

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for a recessed meeting on Monday, June 13, 2016 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the board room, Suite 209 in the Anson County Government Center.

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

Staff members present: Megan Garner, County Manager
Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC Clerk to the Board
Rita James, IT/Interim Finance Officer

Others: Scott Forbes, County Attorney
Janine Rywak, Extension Director

Chairman Baucom called the recessed meeting to **Order**, noting this was the Public Hearing for the budget. Chairman Baucom welcomed those present saying she could tell they all had a burning interest in this budget. Chairman Baucom added that it was very important to a lot of people.

Chairman Baucom stated that we don't have an Invocation tonight and asked those present to take a moment of silence to think about and remember Orlando. Chairman Baucom stated that all of those people were somebody's son and daughter and all of those people were children of God. Chairman Baucom thinks everybody should have a gun but she really doesn't think everyone should have a gun. Chairman Baucom also thinks assault rifles belong in the military. Chairman Baucom feels we have more amendments to the constitution than the second amendment and she would like everyone to pay as much attention to those amendments as we do to the second amendment. Chairman Baucom asked that we take a moment to think of those people and how they must have felt when the firing started.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners: Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017: Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

In the Public Hearing, County Manager Garner was asked to give a brief description of the budget, including the tax rate. County Manager Garner explained that the tax rate for the proposed budget remains the same and the only increase is the Town of Wadesboro fire district was recommended to be increased by two cents per their request. County Manager Garner stated that they have proposed to build a new fire station and they would need the county commissioners to approve the fire tax increase, they would need to approve a one-cent municipal tax increase and they have a few other funding sources they are hoping to use to pay for the fire station. County Manager Garner added that it would take all those combined to fund it so if one piece falls through they would have to find some other mechanism. County Manager Garner stated that our general fund was a little over twenty-nine million for the proposed budget and this current year it is twenty-eight million. County Manager Garner added that included is a 2.5% cost of living adjustment for all Anson County full time employees and we will continue to provide health insurance at no cost to our employees. County Manager Garner stated that there has been an increase in health insurance this year and we will be paying roughly \$9,000 a year per employee. County Manager Garner stated that the retirement rate was increased for the upcoming budget year and we have not had any reduction in services and all departments will continue to do business as normal. County Manager Garner shared that they had several request for new positions, most of which were not recommended for funding. County Manager Garner stated that the ones they did recommend are one courthouse security deputy for the Sheriff's office. County Manager Garner noted that he originally requested two but he said he could make one work even if he had to sit upfront during lunch or off days. County Manager Garner stated that they also have an HR manager as a new position in the upcoming budget. County Manager Garner shared that we will be getting some new sales tax in the upcoming year on labor and it has to be spent on Economic Development, k-12 education or community college education. County Manager Garner explained that representatives from the three groups got together and decided they would like that money split equally into thirds, which we have proposed. County Manager Garner stated that initially she had in the budget \$136,000 each but when Neva Helms was here last week and based on the updated numbers from the state it comes closer to around \$200,000 per entity. County Manager Garner stated that the schools \$3.8 million, which is a little over a \$1 million increase, and a 3% increase from last year and \$90,000 in capital outlay. County Manager Garner stated that they do have 3.6 million recommended in current expense and \$90,000 approved in capital outlay and they will have the additional money from the quarter-cent sales tax, which is estimated to be around \$340,000 for one year plus the sales tax on labor which will be roughly around \$200,000. County Manager Garner stated that South Piedmont Community College requested \$755,000 in current expense and \$500,000 in capital outlay and they are recommended at level funding, which is \$560,000 in current expense and \$233,250 in capital outlay. County Manager Garner added that they also will receive their third of the new sales tax money which is roughly \$200,000. County Manager Garner shared that the third split of that money or \$200,000, will be put into a separate Economic Development fund to be used as the board appropriates for any

Economic Development purpose. County Manager Garner stated that the Economic Development position has been funded differently for the upcoming year. County Manager Garner noted that the position would not be a county employees and we have upped our contribution from \$15,000 to \$85,000 to the AEDC to fund that position and it would either be an employee of the Chamber, the partnership or the AEDC. County Manager Garner stated that they would be responsible for the hiring, firing and any benefits provided with the appropriation by the county. County Manager Garner stated that they do have in there \$10,000 for the branding initiative brought forth by the TDA. County Manager Garner stated this was pretty much the highlights of the budget and she would be glad to answer any questions. County Manager Garner noted at the last board meeting they wanted to talk about the bond issue for the Agri-Civic Center as a part of the budget process. Chairman Baucom thanked the County Manager for the nice overview. Chairman Baucom noted four people had signed up to speak during the Public Hearing.

