

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for a recessed meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 5:30 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  
Jarvis Woodburn

Staff members present: Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC Clerk to the Board  
Rita James, Data Processing  
Tiffany Randall, CPA, Finance Officer  
Jeff Waisner, Parks and Recreation Director

Chairman Baucom called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming those present. Chairman Baucom commented that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the budget.

**Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:** Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Matters:**

**Budget Discussion:** Ms. James asked to address a matter than came up last week about garnishments. Ms. James shared that Vice Chair Streater had asked a question about our software for garnishments and if it worked as there was a question that it might not. Ms. James stated that she took it upon herself to garnish county employees since that was something the board had asked her to do several times. Ms. James showed those present that the software does work as it always has. Ms. James stated that garnishments are produced on mailers and would be mailed tomorrow. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if this meant it had already been taken out of their check with Ms. James explaining that you have to notify of your intent to garnish and they have two weeks to pay the tax or else we will garnished. Commissioner Sturdivant could not believe we had county employees that had not paid their taxes. Ms. James shared that the garnishment file had not been gotten in sync in four and one-half years. Ms. James shared that she had to delete employees that had left and add new ones and then check to see if they owe taxes. Ms. James stated that there were 69 delinquent vehicle tax bills affecting 47 employees and it came to a total of \$4,817.91. Ms. James noted on real estate property there were 40 real estate property tax bills that belonged to county employees, 32 employees were effected and the total owed on

these garnishments was \$11,015. Ms. James stated that in summary 109 total delinquent bills were found on Anson County employees, 79 was the number of delinquent tax bills and they effected 79 employees or 20.85% of our workforce for a total of \$15,833 and it took her 4.25 hours to do this. Ms. James pointed out there was nothing wrong with the software. Chairman Baucom asked if this was a priority software package with Ms. James answering no as it was handwritten by she and Ashe. Ms. James stated again that the software works and has always worked. Ms. James added that it was work to do this. Chairman Baucom asked if we could only do this on county employees with Ms. James saying she could do it on anybody. Ms. James stated that after taking the time to go through the file, she felt board members would be surprised how many we might could garnish if we would just get the employee list from the school system, Department of Corrections, Hornwood and our large employers. Vice Chair Streater wanted to know if we could ask for the list with Ms. James saying yes. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that when she was the representative for the United States Department of Government that was one of the things she had to do. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that when she spoke to Joe Dutton about it he gave her the run around about how hard it was. Commissioner Sturdivant added that the federal government would send you the list you. Commissioner Sturdivant added that all he had to do was request it and he would not. Commissioner Woodburn asked the amount of time it would take someone to do this that doesn't have her expertise with Ms. James thinking if it took her four hours it might take them seven hours. Ms. James stated again that it was detail work and you have to pay attention. Ms. James stated that she did garnishments for years. Commissioner Woodburn noted that was the reason he asked the question based on the conversation the other night that one day in the office and it could be done. Ms. James stated that on the list it tells us that there were 339 total number of employees in our payroll file so that means she had to look at every single one of them and change their address if needed, pay attention to those that were no longer employed and add new ones that have come. Ms. James noted again that this was detailed work. Commissioner Sturdivant asked how many years could she go back with Ms. James saying this goes back 10 years but in the real estate she doesn't think there were any past 2012 on a county employee but the vehicle bills were old as some were generated from 2012 that had not been paid. Chairman Baucom thanked Ms. James for her work. Chairman Baucom asked about hiring a detailed part time person to work on this list with Ms. James thinking it should be an older person as they would probably know more people on the list than a younger person. Ms. James stated that she was born and raised here and she knows a lot of the people. Ms. James felt current staff had the time to do it. Chairman Baucom felt that to make sure it gets done we would have to hire a part time person as some people aren't able to do this kind of detailed work. Ms. James stated that the way it is on the list is the process.

Ms. James asked board members if they had any desires in regards to something that is not funded that should be funded. Commissioner Sikes stated that he wants to make sure we get Randy or whatever it takes to get everything working and he wants

