

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for recessed meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the board room, Suite 209 of the Anson County Government Center.

Commissioners present: Anna H. Baucom, Chair
Ross Streater, Vice Chair
Bobby Sikes
Dr. Jim Sim
Vancine Sturdivant

Staff members present: Lawrence R. Gatewood, County Manager
Bonnie M. Huntley, CMC, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Rita James, Data Processing
Tiffany Randall, CPA, Finance Officer

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Baucom called the recessed meeting to Order, welcoming those present.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners: Commissioner Sturdivant asked to move Uptown Wadesboro's Fireworks Request from consent to a separate item. Chairman Baucom suggested placing it right before the Consent Agenda. Motion by Commissioner Sturdivant, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to approve the Agenda with the change. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015: Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, to open the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

In the Public Hearing, **Jimmy Dennis** was the first to address the board. Mr. Dennis, representing the Historical Preservation Commission, stated that members of this commission were appointed October of 2013. Mr. Dennis asked for financing for the committee so they can carry on business of historical preservation in Anson County. Mr. Dennis asked for \$5,000 to pay for a temporary secretary, office space, telephone and equipment needed during the coming year. Mr. Dennis asked if there was an available room in county government where they could hang a shingle so the public would know where to find them that would be great. Mr. Dennis also requested that if the hospitals are sold as Mr. Alexander explained during his presentation at the last board meeting, that some of those funds be made available to the Historical Preservation Committee.

Michael Freeman – School Superintendent: Mr. Freeman, speaking on behalf of the Anson County Board of Education and the children of Anson County as well as the employees of Anson County School System, stated he was here for two reasons. One is to thank the board, recognizing they have an awesome task before them providing for all the divisions that you are responsible for in your elected seat and for the record of support demonstrated in the past. Mr. Freeman stated that they understand the dynamics of developing a budget and distributing those funds to provide services and they realize their team works really hard to be fair and to make Anson County proud with the services we offer. Mr. Freeman felt he did not have to say how fortunate they were to have the board trust them. Mr. Freeman stated that parents, children and other stakeholders look to the Board of Education and the county Board of Commissioners and their entire staff to take care of “our” children and to meet their needs. Mr. Freeman shared that one of the greatest challenges they have is recruitment and retention of quality teachers. Mr. Freeman added that this was a challenge across the State of North Carolina right now. Mr. Freeman voiced that sadly our state is being attacked through some of the changes that have been made at the state level that is dwindling down to the local level. Mr. Freeman stated that many of our teachers are being recruited to go outside of not only Anson County but outside of North Carolina. Mr. Freeman stated that here in Anson County it looks as if they are going to be faced with the reduction of approximately sixteen state funded teaching positions for the coming school year. Mr. Freeman stated that this does not include the reduction of teaching positions that could be a result of federal reductions associated with career technical education programs, their exceptional children’s services. Mr. Freeman stated that it also appears, depending on what happens in Raleigh over the next few days that they may have a reduction of force of approximately 50% of their teacher assistants. Mr. Freeman stated that they were looking currently at a reduction of \$171,000 in the exceptional children state allotment that they typically depend on to help them operate. Mr. Freeman stated that they must maintain their facilities. Mr. Freeman stated that they have taken pride in Anson County many years ago in building elementary schools that are still viewed today as new schools even though they are over 20 years old. Mr. Freeman mentioned that school safety and security was a top runner and they have good requirements in this area that require them to have panic buttons and things of that nature that cost money to equip. Mr. Freeman felt they must be prepared and they must continue with their athletic programs. Mr. Freeman felt children develop and achieve as a result of being an athlete. Mr. Freeman noted that technology services was the service they could barely stay caught up with. Mr. Freeman shared that he saw in the paper this week where a county was fortunate enough to fund a one to one laptop initiative for the children in their system. Mr. Freeman stated that he was realistic and was not here asking for that but those are the kinds of competitions they have in their education field in providing their students with equal services that other North Carolina children have. Mr. Freeman felt they have a state of the art science center and planetarium here in Anson County and our children are learning from that. Mr. Freeman felt this was another fine example of how we must maintain a service we have in place. Mr. Freeman shared that last year they were