Michael Freeman: Superintendent Freeman thanked board members for citizens having the opportunity to appear before them. Superintendent Freeman stated that he highly respects each board member and the work they do for our community and he thinks the respect is mutual. Superintendent Freeman thanked board members for the generosity and support they provide him as the superintendent, to his board of education, all the employees of the school system as well as the children and families they represent. Superintendent Freeman pointed out a few people here tonight affiliated with the schools as Ms. Gibson and Mr. Turner who are board members, Ms. Berry with their finance office, Mr. Steagall, representing principals in the county and Mr. Fred Davis representing assistant principals in the county. Superintendent Freeman stated that some contacted him asking if they should be at this meeting tonight and he told them it was up to them. Superintendent Freeman said he did rally folks to attend because of the relationship we share. Superintendent Freeman added that his folks trust him enough to allow him to be here and he feels like we can have some very brief feedback in reference to the proposed budget. Superintendent Freeman thanked the board members on behalf of the teachers in Anson County. Superintendent Freeman stated that they took a bold move a while back to develop a resolution, put it out for the voters and we and Ashe County, North Carolina were the only two counties in the state who successfully passed that resolution. Superintendent Freeman stated that as a result of that, for the first year in many years, last Friday when the teachers left work or came in that day to pick up their check, they were very excited. Superintendent Freeman shared that he started seeing Facebook postings and getting communication from them saying thank you and they were so appreciative of the county commissioners and the board of education for doing this. Superintendent Freeman shared that the account they were able to use this year as a result of the quarter-cent sales tax equated to \$875 per teacher at a gross level so that was a nice chunk of money they were able to get that they would not have received had it not been for the resolution. Superintendent Freeman anticipates that account growing as that was not a full year's worth but it was a nice chunk of money. Superintendent Freeman stated that they

were working with the commissioners, silently and openly, to promote people spending money in Anson County and he thinks the teachers get it now. Superintendent Freeman updated board members on the continued challenges with recruitment of qualified teachers and administrators. Superintendent Freeman stated that North Carolina as a whole was in a severe shortage and it is anticipated to get much greater over the next few years. Superintendent Freeman noted they have several strategies in place to help alleviate that need but it will take a while. Superintendent Freeman stated that schools in the university system in the past had hundreds of teachers graduating and now some places have closed their department or they are in single digit numbers of graduates in certain areas of teacher education. Superintendent Freeman stated that as they face this type of shortage they see counties across the state doing innovative things to attract and retain educators. Superintendent Freeman stated that some counties have started a special fund for principals and some for teachers. Superintendent Freeman noted the other challenge they face here in Anson is the state gives them a menu of ways to get a teacher licensed. Superintendent Freeman pointed out that some school districts located close by rarely reach out and go the alternative licensure route. For example, there is a program called lateral entry where they can hire a teacher with a four year degree and they go back to school, earn their credentials and they teach. Superintendent Freeman stated that one of the school districts very close by rarely hires lateral entry teachers but within three months after Anson County gets them cleared they hire them. Superintendent Freeman said that right now he could think of 3 teachers he's losing to Union County. Superintendent Freeman felt it was sad that between the licensure challenges and the amount of local supplements that we compete with that we lose people that are happy here but for various reasons they make other decisions. Superintendent Freeman stated that he reviewed the proposed budget and noticed that one of the changes is to decrease the funds they've been getting for several years for the teacher supplement. Superintendent Freeman stated that he respects that they have the quarter-cent sales tax to help give them the boost they've wanted for such a long time but it seems that when we reduce the regular supplement they may get less overall for a years' worth of teaching. Superintendent Freeman stated that it looks as if theirs will be cut approximately 1% across the board. Superintendent Freeman stated that they do supplements two ways in Anson County, noting that for over 40 years they've been giving teachers a percentage of their base salary. Superintendent Freeman stated that they've gotten that percentage up to 2.5% and with the reduction in the funds they typically have for that it is going to push them back to the 1.5%. Superintendent Freeman stated that they requested a slight increase anticipating in election year they might get an increase from the state. Superintendent Freeman urged board members to rethink this and know that he is not asking for an increase but it will be sad for him in August to have to communicate that there will be a reduction. Superintendent Freeman noted that they have been recruiting all year and bragging on the county about the quarter-cent sales tax and saying if you come here when you graduate you will get 2.5% plus an equal share of the quarter-cent sales tax money. Superintendent Freeman said he won't be able to say that now unless it is restored in the budget. Superintendent Freeman