someone that can run the GIS system when everything gets fixed. Commissioner Sikes stated that he will not vote on a budget until this is settled and we have someone to look over the landfill. Ms. James stated that a GIS analysis was not funded in the budget. Commissioner Sikes noted that we have one person there that can't do the work and feels when Randy gets everything fixed and working he wants a person that can run it and do what needs to be done. Commissioner Sikes feels this is holding every department up. Chairman Baucom feels we are losing the value of the system and she suspects that it will take Randy and the woman that is hired to run it working together to get it straightened out and like it ought to be. Ms. James felt that maybe after the first of July they can begin to look at how to solve these problems. Ms. James felt it might involve hiring Google or some big company that is in to GIS and has programmers on staff that can cut our work down to nothing. Chairman Baucom asked if we could pull some money out of the budget with Ms. James saying they would take a look. Chairman Baucom asked if our contingency would cover it with Ms. James asking board members to let her work with Randy. Ms. James added that she knows Commissioner Sikes wants it done now with Commissioner Sikes saying he knows it can't happen now but they want something in the budget so when they get it figured out he wants to find someone that can do it. Ms. James stated that she did the payroll projections and right now they are saying we saved \$411,000 in salary and fringe line items. Ms. James stated that that means we've had a lot of turnover and this might offset some of the shortfall in the other line items. Ms. James felt when we get to the middle of the year next year this is how we may be able to do something like this without actually budgeting it. Chairman Baucom felt we needed a concise list for after the audit and felt number one should be the GIS system. Chairman Baucom felt if Randy was in the budget and the GIS operator was in the budget they could go ahead and start working on it, figuring out what needs to be done and if it involves money hold off until we get the audit. Commissioner Woodburn asked about the software program for it and if it was something he put together with Ms. James answering he did the installation of the software however it was not written by Randy. Ms. James added that the new version allows you to do a lot of functionalities and he is the one that has made them the way they are. Commissioner Woodburn asked if it is not proprietary, was it something that needs him with Ms. James feeling he would be the one to guide them. Ms. James added that he has learned a whole lot about GIS and how the structure of the files work. Commissioner Woodburn wondered if there was something that would be easier and better to work with. Ms. James stated that a lot of counties actually don't handle their GIS. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that Rita mentioned earlier about going through Google and our county is so small she felt it may benefit us to let them handle it. Commissioner Woodburn felt the investigation needed to be two fold to see what it is going to take to straighten out what we currently have and what it will take to turn it over to someone like Google. Ms. James shared that Charlotte Mecklenburg contracts with Google to handle their GIS and they host the site. Chairman Baucom noted the one thing that has stayed with her was thinking they loaded a number of releases at the same time and her experience is you load one and make sure it works before doing another. Chairman Baucom felt we needed to look at

different solutions. Commissioner Sikes stated that downstairs they say they can't get Randy over here to help with Ms. James saying he was a busy man and he works a lot on weekends. Commissioner Sikes asked if he comes to this building often with Ms. James admitting it was hard to get hold of him sometimes. Chairman Baucom stated that the other thing was the landfill and convenience sites with Commissioner Sikes saying he talked with Keith Gaskins and he would be glad to have it in his department. Commissioner Sikes added that with a little bit of training the person could help him out with inspections. Ms. James stated that they put in the sheriff's budget for an environmental deputy but it was not funded. Commissioner Sikes stated again that he wants the position and the sheriff does not want it so he wants it under Keith Gaskins. Commissioner Woodburn voiced that he was not sure that was a good choice for the position but he was ok to bring it back. Ms. James felt we needed to decide if the position was valid and do we need it instead of doing it for a person or a body. Chairman Baucom felt we needed the position and her concern was all this trash along the road side. Chairman Baucom noted they had also had calls about dumps in Lilesville and other places so we need someone who will watch after this and make sure they are cleaned up. Chairman Baucom added if they can find a way to prosecute the people do that. Ms. James felt that was the concept for the environmental deputy that the sheriff proposed. Chairman Baucom felt we also needed someone that would regularly check on the landfill. Chairman Baucom added that she went up there one Saturday morning and did not see anything amiss. Commissioner Sikes stated that they don't do it every Saturday. Chairman Baucom was of the opinion we just could not afford it right now. Commissioner Sikes stated that we promised the citizens we would have a county employee looking after that place. Chairman Baucom noted that we have two people that work up there with Commissioner Sikes saying they just sit and look and they don't go in the back. Commissioner Sturdivant wondered if we needed to bring them in to talk with them. Chairman Baucom thought they worked for Richard Allen with Ms. James saying they work for the county. Vice Chair Streater wondered if it was their job to go in the back with Chairman Baucom thinking it was. Commissioner Woodburn felt we might need to outline what we want them to do and make sure they know what is expected and see to it that they do it. Chairman Baucom asked if we could get them in this week with Commissioner Sturdivant asking if there were two people up there daily. Commissioner Sikes noted there were two part time employees. Vice Chair Streater asked who supervises them with the Clerk answering Mike Sessions. Vice Chair Streater felt the board needed to ask Mr. Sessions about their duties. The Clerk stated that she would have Mr. Session send something to the board about their duties. Commissioner Sturdivant asked Commissioner Sikes if he was talking about two part time and one full time with Commissioner Sikes saying when they put the two part time in they said they would try it until the first of the year and we never did anything about it. Commissioner Sikes stated that no one was looking at the old sites any more. Chairman Baucom asked if the two part time workers had the expertise to do this. Richard Allen was in the audience and said they did not have the experience they were talking about unless they have been trained. Commissioner Woodburn felt we needed to find what direction and instructions they have been given and it could be as simple