faced with reducing services in their Army JROTC program but they made it. Mr. Freeman shared that three staff members lost months of employment because of funding cuts but they still pulled it off and got the work done with less pay and less days of working. Mr. Freeman reported that in the transportation department they are looking at a minimum of a \$100,000 reduction from the state and obviously they need buses on the road to provide transportation for their students. Mr. Freeman noted that their instructional resources alone are very expensive and several years ago the state eliminated all their professional development funds at the state level as well as text book money. Mr. Freeman was hopeful they would recoup some of these funds but they haven't been told yet if they will get money for text books so they are trying to develop ways to provide the children the textbooks whether they are paperless, electronic books or traditional textbooks that they need. Mr. Freeman shared that they have already been told that Anson County Schools is slated to lose a funding source that has been their lifeline for several years and they plan to fight this. Mr. Freeman noted that it was known as a small school system funding and they will be cut \$323,000 this year from this one account alone. Mr. Freeman stated that the money is used to pay for human capital for employees as well as transportation cost, etc. Mr. Freeman added that they were slated over the next five years to lose this allotment totally unless they can fight this at the state level and regain this formula that qualifies them for these funds. Mr. Freeman stated that driver's education funds will be reduced but they aren't sure how much and they are also faced with the need of updating a fleet of cars to teach driver's education. Mr. Freeman felt the most appropriate vehicles were certainly safe vehicles so when they become licensed drivers they are prepared for the roads they will be meeting folks on. Mr. Freeman noted these were just a few of their needs. Mr. Freeman felt local resources were vital for their survival in the school system. Mr. Freeman felt board members already knew that educational opportunities open doors for children and prepare us for our future. Mr. Freeman feels everyone would agree that our children in Anson County deserve and need equal educational opportunities that are compatible with other children in North Carolina and this great United States. Mr. Freeman referred to the area of teacher recruitment saying they had hoped this year to follow what they did last year and thanks to the commissioner's good support they were able to increase the local teacher supplement by one-half percent. Mr. Freeman stated that they were hoping to do that again this year as well as maintain their current level of services. Mr. Freeman asked board members to look closely to see if there is any consideration to help support them to retain the teaching force they have. Mr. Freeman added that they very much need to find teachers that will come here and stay here. Mr. Freeman noted that they have recruited some quality folks but he finds that these young beginning teachers must go to where the money is so they are competing with Wake County, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Durham and once again, he knows he is not telling anything they don't already know. Mr. Freeman again thanked board members saying he didn't come here to take a lot of time or convince them of something they don't know. Mr. Freeman knows their heart is in the right place and they want to do the best they can for our children. Mr. Freeman stated that he would not be serving them or this county well if he did not speak on behalf of his staff and the

students they serve. Mr. Freeman stated that any consideration given will be appreciated. On a side note, Mr. Freeman announced that their board chair was a new grandmother otherwise she would have been here. Mr. Freeman stated that other board members had prior commitments and recognized those present at this time.