knows the board has an awesome responsibility and he will always show respect for each member and appreciation. Superintendent Freeman shared that Travis Steagall will be in and out of Raleigh a good bit as he is one of the principals he has asked to help with lobbying. Superintendent Freeman added that Mr. Steagall meets regularly with our elected officials as a representative of the school system as he believes in preparing the younger folks or the less seasoned. Commissioner Sims asked the amount of the supplement in Union County with Ms. Berry answering around \$2,000 a year. Commissioner Sims commented that they were the ones killing us with Chairman Baucom saying the General Assembly is killing us. Superintendent Freeman added that Union had to up theirs because of CMS. Superintendent Freeman shared that they are working on some very exciting initiatives and Senator McInnis is trying to get a bill passed that would apply to Anson, Richmond and Scotland counties for state dollars to send folks back to school for licensure as a teacher. Superintendent Freeman stated that they were not dependent solely on what the board does for them as they are trying to reach out to state and federal folks to get help for our needs in Anson County. Commissioner Sturdivant mentioned his statement regarding the lateral process and asked if a person has the four year degree and communication skills in English, how many hours would they have to have to go back and get their certification. Superintendent Freeman answered that it varies and explained that they review their transcript and they have to have 24 relevant hours in a certain area that is recognized for English. Superintendent Freeman stated that they get their assessment done and send it to the regional alternative licensing center and they work with us to develop a plan. Superintendent Freeman added that there could be some teachers or prospective teachers that take three courses or five. Superintendent Freeman added that if they have 24 recognizable hours as it currently states that could be excused from the practice, which is a test they take to acquire their licensure. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if there was a requirement time with Superintendent Freeman answering five years. Superintendent Freeman explained that each year they have certain milestones they have to meet and their GPA determines how quickly they take a practice but they do give up to five years. Superintendent Freeman commented that he hesitates to say these things because the General Assembly in Raleigh may change it tomorrow. Superintendent Freeman noted that they do recognize the challenge of the licensure and they are looking to do a special provision for emergency permits because the shortage is so dire in North Carolina. Superintendent Freeman shared that they have one school that has not had a licensed math teacher in two years and that is not good.

Chairman Baucom then recognized **Travis Steagall** who said he misunderstood the sign in sheet. Mr. Steagall stated that he did not want to speak, adding that he never tries to speak behind Michael Freeman. County Attorney Forbes added that Mr. Steagall does a heck of a good job educating his two kids with Commissioner Sturdivant saying that school went with Toys for Tots. Chairman Baucom asked his school with Mr. Steagall answering Peachland/Polkton.

Leon Gatewood asked Commissioner Sturdivant and Vice Chair Streater if they had something they wanted to say. Mr. Gatewood stated that he was with HOLLA, a grass roots 503 (c) 3 organization here in Anson County. HOLLA is an acronym for Helping Our Love Ones Learn and Achieve. Mr. Gatewood stated they've been here since 2005 and are trying to do some things to put resources into the community. Mr. Gatewood shared that so far they have a fitness center in Morven, they created a park in Morven and they also developed the HOLLA Community Resource and Development Center in Morven, which has a commercial kitchen, media center, etc. Chairman Baucom asked if they had a library with Mr. Gatewood answering yes and they have computers for anybody that wants to use them with free Wi-Fi throughout the building. Mr. Gatewood announced that now they have a literacy house in Wadesboro located at 809 Ingram Street. Mr. Gatewood stated that they are trying to make sure our young people are exposed to literacy because they get exposed to everything but literacy. Mr. Gatewood stated they would appreciate anything that anybody would like to do to help support. Mr. Gatewood added one of their challenges is the utility bill and the water bills and all because they want our children to be exposed to things they would not normally be exposed to. Mr. Gatewood stated that they now have a partnership with the high school football team and donated 70 tee shirts to their program this morning and they fed them during summer practice. Mr. Gatewood stated that these were just some of the things they are doing to encourage the community to do for our children because it takes the whole village as you say. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that Mr. Gumby helped with the football program. Commissioner Sturdivant and Vice Chair Streater stated that so many times we hear negative things that the county commissioners or they are not doing anything and people don't realize just how much community service they do. Commissioner Sturdivant recognized our County Manager, saying that since she has been here she has participated in anything she's asked her to attend. Commissioner Sturdivant explained that each year the county commissioners are allotted \$250 each to help any community project they want and at this time, she and Vice Chair Streater, presented HOLLA with a portion of their funds. Commissioner Sturdivant said this year she divided hers between HOLLA and Partnership for Children. Commissioner Sturdivant added that Commissioner Sikes gave his to the Burnsville Learning Center. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she didn't question what the other board members were doing but this has to be done before June 30th and she hopes they will decide to either help HOLLA, Burnsville Learning Center or somewhere that is making a change in our community. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she believes in education, our children and our school system. At this time, Commissioner Sturdivant and Vice Chair Streater presented Mr. Gatewood with their checks. Vice Chair Streater added that HOLLA has a summer program going on and they could use help with their food program. Mr. Gatewood announced that they will have a seven week summer camp and for the most part they try to make sure it is a free camp. Mr. Gatewood noted that the camp does include breakfast and lunch and math, English and science tutoring and field trips. Commissioner Sikes voiced that he appreciates what they do but he has the group in his district that he tries to help. Mr. Gatewood noted

that they were partners. Chairman Baucom noted that hers would go to the Circles Program.