as knowing what to look for and when they see it they can bring it to someone's attention that will take it on if it needs to go somewhere. Chairman Baucom was of the opinion the board needed to talk with the two part time employees with some thinking they needed to talk with Mike Session. Vice Chair Streater felt that board members needed a copy of their job description and maybe they have not been told they need to check the old landfill. Chairman Baucom asked Commissioner Sikes when he talks about the old landfill was he talking about the first cells with Commissioner Sikes answering yes. Vice Chair Streater was of the opinion the engineers were watching over this with Commissioner Sikes thinking they were in cahoots with Waste Connections. Commissioner Woodburn felt if that was the case we needed new ones. Chairman Baucom felt we first needed to know what was in their job description, what were they told they were supposed to be doing and if that is what will meet our needs fine, if it is not we need to start over. Chairman Baucom asked if the money was in the budget for the two part time people with Ms. James answering yes. Ms. James stated that if they wanted to do away with the part time positions and have one position they would need \$30,500 more than what is currently budgeted. Ms. Randall shared that they each are scheduled to work 15 hours a week and she assumes they alternate the times they work. Ms. James felt they might overlap one day but was not sure. Chairman Baucom asked if each one only works 15 hours a week with Ms. Randall answering yes. Commissioner Sikes felt a lot of their time was spent at the water department with Chairman Baucom feeling the board needed a County Manager to oversee all this stuff. It was determined that Mr. Sessions will appear before the board to find out what they are supposed to be doing and if that is what they are doing and what are the results of what they are doing. Chairman Baucom added that if they let them go and have one person the board will have to find \$30,000 extra. Commissioner Sikes voiced that he was concerned about the cost to the county down the road if things are not done right now. Chairman Baucom stated that people are already talking with her about the tax increase and she doesn't see how they can increase it anymore. Commissioner Woodburn stated we need to determine what the needs are and what it takes to meet the needs and he isn't sure we actually know that right now. Commissioner Woodburn felt we needed to determine if the position is valid and what it takes to cover it and once we have the data we can work with the data. Chairman Baucom did not feel they needed to monitor the landfill all day and could visit the rest of the county as well. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if we were to get rid of the two part time and hire one full time would the job be posted with the answer being yes. Chairman Baucom asked if a lot of changes were made from the budget discussion the other night with Ms. James saying they had it in balance the other night at a 3.4 cent tax increase. Ms. James added that they re-addressed revenues and they feel comfortable they are not inflated and expenses equal revenues as presented with the changes made the other night. Ms. James felt the only way they could make a difference was to cut expenses and to do that you have to look at departments and whether you think the work force is sufficient to cover or if you want to eliminate positions. Ms. James felt this was not a pleasant place to be. Commissioner Sikes asked about the contract with the EMS building for yard maintenance. Mr. Waisner

shared that they contracted with Classic Landscape because they did not have the equipment that is required to mow the grass around the building and keep it the way it needed to look. Vice Chair Streater asked the difference in doing that yard and doing the park with Mr. Waisner saying it was just a different animal. Mr. Waisner said around the building was Bermuda grass and the park has mostly fescue and there is a difference in the cutting and they thought it would be a better way to maintain the building. Mr. Waisner explained that he and Mr. Gatewood put this in place two years ago. Mr. Waisner shared that they took their man hours they would spend out there mowing and contracted for an all-inclusive work. Mr. Waisner shared that they fertilize, seed, mulch and mow. Vice Chair Streater noted there were still bare spots out there with Mr. Waisner saying that was because of the type soil there. Chairman Baucom asked how much grass was out there with Mr. Waisner feeling there was a couple of acres to mow. Chairman Baucom stated that all she sees is right in the front and asked where the rest was with Mr. Waisner saying it is all around the back and down the side to the edge of the property. Vice Chair Streater asked if they bid this out with Mr. Waisner saying that he and Lawrence asked Robert Colf and Garry Sikes what they would charge. Chairman Baucom felt the board needed to revisit this feeling \$1100 a month was a lot of money. Commissioner Sikes noted they paid over \$5,000 for the water. Ms. James asked if there was a term on the contract with Mr. Waisner thinking it was just year to year. Chairman Baucom asked when the year starts with Mr. Waisner thinking July 1. Mr. Waisner added that this was something their maintenance could take on but at the time they thought it was the best thing to do with the money that was spent on the building. Motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to void or end the contract at the first of July with Classic Landscape for the Emergency Service Center building. Commissioner Woodburn mentioned the water bill and asked if the person doing the landscape was taking care of the sprinkler system too. Mr. Waisner was not sure. Commissioner Sikes stated that they will cut it on and leave it for days and that doesn't make sense. Ms. James stated that they got that under control after the first month, adding that the building was on the Town of Wadesboro water so it is more expensive than county water. Commissioner Woodburn stated that it sounds like it was running unnecessarily and they were not paying attention to it for two or three days. Ms. James shared that they could leave the funds in that budget and Jeff could purchase equipment to do that mowing. Mr. Waisner explained that his department mows everything the county owns including all the Welcome to Anson County signs, the Peachland Senior Center, the animal shelter, all the buildings, the park and some at the airport. Mr. Waisner stated that it adds a lot of man hours and wear and tear on their equipment and they do this with just three people. Chairman Baucom asked if there were a lot of underground sprinklers with Mr. Waisner answering no it was just pulling a hose. Vice Chair Streater thought the 911 center was underground with Mr. Waisner answering not to his knowledge. Mr. Waisner asked if the board wanted him to speak with Gary Sikes tomorrow with Chairman Baucom saying the vote was next. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Baucom stated that he could now call Mr. Sikes.