Chairman Baucom felt several board members wanted to speak but she asked to go first. Chairman Baucom proposed that the Board of Commissioners have a discussion about putting the quarter-cent sales tax referendum on the ballot for November. Chairman Baucom stated that it was her understanding that the quarter-cent would yield some funds that she feels the board would be wise to extend a good portion to the public schools. Chairman Baucom felt we could not begin to mitigate the damage done to public schools, universities and the whole educational system by this general assembly. Chairman Baucom noted that you and I are to blame because we voted them in but we have an opportunity to vote them out and we all have to work together to be very careful to whom we give our votes. Chairman Baucom stated that Senator McLaurin has been very supportive of everything we've done here in Anson County as has Representative Brody. Chairman Baucom asked if the board agrees to put that proposal on the ballot how many of you are willing to get out and work for and advocate people voting for it. At this point, the entire room stood up. Chairman Baucom voiced that they know how important education is and she considers it Economic Development, Workforce Development and the future of Anson County. Chairman Baucom stated that if you look at population trends you see that there has been a decrease in our population and it is not just people who are dying its people moving away. Chairman Baucom stated that there are 85 rural counties in North Carolina and almost every one of those counties is losing population. Chairman Baucom felt our educational system was one of the tools we have for population growth and Economic Development and feels if we work together we can get the quarter-cent sales tax passed. Commissioner Sims spoke as a former educator and friend too many to remind those present that you can take all the technology you can find, the nicest building and provide the greatest instructional supplies but if you put an incompetent teacher or assistant in there the children will not learn. Commissioner Sims felt you could take a creative industrious teacher and put her in a grass hut with a dirt floor and the children will learn. Commissioner Sims felt this was an important issue and we have to keep the best teachers we can. Commissioner Sims noted that we can't keep up with some of the large systems but there is no reason we can't provide enough incentive for the best teachers to come to Anson County. Commissioner Sims was of the opinion that the board could do as the chairman has suggested or look at it tonight and let the County Manager say what we could do at this time. Commissioner Sims added that either way he was very much in favor of the teachers and the schools. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she has always been an advocate of education. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that she echo's the thoughts of Commissioner Sims and when he said we could do either one she feels we could do both. Commissioner Sturdivant was of the opinion the board could help them tonight and look at what was proposed by the chairman. County Manager Gatewood stated that he heard her loud

and clear and he agreed. Vice Chair Streater mentioned the supplemental grant in the amount of \$209,000 and we funded \$137,000 same as last year and asked if the increase would be a high percent or just the one-half percent given this year with Mr. Freeman answering the increase would be to add another one-half percent in addition to what was given last year. Vice Chair Streater then mentioned the \$171,000 asking what it covers with Mr. Freeman answering it could cover anything from instructional material, teacher salary, teach assistant salary, unique equipment a special needs child may need and all kinds of service this program provides. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that the high school had smart boards and now several elementary schools have them as well and she could not believe what it could do. Commissioner Sturdivant did not think all teachers had one with Mr. Freeman saying they've come a long way but they still have a ways to go. Mr. Freeman shared that a majority of those was purchase with grant funds and other resources. Mr. Freeman mentioned that board members and staff were in and out of the schools frequently or in conversation with him or his staff and it was noticed and appreciated. Mr. Freeman commented that they know the commissioners are there and feels they just need to keep having that collaboration and these conversations so we can work as a team and do what needs to be done. Vice Chair Streater asked if we know if the \$171,000 has been cut with Mr. Freeman answering that it has been cut and the \$323,000 small school funding has also been cut. Vice Chair Streater asked the plans to make up for these cuts with Mr. Freeman saying they will have to reduce some services, there may be larger class sizes, hold back on some type instructional material but one compliment to educators is they will help children learn whether they are in the hut or the nice facility. Mr. Freeman stated that they would not let the children down as they are survivors and they survive on behalf of the kids. Mr. Freeman stated that it would be challenging and they may have to reduce some bus routes or some centralized stops but it is getting to a higher level of critical need. Mr. Freeman added that public schools learn to do without and sometimes it hurts them but eventually when you do without over and over it catches up with you and that is where they are headed. Commissioner Sims commented that a single teacher's salary is not much above the poverty level in North Carolina. Vice Chair Streater asked Ms. James what the quarter-cent would yield with County Manager Gatewood answering they believe it would yield slightly over \$300,000. Chairman Baucom asked if we had to share that with the towns with Ms. Randall answering no. Vice Chair Streater asked if we could say this was strictly going to public schools with County Manager Gatewood feeling that was up to the board to decide but they would have that option. Chairman Baucom felt that was the way to go and the way to sell it. Chairman Baucom commented that everybody who comes in and out on 52 or 74 and stops to buy something are paying that tax and citizens will pay it but if you go somewhere else you are very likely paying that additional quarter of a cent. Chairman Baucom feels this is the fairest tax and it affects everybody in the community and all those coming through here. Chairman Baucom feels this board has made a lot of progress in the past years; we've had good management and dedicated commissioners, amazing staff and administrators and we don't want to go backwards and we don't want the school system to go backwards. Commissioner Sikes felt everyone understood