Jeff Boothby: Mr. Boothby stated that there are a lot of old projects moving forward and a lot of new projects and for a long time a lot of us were a little nervous where we might be moving forward. Mr. Boothby noted that it was very expensive with k-12, SPCC and Economic Development and after talking with the County Manager and several board members, he fully supports the recommendation made with the three way split. Mr. Boothby feels it is excellent use of tax money and in his opinion will have the whole picture covered instead of just one piece or the other getting funding. Mr. Boothby feels it is exciting for 2017.

Chairman Baucom thanked Mr. Boothby for all he does. Chairman Baucom then asked if anyone else wished to speak. Michele Turner voiced that she was a school teacher and has worked in CMS, Union and Richmond but she has not had the opportunity to work in Anson. Ms. Turner asked the board to reconsider the supplement for teachers. Ms. Turner said they have it hard as discipline has gone down and they don't get a lot from home. Ms. Turner shared that she puts half of what she makes back in her kids and she wants the board to know our children are precious and we want them to come back home even as educators. Ms. Turner shared that her four children were all products of Anson County schools. Ms. Turner asked board members to reconsider and fully fund the supplement for the teachers.

Scott Collier – SPCC: Mr. Collier stated that he doesn't live here but he works here and thanked board members for what they do. Mr. Collier added God Bless You and thank you for what you do.

Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, **Old Business** was the next item of discussion. Chairman Baucom stated that this was here basically to keep them reminded of the business that we keep kicking these cans down the road. Chairman Baucom noted it was county wide zoning, minimum housing code for rental property, interlocal agreement for utilities, courthouse security, plans for updating the county website and jail. Chairman Baucom asked if anyone had any updates on any of these. Randy Gulledge shared that he met with Jody Davis last week about some interns to work on the county website from now on. Mr. Gulledge stated that this would be a summer project for rising seniors so at the end of the junior year they would have something to do over the summer. Mr. Gulledge stated that they were looking for two journalism, two photography, two graphic design students and the purpose is to get buy in from those participating in the project. Mr. Gulledge stated that the current issue is that the department heads don't always have the time to update their pages but a couple of times a year journalism students will interview the department heads and make minor

changes to the content. Mr. Gulledge explained that he wants two students so we don't get just one opinion and they can bump heads together. Mr. Gulledge stated that we will get two photographers to make decent pictures and the graphic design people will handle the layout. Mr. Gulledge stated that if the board agrees Jody is very excited and she has students interested but they have not nailed down the plans yet. Mr. Gulledge stated that this would be an every year or a twice a year thing that goes on forever. Mr. Gulledge noted this would give them something to put on their application for college. Commissioner Sturdivant added that it would also give community service with Chairman Baucom adding work experience. Commissioner Sturdivant suggested he talk with New Tech saying he would not believe what they can do on a computer. Mr. Gulledge noted that his new helper was actually a graduate of New Tech. It was noted that Jody was the counselor for New Tech. Chairman Baucom commented that we could post on there designed or whatever by the students. Mr. Gulledge added that a lot of times these talented kids aren't the ones you see in the paper every week and they want to try to recognize home grown talent.

Manager's Report: County Manager Garner stated that DMV downstairs in the Government Center was currently operating 9 to about 5:15 and as of July 1 they will be 8:30 to 5 like the rest of the building and most county offices. Vice Chair Streater asked why it was like that with County Manager Garner saying she wasn't sure but thinks it may have been because the private individual that had it before had those hours. County Manager Garner stated that as Dr. Thompson mentioned last week, our shelter reopened June 1 from the kennel cough outbreak and we had our first adoption fair at Tractor Supply this past Saturday and she thinks we had a total of four cats including three kittens and no dogs adopted. County Manager Garner passed out a flyer saying that Commissioner Sturdivant has organized a candle light vigil to be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM at the courthouse. County Manager Garner added that it would be sent to all users tomorrow and asked anyone that could to please attend. County Manager Garner added that the Town of Marshville has requested a meeting with us. County Manager Garner reported that they were in a law suit with Union County over a billing dispute and they each say that they have been overbilled or underpaid. County Manager Garner stated that Marshville is asking if we would be able to take all of their wastewater flow and McGill is looking into what we would need to do infrastructure wise to take the flow. County Manager Garner added that it is currently going to Union County and they want to bring it to Anson County to be treated at our wastewater treatment plant. Vice Chair Streater asked if we had the capacity with County Manager Garner answering we do have the capacity and there is at least one pump station that would need to be upgraded and we are looking at grant funding if we go this route. County Manager Garner added that there are cost to the Town of Marshville that they would have to do on their system and they would still own and operate their system if we would just take their flow and have the revenue. Vice Chair Streater asked if they would build a line to Peachland or all the way to our plant with County Manager Garner assuming it would be all the way to our plant but it hasn't been designed yet. Chairman Baucom asked if we need to talk with them to keep this