Chairman Baucom asked Ms. James to tell her again about the voting machines asking if we were getting them. Commissioner Woodburn replied no. Chairman Baucom felt the last discussion was that they were going to deprogram the ones we were currently using. Ms. James stated that it will be mandated by the state to change. Commissioner Woodburn felt the state changed this and move it out a year or two and it will not happen as soon as they were initially saying. Ms. James noted that our current election equipment was over ten years old and would soon be decertified by the State Board of Elections. Chairman Baucom stated that they went to a presentation on the new machines and they are neat but her thought is to put back half the money one year and half the next year so it is not such a big chunk. Chairman Baucom asked if the towns pay us anything on the machines with Ms. James answering no. Ms. James explained that we hold the municipal elections and every expense we incur for that we have to identify what town it was for and they reimburse us every cent of it including overtime, early voting, everything. Chairman Baucom asked about equipment with Ms. James saying they don't contribute to the cost of the equipment but they reimburse us our expenses for printing, advertising and things like that. Ms. James felt that the fact the equipment is ten years old was a strong factor that it is probably time with Chairman Baucom thinking it was time. Chairman Baucom thought she remembered that the new machines will print the ballot and we won't have the expense of printing them with the new ones. Ms. James added that they were going to give us a \$5,000 credit as a trade in on the old equipment with Chairman Baucom feeling they probably will still do that next year. Commissioner Sikes asked if we ever decided anything about the historical people that wanted an office and funding. Chairman Baucom felt they should be provided an office since it was a function of the county and different from the health department and DSS board. Chairman Baucom noted that we provide space for them to meet and this commission was a function of this county. The Clerk mentioned that it was suggested one time that they use the AA House on Country Club Road with Chairman Baucom saying we also thought about the basement of the Government Center where the Board of Elections was. Chairman Baucom asked if it was filled up with the Clerk noting that if they are in this building and they have meetings after 5 they will have to hire Mr. Bennett to sit at the door. Ms. James added that there was a lot of confidential information down there. Commissioner Sikes asked if there was any space where EMS used to be on McLaurin Street with the clerk thinking they were using all that space. Ms. James stated that the elections machines would be decertified in January 2018 so we have a little bit of time. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that they said we could use the old ones through the 2016 election. Commissioner Woodburn asked if there were two with the historical society and historical properties commission with Chairman Baucom answering yes and the county appointed and set up the historical properties commission. The Clerk asked if there was an office in the Historical Society they could use with Commissioner Woodburn feeling that might be an avenue to investigate. Chairman Baucom felt it needed to be investigated as they need space where they can lock up and store material. Commissioner Woodburn felt we needed to look for office space in the former EMS building with Chairman Baucom asking if there was a way to pull out \$1,000. Ms.

James said it could be pulled from contingency. After discussion, motion by Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to look for office space for them at the old EMS building and to pull \$1,000 out of contingency for the historical properties commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Baucom asked if there was anything else. Ms. James asked if they could prepare the Budget Ordinance with a 3.4 cent tax increase and if the board would be willing to adopt it at a recessed meeting toward the end of the month. It was suggested to meet on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Sikes stated that he wanted clear information on his two issues with Ms. James saying she had that written down.

Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to go into closed session for personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, motion by Commissioner Sikes, seconded by Vice Chair Streater, to recess until 5:00 P.M. June 17, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 1 hr. 10 min.