the importance of education and the future of Anson County depends on how well our young people are educated. Mr. Freeman felt if we work together, your board, our board and do the appropriate communication plan, maybe we can help our voters understand the significance. Mr. Freeman felt we could blend our team and develop a strategy from a marketing standpoint that is transparent, sincere to our voters so they can hopefully see what this could mean for the children. Chairman Baucom asked Mr. Freeman if he or someone in the school system would develop a team to come up with a strategy and she will be glad to work with that. Vice Chair Streater felt if it is for the public schools it will pass and not tack anything else with it. Chairman Baucom noted that this would come in overtime and they would not get the whole amount right after the votes are counted and asked if they could work with that with Mr. Freeman answering they were accustomed to working with whatever they need to work with. Chairman Baucom asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Danny Montgomery stated that she was excited to be here and to hear the support they have. Ms. Montgomery stated that over the years the board has been so wonderful to public education and to the Anson County School system. Ms. Montgomery said they talk about it all the time how wonderful our commissioners are and how proud we are of our county and although we work so hard and have to do without so many things, they know they have the support of the community and that means so much. Ms. Montgomery voiced that she is excited they will provide the \$171,000 Mr. Freeman requested as well as the sales tax. Ms. Montgomery stated that she would do everything she could to help get the word out. Ms. Montgomery thanked board members for letting them come tonight and for the amazing job they do every day for the citizens of Anson County.

Russell Sikes thanked the commissioners for stepping up to the plate because it means a lot to them. Mr. Sikes reminded them that education was the most important thing we do and if Anson County is ever to move forward to the child that needs the most education and needs the most help that is the only way we will move this county forward. Mr. Sikes felt without their help they would not be able to do it but they are sincerely appreciative of things done tonight.

Chairman Baucom asked if anyone else wished to speak. Hearing no one, motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Baucom called for a ten minute break.

After the break, the next topic of discussion was **Uptown Wadesboro-Fireworks Request – July 3 Summer Jam:** County Manager Gatewood stated that this afternoon he received an urgent call from Dr. Don Altieri, representing Uptown Wadesboro. County Manager Gatewood stated that they are planning a fireworks display the evening of July 3 and they had forgotten to check with the commissioners

for their approval. County Manager Gatewood stated that he then walked in Ms. Huntley's office thinking this was a trivial matter and they have all the documentation and they've done this before. County Manager Gatewood noted that Rodney Diggs would inspect it and asked why we have to bother the board with this sort of trivial matter. County Manager Gatewood noted that the clerk went to the statutes and said this is why we have to do it. County Manager Gatewood stated that he then bowed in respect and said thank you very much. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to approve. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Baucom commented that they were using the same people as last year, it was in the same place as last year and the fireworks people have the adequate insurance and Rodney will be there. Commissioner Sturdivant asked Mr. Diggs to explain something to the board. Mr. Diggs explained that fireworks approval has to go before commissioners and this was started before they had Fire Marshal's and fire inspectors to be there. Mr. Diggs added that the state now requires that if they shoot fireworks they have to get a permit through the county fire marshal or the fire inspector and they have to be inspected before they shoot. Mr. Diggs noted several years ago a fireworks truck exploded at Ocracoke and that is when they decided to go straight by the rules again and said you have to have permission from the commissioners. Mr. Diggs stated that the commissioners could delegate this authority to the county fire marshal. Commissioner Sturdivant stated that not just with Wadesboro but Lilesville or anywhere that wants to do fireworks and because there are certain permits they have to fill out she would like to delegate this authority to the fire marshal and let him make the decision. Chairman Baucom asked the County Attorney if they could do this with the County Attorney saying he had not read the statute. The clerk added that it was the commissioners or the fire marshal but they have to delegate the authority. Chairman Baucom voiced that she likes it coming to this board as it helps them get publicity out if the newspaper is present but either way is fine. Vice Chair Streater asked if anyone other than the towns come in for permits with Mr. Diggs saying Circle G and if anyone else shoots them they have to come before the commissioners or if they delegate it then to him. Vice Chair Streater voiced that he would not have a problem as long as it was Rodney but if we get a new person we may have an issue. Vice Chair Streater suggested making a motion just to him at this time in case a new one comes along and we will decide then if we want to leave it. County Attorney Forbes stated that he was pretty sure they could always take it back. County Attorney Forbes asked Mr. Diggs if he had a mechanism set up where people can come see him and would it be an inconvenience to him to have people come to his office. Mr. Diggs answered no and he would know about it anyway because they have to pull the permits. After further discussion board members decided to leave it as it and if Mr. Diggs knows of one they should not approve to let them know.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – Parks and Recreation: to recognize and appropriate donations to Anson County Parks and Recreation.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase:	Parks and Recreation 11-6120	\$ 1,675
Total Increase:		\$ 1,675