moving with County Manager Garner saying they met with them and McGill is working with them for a cost estimate. County Manager Garner added that the next grant funding round is September and we will probably submit for that and if so, will bring it to the board for approval before submitting to the state for funding. Vice Chair Streater asked what the grant would cover with County Manager Garner saying we would probably do a joint application with the town to cover the cost of upgrading our pump station and any improvements on their system. Vice Chair Streater asked if this would come out of the sewer fund with County Manager Garner saying ideally we would like to not have any county enterprise money in the project and have all grant funds to cover our cost. County Manager Garner stated that we would not pay for anything for the town's upgrade, saying worst case scenario the only thing we would invest in is the pump station upgrade that is own and operated by us. County Manager Garner shared that right now Marshville splits and they send about 1/3 of their wastewater to us and the rest to Union and they would like to not do any business with Union County. County Manager Garner stated that we will have to upgrade one pump station in able to accept the additional flow. Vice Chair Streater asked which pump station would we have to upgrade and asked if they were building a line from Marshville to Hollywood Road why would we need a pump station. County Manager Garner answered that our engineer told us it would require one pump station upgrade. Commissioner Woodburn imagines if they are going to be responsible for building a line from their place to our plant they would probably come a route where we have a pump station. Jeff Boothby mentioned that with our water contract with Union County running out in the next five years or so, if Marshville would still be buying our water after that point. Chairman Baucom answered yes.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Baucom reported that at the Library, the regional system has developed a strategic plan and there are some exciting things in it. Chairman Baucom noted that the use of libraries has changed and our library is planning some changes as well and one of the things they are talking about is a distributed system. Chairman Baucom stated that in areas like Morven or Ansonville they would have satellite locations and basically those would be a hot spot so kids could sit outside the library all day and night and have access to the internet. Chairman Baucom feels this is a good effort and that it will help us keep current with demands and the needs of our community. Chairman Baucom voiced that the building needs attention and there is paint peeling in the Pritchett room and it looks like water is leaking in there. Chairman Baucom reported that she talked with the County Manager about this and we have money in the budget to work on some of these things. Chairman Baucom mentioned the animal shelter and asked the County Manager if the ASPCA lady called her. County Manager Garner answered yes. Chairman Baucom stated that she was aware that our operation did not pass state inspection and Chairman Baucom feels in the absence of a director that is to be expected. Chairman Baucom stated that it was early morning when she called but apparently what she told her made her happy. Chairman Baucom stated that she was holding a \$1,000 check for

the animal shelter where Patricia Taylor who worked at SPCC had requested memorials. Chairman Baucom thinks we are on a better footing and hopes we continue to do so.

Appointments:

Sandhill Regional Library System: Motion by Commissioner Sturdivant, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to approve the appointment of Johnie Pettiford to replace Lula Jackson, whose terms has expired. Motion carried unanimously.

Centralina Workforce Development Board: Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the reappointment of Lula Jackson, from DSS, Priscilla Nunn, Community Based Organizations and Kristina Forbes, Private Sector/Business. Motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Transportation Planning (CIP): Chairman Baucom asked if they had made appointments to this board with the clerk answering they appointed Jeff Boothby, Lewis Evans, Commissioner Sturdivant and Commissioner Woodburn. County Manager Garner added that they need to appoint the entire committee. Mr. Boothby stated that we have a lot of trucking companies in the county and folks with DOT and feels we might need to reach out to see if they are interested. Commissioner Woodburn noted that truckers and DOT would be involved anyway. Commissioner Sturdivant volunteered Carol Ann Gibson with Ms. Gibson accepting. County Manager Garner stated that they recommend one from each district, one from the faith based community and one from the schools but no more than 15. County Manager Garner added that this was a long process and could take 18 months or so before the CIP is fully developed. Commissioner Woodburn thought the last time it was done most of the meetings were here in the county. Chairman Baucom asked about Scott Rowell with ACTS. Chairman Baucom asked the group to get them to increase the speed limit to 45 mph coming through on 74. Chairman Baucom stated that she has noticed Rockingham has a strip like us and Monroe and its 45 mph and she doesn't know why we have 35 mph. Chairman Baucom stated that it just makes you get stopped at every stop light. County Attorney Forbes noted it was designed to do that. Chairman Baucom asked if we needed to do any more and if this needed to be a formal appointment with County Manager Garner answering that it does need to be formal appointments. Chairman Baucom felt we needed to find out if these people want to serve. Mr. Boothby stated if they need help talking to folks, if they get a list he and Lewis would be happy to do their part. Chairman Baucom stated that we would keep this list at the ready and at the next board meeting we will finish this out. Chairman Baucom thanked Mr. Boothby saying that would be very helpful. Chairman Baucom mentioned school bus drivers with Superintendent Freeman saying they could provide some members. Chairman Baucom felt that was an overlooked function of the school system.

