applied for and received an OneNC grant from the state for \$60,000 and a Building Reuse grant from the Rural Division for \$60,000. Both of these grants are contingent on local matches. The company has indicated that they would like to make a decision regarding the project by the end of the year and begin building renovations in 2Q 2018.

Vice-Chair Streater moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve Project Hoist, an industrial tax grant in the amount of \$135,472, in accordance with the county's industrial tax grant policy, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Addresses:**

**Terry Helms** addressed the Board and thanked Chairman Baucom for her service and being an honorable person. Mr. Helms shared his views on the Anson County water situation. Mr. Helms feels the county needs better water resources, and suggested that if the county can get developers to come in and purchase property to develop; this would create more resources for the county to grow the water system. Chairman Baucom advised that the county currently sells water to Marshville.

**Joy Hildreth** addressed the Board to voice her support for the countywide sale of beer and wine. Ms. Hildreth feels that a few inner-cities sale alcohol but, Burnsville, Lilesville, Cason's Old Field residents go to a neighboring county to purchase their alcohol. Ms. Hildreth shared that if the residents cannot get it here, they go outside the county to get it, and feels the sale of beer and wine should be countywide and revenue is being lost.

**Landric Reid** appeared before the Board to request that Danny Pearson be placed on the County's wrecker rotation. Vice-Chair Streater asked if all the requirements have been met. Sheriff Reid acknowledged that all of Mr. Pearson's requirements are within the guidelines. Commissioner Sturdivant moved to add Danny Pearson to the Anson County Wrecker rotation, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

**George Hodge** addressed the Board to express his concerns with the county losing money on beer sales, noting that when he went to the store to buy beer he would buy other things as well. Mr. Hodge shared he would like to see it on the ballot again, noting that when it was balloted before, many people did not know it was up for the vote.

## **Appearances:**

**Sheriff Landric Reid, Chief Diggs, and Nick Long** presented a proposal for a new radio system because the present one does not have sufficient ability to cover the entire county and many spots are “dead air” where emergency personnel cannot communicate with The 911 Center or other emergency staff. Sheriff Reid reported that when shots were fired at deputies at the New Boat Landing in Lilesville, NC, the Deputies could not communicate with the 911 Center nor other Deputies. They could not report the situation nor direct support and back up of the situation. Sherriff Reid further explained that in September he put a committee together consisting of Chief Scott Howell, Chief Rodney Diggs, Chief Josh Bowers, Tammy McCall, and Holly Thomas. The purpose of this committee was to find a better radio system. Chief Diggs explained that the radios are failing, noting that some of the equipment is 25 to 30 years old. Chief Diggs said that this new system would support all the departments in the county, about 18+ departments, such as Fire/Rescue, EMS, Sheriff, Forestry, etc. Chief Diggs said this system works and meets all interoperability requirements for the Federal Government and would allow multi-county communication. Vice-Chair Streater asked about the number of towers will be used, to which Chief Diggs answered “five” (5), one main tower in Wadesboro, with additional surrounding towers to cover the entire county. Mr. Long shared that the county is not getting the coverage needed. Mr. Long shared with the Board that Phase I would cost approximately \$206,029.96 and Phase II costing approximately 380,700.00. The Board asked Sheriff Reid and Chief Diggs about any available grant funding; with both saying, they knew of none available for this project. Commissioner Sims asked about bids. Commissioner Sturdivant shared her concerns about elderly citizens not being able to communicate to get help in a timely manner, along with the rest of Anson County citizens. The Board asked about the fire departments assisting in funding the project through their fire tax monies. Chief Bowers said he would discuss the matter at the fire chiefs meeting.

**Jeff Boothby** informed the Board that the county of Anson and the town of Wadesboro, remaining \$150,000 in the Carolina Thread Trail Funds allocated for Anson County are set to expire in spring 2018. Commissioner Sturdivant moved to approve a letter of support for an amended Anson County Carolina Thread Trail Plan Map, allowing application for the remaining \$150,000 in grant funds for construction of greenway on the Town of Wadesboro by the Town of Wadesboro, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

**Jeff Boothby** discussed with the Board that Anson County does not qualify for the D1 clause to enact the sale of alcohol without a County Referendum. Attorney Forbes said he read the language to interpret the same as Mr. Boothby; however, emailed the ABC Commission's assistant counsel about the requirements for the County Commission to have the authority to pass sales for beer/wine and liquor by the drink without voter approval. Attorney Forbes specifically stated that it was communicated to him by the ABC Commission that County Commissioners can vote to hold an election for alcohol sales, but cannot vote to sell alcoholic beverages without a referendum. Mr. Boothby asked the Board to support the businesses and vote to place the ABC referendum on the 2018 ballot. Vice-Chair Streater moved for the Clerk to set up a voluntary Public Hearing on the ABC referendum scheduled for the February 2018 regular Board meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Boothby informed the Board that if they decide not to put the referendum on the ballot, then there is a petition process.

**Robert Colf** addressed the Board to share his concerns with the 911Center building's landscape. Mr. Colf shared that his company, Taskmasters, was awarded the landscape bid to remove and replace dying foundation plants around the 911 Center's building and wants to share some concerns about the soil quality, which has a direct impact on the survival of future planting. Mr. Colf explained there is only red clay surrounding the building which is compacted to choke the existing plants' root system, and additional funds are required to complete the project. Mr. Colf proposed he would add and incorporate four inches of compost, fertilizer, sulfur, and estimated the time to complete the project properly. Vice-Chair Streater asked the Clerk to provide the previous bids to the Board and place item on the February agenda.