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase:	Parks and Recreation 11-6120	\$ 1,675
Total Increase:		\$ 1,675

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Domestic Violence: to record an increase in revenue from the North Carolina Council for women for Anson County Domestic Violence SA.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase:	Domestic Violence Coalition 11-4325	\$ 233
Total Increase:		\$ 233

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase:	Domestic Violence Coalition 11-4325	\$ 233
Total Increase:		\$ 233

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Urgent Repairs Grant: to revise budget line items to reflect actual project revenues and expenditures and to close the 2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs Project Fund.

AMENDMENT

2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs Grant Project Ordinance Amendment

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 4. Expenditures

Increase:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ 2,680
Decrease:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ (2,676)
Decrease:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ (26,644)
Decrease:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ (1,047)
Total Decrease:		\$ (27,687)

Section 3. Revenues

Increase:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ 4
Decrease:	2012 Anson County Urgent Repairs 38-4500	\$ (27,691)
Total Decrease:		\$ (27,687)

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Raw Water Intake: to revise budget line items to cover actual revenues.

AMENDMENT

Anson County 06-07 Revolving Fund Loan CDBG-ED
Budget Ordinance Amendment

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 3. Revenues

Increase:	SRF-Raw Water Intake 37-3100	\$ 45,000
Total Increase:		\$ 45,000

Section 3. Revenues

Decrease:	SRF-Raw Water Intake 37-4341	\$ (45,000)
Total Decrease:		\$ (45,000)

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Animal Shelter Donations: to recognize and appropriate Animal Shelter donations received.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase:	Health Programs 11-5110-5181	\$ 5,900
Total Increase:		\$ 5,900

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase:	Health – All Programs 11-5100	\$ 5,900
Total Increase:		\$ 5,900

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Elderly: to recognize and appropriate interest refunded from the State implementation of the Tax & Tax Together Program to cover costs of heating and cooling unit at the Senior Center.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase:	Elderly Services Programs 11-5880-5885	\$ 6,000
Total Increase:		\$ 6,000

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase:	Tax Collector 11-4141	\$ 6,000
Total Increase:		\$ 6,000

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Health Department Food & Lodging: to recognize and appropriate additional funds from the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services Food and Lodging Program for the Anson County Health Department.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General fund Expenditures

Increase:	Health Programs 11-5110-5181	\$ 3,421
Total Increase:		\$ 3,421

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase:	Health – All Programs 11-5100	\$ 3,421
Total Increase:		\$ 3,421

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2013.

Budget Amendment – Canine Program: to recognize and appropriate K-9 dog donations for use in the K-9 program.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the Fiscal year 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase: Sheriff/Jail 11-4310-4320 \$ 100

Total Increase: \$ 100

Section 2. General Fund Revenues

Increase: Sheriff/Jail 11-4310-4320 \$ 100

Total Increase: \$ 100

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Fire District Tax: to adjust fire district tax collections.

AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 19. Fire District Tax Fund

Increase: Fire District Tax Fund 71-0001 \$ 2,960

Total Increase: \$ 2,960

Section 20. Fire district Tax Fund

Increase: Fire District Tax Fund 71-4340 \$ 2,960

Total Increase: \$ 2,960

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Budget Amendment – Overruns: to reallocate unexpended funds from the Courthouse Restoration Project to cover unanticipated expenses in other department.