Citizens Advisory Board (CAB): The Clerk stated that names have been given but there has not been a formal motion and vote. The Clerk will provide the names at the next meeting.

Board of Health: Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to approve the appointment of Dr. Holly Stegall and the reappointment of Dr. Danny Wright, Dr. George Puryear, Tommy Taylor and John Ballard to the Board of Health. Vice Chair Streater stated that he also has an appointment with the Clerk explaining that his appointment goes to the Board of Health first and they will bring it to this board. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sikes asked if the board had ever decided on doing a Resolution regarding coal ash. Chairman Baucom thinks the board wants one. Commissioner Woodburn suggested writing their own and not one someone prepared for them.

Commissioner Concerns: Commissioner Woodburn stated that he had a request for water on Austin Watts Road. Commissioner Woodburn stated that Tommy Martin lives 1.7 miles off 1003 and he understands that he has signatures from other property owners. Commissioner Woodburn said he plans to purchase two taps as he plans on building chicken houses. Vice Chair Streater asked the location with Commissioner Woodburn saying he believes this is located in the White Store area. County Attorney Forbes stated that it was just down the road from where people from South Carolina are throwing out trash. Commissioner Woodburn said the request would be to get it on our list. Commissioner Woodburn said he actually has gone through the channels and got the answer that based on the return on investment the request did not qualify and Commissioner Woodburn told him he would bring it before the board and try to get it on the list. Chairman Baucom didn't think she had seen the list in a long time with County Manager Garner saying it was emailed out to the board within the last two months with a weekly report. Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to add Austin Watts Road to the list of water projects. Vice Chair Streater asked the number of customers with Commissioner Woodburn thinking there were seven or eight other than Mr. Martin. Commissioner Woodburn shared that not everyone lives there but they have property there and would like water. Commissioner Sikes commented that chicken houses would use a lot of water. Commissioner Woodburn stated that he was only planning on building six chicken houses but he understands he has to build 12 to make it viable for the waterline. Commissioner Woodburn feels if he gets six started he will build six more in the future. Commissioner Woodburn added that if he doesn't have the water he can't build the houses. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sturdivant referred to the flyer shared by County Manager Garner saying to the audience and commissioners that we all are aware of what happened in Orlando, Florida. Commissioner Sturdivant voiced that it grieves her that someone would do that and she keeps visualizing the mother that was on TV the other night saying that was her only child. Commissioner Sturdivant invited everyone to come to the courthouse Wednesday evening for a candle light vigil. Commissioner Sturdivant has talked with several ministers, elected officials and others and she wants Orlando, Florida to see that we stand in solidarity with them. Commissioner Sturdivant doesn't

think this was about religion but feels it was just a hate crime. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she loves Anson County and we are just a big family and she wants us to come together Wednesday at 7:30 PM to pray for the families. Chairman Baucom thanked Commissioner Sturdivant for putting this together.

Chairman Baucom asked if a closed session was needed with County Manager Garner answering no. Chairman Baucom asked if they needed to set a date to come back and discuss the budget with the clerk answering that at the last meeting they set June 20th as the date to come back and talk budget. Vice Chair Streater asked if they were going to do any changes with the clerk thinking they would discuss this on the 20th. Vice Chair Streater commented that he was ready to do it now with Commissioner Sims in agreement. Chairman Baucom called for a short break after which they will come back and talk about the budget.