**Shelby Emrich, President of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce,** introduced a new program called Young Professionals Anson. Ms. Emrich explained that the mission of the program is to provide an environment for individuals between the ages of 21 to 39 to meet and develop both socially and professionally. Ms. Emrich shared that they held a kick-off in October to see who might be interested and if there was enough interest to begin the program. She stated it drew between 40-50 in attendance. Ms. Emrich noted from other Chamber's, that they learned this program has been very beneficial for growth in their counties. Ms. Emrich noted that the program is setup for Chamber members and non-members, members pay an annual fee

of \$50, and non-members pay \$60. She said they asked for volunteers who would be willing to serve on the executive committee for Young Professionals Anson and had 13 apply. Ms. Emrich introduced the executive committee: chairperson, Ashley Scarborough; vice chair, Emily Jarrell; Treasurer, Megan Sellers and Secretary, Tracey Harrington. Ms. Emrich told the Board that this group will meet on a monthly basis and will alternate their events with socials and community involvement. They will have a fundraiser, probably in June, where a portion of the proceeds will go to a community group or organization. Ms. Emrich feels that one goal the Chamber wants this group to understand, is the importance of supporting and giving back to the community. She requested that the Board of Commissioners encourage and support this group; this is the future of Anson County, these are the individuals who are investing in the future of Anson County. Ms. Emrich encouraged the Board to take the time to talk with them on what they want to see in growth for our county and how they can help make that happen. The Board members present capitalized on the photo opportunity with Young Professional Anson members.

Executive Committee

Ashley Scarborough	O'Brian Willioughby
Emily Jarrell	Iris Hunter
Megan Sellers	Madison Layfield
Tracey Harrington	Jason Miller
Alex Harrington	Beau Melton
Jeremy Taylor	Emily Hasty
David Griffin	

**Appointments:**

Commissioner Sims moved to appoint Commissioner Woodburn as the 2018 delegate for Centralina Council of Government and Commissioner Sturdivant as the alternate, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, the motion carried unanimously.

\*Chairman Baucom asked for break

Vice-Chair Streater moved to appoint Bonnie Huntley to serve a 1-year initial term on the Anson County Joint Community Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Sims, the motion carried unanimously.

## **Old Business:**

**Countywide Zoning:** No action taken

## **Manager's Report:**

Interim County Manager Wilkison informed the Board that several county staff members are meeting with Union County officials at their request to talk about water quality issues. County Manager Wilkison informed the Board of the additional personnel for the airport would be coming in for his pre-employment paperwork. Interim County Manager Wilkison explained that the county would be hiring one additional part-time airport attendant, giving the airport coverage on Tuesday and Thursday, giving the airport five days per week coverage. Chairman Baucom asked about weekend coverage, County Manager Wilkison said he does not know enough about the situation to vouch for it. County Manager Wilkison reported that the Anson County Board of Elections is requesting new voting booths costing \$18,000; informing the Board that he and Finance Officer Garner will prepare a budget amendment for consideration at the February Board meeting. Interim County Manager Wilkison made the Board aware of the pre-construction conference for the sludge lagoon project will be Thursday at 11:00 am, (1/11/2018) at the Government Center, also the final meeting with the designer of phase I of the airport-fencing project will be Thursday at 10:00 am, (1/11/2018) and is likely to go out for bid this month, (January).

## **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Baucom reminded everyone to please participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations. Chairman Baucom suggested that the county purchase the middle strip of land in the town square, noting the county already own the properties next to the Belk building and Greene Street. Vice-Chair Streater asked if the Town of Wadesboro assisting the county with purchasing this parcel; Chairman Baucom said she believes they will be voting on it tonight at their town meeting. Commissioner Sims said to give Wadesboro an opportunity to be a part of it and participate. The Board agreed to further discuss the issue, in order to see what the Town of Wadesboro is going to do.

## **Consent Agenda:**

Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, tax releases/refunds/adjustments, Health Department budget amendment, and an internal service budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, motion carried unanimously.

## **Commissioner Concerns:**

Commissioner Sims voiced his dissatisfaction with airport staffing. Commissioner Sims feels the county needs a full-time person, trained; a person that can handle equipment and a process in place if a plane lands at night. Commissioner Sikes agreed, noting that the county needs to figure out “what’s doable and not.” Commissioner Sims and Sikes both agreed that the airport is a tremendous investment. Vice-Chair Streater asked County Manager Wilkison what would happen on the weekend if a plane landed, County Manager Wilkison said that there is a number provided at the airport for assistance, and if it were a fueling matter, it would have to go to Randy Gulledge. Chairman Baucom asked Finance Officer Garner to do an analysis of how much is generated by the airport from the sale of fuel. Commissioner Sims feels the airport should not be graded as to the county making money. Rather, it should be viewed as an investment in many things for Anson County. Commissioner Sims feels that business people consider the airport and make decisions based on what they see and hear when they come through, Dr. Sims stated “It’s not all money; it is an investment for the future.” Commissioner Sims noted that staff was present, but “no one could answer the radio, and that does not make sense.” Chairman Baucom agreed that a measurable profit will not be made on everything.

## **Closed Session:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to go into closed session for Personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Motion carried unanimously.

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

In regular session, Commissioner Sims made a motion that subject to all negotiations and reimbursements by Blue Cross and Blue Shield that the County of Anson reimburse Ms. Vancine Sturdivant for the portion that she deserve, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board