AMENDMENT

Anson County Budget Ordinance FY 2013/14

BE IT ORDAINED by the Anson County Board of Commissioners that the FY 2013/14 Budget Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Decrease: Courthouse Building 11-4165 \$ (96,300)

Total Decrease: \$ (96,300)

Section 1. General Fund Expenditures

Increase: Library Building 11-6167 \$ 1,300

Increase: EMS 11-4368 \$ 95,000

Total Increase: \$ 96,300

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2014.

Appointments: Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the following appointments:

Centralina Workforce Development Board: The reappointment of Bob Stowe as one of the Private Sector representatives. Mr. Stowe will serve from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016. The appointment of Ms. Lula Jackson as the Social Services representative for an initial 2 year term. Ms. Jackson replaced Mr. Wease.

Region F. Aging Advisory Council (RFAAC): Joanne Clark appointed to serve out the 2013-2015 term (delegate), reappointment of Thomasina Spencer for a term 2014-2016 as a delegate and the appointment of Angela DiPietro for a term 2014-2015 as an alternate.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Baucom noted a closed session was needed and asked board members if they wanted that or if they wanted to talk about the budget. Vice Chair Streater voiced that he likes the budget but he doesn't like the amount of fund balance we're using. Vice Chair Streater asked the County Manager and Ms. James how many years have we been using our fund balance with County Manager Gatewood answering we've used it very carefully over the last several years. County Manager Gatewood noted that as he has stated to the board on many occasions our goal is not to dip below five million dollars and they believe this budget is manageable and will allow us to maintain that threshold. County Manager Gatewood stated that he was not concerned about the fund balance with Vice Chair Streater saying he was because sooner or later we will have to raise taxes and he doesn't want to do a lot at one time. County Manager Gatewood stated that fiscal year 2015 he is not concerned about the fund balance and dipping below five million dollars. Vice Chair Streater asked if anyone knows where we are with County Manager Gatewood saying it was always a moving target but if he had to guess we would be somewhere between six and six and one-half million dollars. Chairman Baucom asked if that includes all the funds for the rest of the year with County Manager Gatewood answering correct. Chairman Baucom asked if that also includes taxes that have come in for this year or the coming year with County Manager Gatewood saying he believes our fund balance is somewhere between six and probably six and one-half million dollars right now as we speak. Ms. James stated that she actually ran a fund balance as of this week and it is 6.6 million. Chairman Baucom asked if that was unencumbered with Ms. James answering unencumbered. Commissioner Sims asked what the state requires with County Manager Gatewood answering they require one month, 8% so on a \$30,000,000 budget we're talking about 2.4 million dollars that we would have to maintain. County Manager Gatewood noted that our budget was not \$30,000,000 as it was \$28.5 so a little less than the 2.4 million dollars. Chairman Baucom stated that that includes funds that come in from the feds and asked if ad valorem tax money was 18 million with Ms. James answering that monies collected is about 12.8 million. Chairman Baucom asked in this budget the amount of ad valorem tax with Ms. James answering \$12,712,868. Vice Chair Streater asked if there was any new revenue coming in with Ms. James answering that revenues were pretty stagnant. Ms. James feels the only way you can get revenues up was by instituting new charges or fees otherwise all revenues have pretty much been stagnant or level. County Manager Gatewood noted that was in total. County Manager Gatewood noted an upside over the last two years is our landfill. County Manager Gatewood stated that we have moved from around \$750,000 to this year we anticipate a little over a million dollars and next year we are forecasting with their full support