After the break, Chairman Baucom called the meeting back to Order. Chairman Baucom commented that she doesn't see anywhere else to cut. Chairman Baucom stated that she was talking with Dr. Freeman about the teacher supplement and apparently we have the \$209,000 as contingency and she would like to hear discussion of anything we don't have to use out of that contingency we put back into the supplement. Commissioner Sims voiced that he was all in favor of it. Chairman Baucom stated we get to this point in the year next year and we haven't used it then give it to them. Vice Chair Streater felt that would work. Chairman Baucom then asked the County Manager and Ms. James their thoughts. County Manager Garner said that was fine with Ms. James saying on page 214 of the budget they have \$80,626 in contingency in this year's budget but next year she and the County Manager have in regular contingency \$112,890 and this is where they put the supplement. Ms. James said taking the supplemental out would still leave \$112,890. Commissioner Sims asked if they could take the \$112,890 and put it back in teacher supplements with Commissioner Sturdivant saying no it was the \$209,000. Chairman Baucom voiced that she would feel more comfortable if we kept it in there until about this time next year with Commissioner Sturdivant saying if we wait until this time next year the teachers will already be gone. Chairman Baucom changed it to mid-May. Ms. James explained the way that line has worked is that each April the Finance Officer at the school would ask us for the supplement so they can take it and decide how to split it out among the teachers. Ms. James said to leave it in contingency until April or May will mean doing a Budget Amendment to move it however they could move it from contingency back to the school system and she could put a reserve on it so it's not spent until such time the board gives the final approval next year. Chairman Baucom asked what happens if we need it with Ms. James saying they could still to a Budget Amendment and move it back. Chairman Baucom asked if we would be getting interest on these dollars with Ms. James answering yes. Chairman Baucom said the county will keep the interest with Superintendent Freeman saying he figured that. Ms. James pointed out that we have not used any contingency this year. Chairman Baucom asked for a formal vote on this, saying we could put it wherever as we do Budget Amendments all the time but she

would like to hear a motion that we hold that money in reserve and by mid-April whatever we haven't use we will put back into teacher supplements. Commissioner Sims then made the motion to be exactly what she said with Commissioner Sturdivant offering the second. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chair Streater stated that he voted for it but if he were Superintendent Freeman he would not guarantee them the money because anything could happen. Superintendent Freeman offered that he believes the moral and climate of the educators can be strong in August if we can continue with this but if they come in the door thinking they have a pay reduction that is not a good way to open the school year. Chairman Baucom asked in return that all those teachers that live out of Anson County to please stop and buy groceries or something in Anson County. Superintendent Freeman stated that she would get a copy of his letter to them. Chairman Baucom stated that they have to be responsible and they have to be looking at a return on our investment and asked Superintendent Freeman to keep that in mind. Superintendent Freeman shared that he received an email this afternoon from the US Department of Labor and they have two kids in Anson County that have been invited to Washington this summer because of a video contest they developed at the STEM Academy on the high school campus. Superintendent Freeman stated that this was an all-expense paid opportunity through the grant in Washington for these kids to go. Superintendent Freeman added that the teachers here make it happen.

Chairman Baucom voiced that she would like to hear a discussion about the Agri-Civic Center. Chairman Baucom mentioned that they had a page showing the interest rates on three different strategies for the money with one being bonds, one borrowing from the USDA and she could not remember the third one. Ms. James said it was on page 48 of the agenda packet. Commissioner Sims commented that he did not want to go to a 40 year term. Commissioner Sturdivant commented that you would not believe the number of people from Anson County that rent the Ag Center in Union County and the Cole Auditorium in Richmond County and that is money we could have. Commissioner Sturdivant asked board members to consider borrowing the money saying she was not in favor of doing bonds. Ms. Rywak stated that part of their feasibility study was how much we are losing to out of county venues. Chairman Baucom said her problem with general obligation bonds is the length of the process, with the conventional bank loan the interest rate is higher and she feels the best route would be the USDA purchase contract. Ms. Rywak shared that in her last conversation with Mr. Hart of USDA, they do have funds available that can be earmarked for Anson County once they receive the application but it would be up to us as to when we would request the money. Ms. Rywak added that we have got to get in so they can put our name on the funds but we don't have to draw the money down for a year or so. Commissioner Sikes asked the rate with Chairman Baucom answering 2.875. Ms. Rywak stated that as of December 31st it was 3.2 so it came down this quarter. Chairman Baucom asked if we could borrow as we use the money or would we get all of it at the same time with Ms. Rywak answering we would get all of it at the same time and it can sit there until we're ready to spend it. Ms. Rywak explained the process is

the county has to decide how to finance, then we have to get approved for the loan, then they have to meet with the Architect and sign their contract but they can't sign with the architect until we know we have the USDA money. Ms. Rywak added that they were told it would take one year for design and one and one-half years for construction. Chairman Baucom asked if that would fall within our window on the property with Ms. Rywak thinking if we are working towards it they will work with us. Mr. Lookabill was of the opinion that the bond issue would pass but there is a chance it would not so they are not going to contribute any more money than what they have currently, which is \$710,000. Commissioner Sims asked what a loan would do to it with Mr. Lookabill answering that it would allow them to start back up, meet with the architect and get the grant writer started. Commissioner Sims asked Mr. Lookabill if he thought a loan might be the best way to go with Mr. Lookabill answering absolutely. Commissioner Sims then asked Ms. James what she thought with Ms. James answering that bonds were a very detailed long process and it is voter approved so it could be defeated. Chairman Baucom stated that the interest rate was the same on bonds and USDA so that persuades her that the USDA installment purchase is the way to go. Ms. James shared that in the proposed budget Janine has \$10,500 for marketing and you promised \$650,000 which we've been giving \$157,500 a year, and this year she has \$459,000 so you only have one more commitment of the \$157,500. County Attorney Forbes asked which version they chose with Ms. Rywak answering the \$13,897,000. County Attorney Forbes asked if that was over 25 years with Ms. James answering they took the \$2.5 million they are to raise and we will borrow \$11,397,000 and they used interest rate of 2.875 and that shows the number of pennies on the tax rate. Ms. James added that if we borrowed the money for 40 years we would be paying back \$7.9 million in interest and that was way too long. Ms. James stated that even at 25 years we would only be paying \$4.7 million and we would have to raise the tax rate about 3.8 cents. Ms. James noted that it would be decreasing each year and we might could do the same thing with the tax rate. Ms. James felt an important thing to remember is that the debt on the Government Center will expire in 22/23 and that annual payment next year is \$161,000. County Attorney Forbes added that if they do a 15 year term we will save \$2 million dollars. Commissioner Sims asked if we were saying if we go the loan rate the people will not have an opportunity to express yeah or nay or is that up to the board. Ms. James said it was all up to the board. Commissioner Sims felt we should get the people to express yeah or nay. Vice Chair Streater stated if we do that and they vote it down you can't build it. Mr. Lookabill reminded board members that in the option agreement the land reverts back to Wade Manufacturing if we don't build an Agri-Civic Center on it. Commissioner Sturdivant noted there was a time limit on building it with County Attorney Forbes thinking it was five years. Vice Chair Streater asked again how many it would seat in just chairs with Ms. Rywak answering in 1300. Chairman Baucom commented that if we don't do something like this we won't have 1300 left in the county. Chairman Baucom asked the County Manager if she thought we could do this with County Manager Garner answering we could make it work. Commissioner Woodburn stated that we would have exposure with the bond but if we really want to do it we need to do the loan at the shortest period as possible to keep down the

interest. Commissioner Sikes agreed with Commissioner Sims agreeing to 20 years and no more. Chairman Baucom, Vice Chair Streater and Commissioner Sturdivant favored the loan. Commissioner Sikes asked if we could handle it in 15 years with Chairman Baucom thinking we could get started and when we can we could pay a little extra from the proceeds of renting the building. Ms. Rywak added that there was no penalty on early payback. Ms. Rywak shared her concern is that once everybody says we are doing this people will want to change the size, the dimensions, whatever and her concern is navigating that year of design. Commissioner Sims commented that maybe they would like to contribute some to cover that change. Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, that we authorize the staff and the committee to proceed with the USDA installment purchase contract for the Agri-Civic Center. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Baucom shared that this board does not take this obligation cavalierly but they are committed to the project. Commissioner Sturdivant voiced that she wants to have the first party there.

Chairman Baucom asked what else needed to be done with the clerk reminding them that they were slated to return on the 20th to discuss the budget. Commissioner Sims favored approving the budget tonight with Vice Chair Streater in agreement. Chairman Baucom shared that it was her opinion that the animal shelter needed to come under general government. Chairman Baucom stated that this has been discussed and she feels we need to move those cost to general government or whatever from the health department. Motion by Vice Chair Streater that effective July 1st the animal shelter becomes Megan's baby as a standalone department. Commissioner Sims felt she had a lot to do with County Attorney Forbes saying she could delegate it to someone else. Chairman Baucom asked if we were advertising for a director with County Manager Garner answering yes. Chairman Baucom felt we had work to do to pass the state inspection and ASPCA is holding \$1,000 that is earmarked for the shelter. Chairman Baucom added that she would be glad to pitch in. Chairman Baucom felt this was an important amenity in the community and we need to make sure it is run at optimum and we can't be everything to everybody but we need to take charge. County Attorney Forbes suggestion they reword the motion. Commissioner Sikes offered a second to the motion. County Manager Garner felt the intent was to make it a stand along department and right now it falls under the health department. Vice Chair Streater added that there would be a director there but the director would answer to the County Manager rather than Dr. Thompson. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Baucom asked if we were done with Vice Chair Streater thinking they needed to set a date to come back. Chairman Baucom stated that they were scheduled to come back on the 20th. Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Vice Chair Streater, to approve the budget as presented with the things we've talked about tonight. Ms. James reminded board members they would need to come back to approve the Budget Ordinance with Chairman Baucom thinking they could do it on the 20th. The Clerk said that might not give Ms. James enough time with Ms. James asking them to come back later to approve any last minute Budget Amendments or releases.

The Clerk suggested meeting again the last week of June. Commissioner Woodburn said the 29th or 30th would work for him. Chairman Baucom voiced a problem with the 29th and asked board members if they could meet the 28th at Noon. After discussion, board members decided to come return June 28th at 5:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to recess until June 28th at 5:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 2 hr. 20 min.