right at 1.25 million dollars in fiscal 2015. Vice Chair Streater stated that if the County Manager, Rita and Ms. Randall were comfortable with it he won't worry but when you keep taking money out of the bank and don't put any in sooner or later you won't have any. Ms. James noted that they have been budgeting money in the budget to balance the budget. Ms. James explained that this means that our expenses are here, our revenues are here but they don't meet so we have to appropriate some fund balance to make them level. Ms. James stated that the last couple of years we've not use any fund balance even though we budgeted that we would. Ms. James added that this means our revenues were higher than expected or our expenses were not as much as expected. County Attorney Forbes asked what the fund balance was last year with County Manager Gatewood saying about six and one-half million dollars. Commissioner Sikes mentioned the revenue from the landfill and there is so much coming in out there he thinks we need our full time person back looking after that. Commissioner Sikes stated that he had pictures he took of the mess out there that no one is looking after or controlling. Commissioner Sikes stated that as far as recycling goes we were fiftieth in the state and now we are ninety-ninth because no one is looking after the recycling bins and having them emptied. Commissioner Sims thought there was going to be an ad in the paper next week to cover this with County Manager Gatewood saying that was correct with two part time landfill monitors working from 6:30 AM until 5:00 PM. Commissioner Sikes stated that we've had part time for the last year and feels we are going downhill. County Manager Gatewood shared that he tries to visit the landfill once a week and when he was there earlier this week he talked with the gentleman that works for Richard Allen security and said I don't smell anything and he said there really was no odor problem at the landfill as it was a misnomer. County Manager Gatewood shared that the gentleman said the odor problem they have is when someone brings bad chickens and throws them in the dumpster but apart from that there is no odor problem. County Manager Gatewood commented that it was relatively clean and he said it was well organized and clean and you will get reports and hear things about the landfill that simply are not true. County Manager Gatewood stated that he plans to continue going to the landfill as often as he can and so does Mike Sessions. Chairman Baucom said when she worked at the college she would roll her windows down as she went by the landfill just to see if she smelled anything and she never did. Chairman Baucom stated that she has had one complaint about the smell and it was the previous owners. Chairman Baucom shared that she and Andy Lucas went and talked with them and they found that they had not put in the methane burners yet and when they put those in that took care of it. County Manager Gatewood reminded board members of the complaints from residents of Boylin Road about the quality of the water. County Manager Gatewood stated that we tested a well and with the landfill's financial support we were able to provide county water to all of those residents. County Manager Gatewood stated that they had brackish water and that is what they were tasting and not residue from the landfill. County Manager Gatewood ask board members to keep in mind we've been conserving on expenses and looking for all resources and that is why we've been selling off timber and why we plan to sell off some land with your support. County Manager Gatewood stated that most material is sold on GovDeals. Deb Arnason

mentioned that she visited the White Store landfill the other day and she had a bag of garbage and a bag of recyclables. Ms. Arnason said the recycle bin was a mess but she put her bag in there and when she went to put her trash in the bin there was a man on a truck dumping a large kid's toy in the barrel full of aluminum cans. Ms. Arnason said she told him he could not put that in there as they were worth money. Ms. Arnason said it occurred to her that in Union County they used to charge a quarter a bag for garbage but have since raised it to seventy-five cents. Ms. Arnason stated that they don't charge for recyclables and they have them really neat and felt if we charged a quarter a bag we would not have people putting their aluminum cans into the garbage. Chairman Baucom explained that the county does not own the landfill. Ms. Arnason shared that she talked with Denise about this and she said maybe instead of doing a punishing thing we could get Wendy's to offer a small frosty to anyone that puts their recyclables in the recycle bin. Ms. Arnason stated that she and Denise would be willing to approach Wendy's feeling something has to be done about this. Vice Chair Streater felt if it was in a plastic bag how do you know what is in there with Ms. Arnason not sure. Chairman Baucom felt this needed to be a grass roots project and didn't know that government had any ability to deal with this. Chairman Baucom feels the towns may have more latitude with this kind of thing than the county. County Manager Gatewood asked to return to the school and asked to clarify for the record the amount of money we are short of their request. County Manager Gatewood noted we were \$145,959 short and he pulled Mr. Freeman aside and he confirmed this was the amount. Chairman Baucom asked if this was with the increase in the supplement with County Manager Gatewood answering yes and it also reflects a little higher operating expenses. Chairman Baucom felt if we get more than this in the sales tax revenue we could buy some smart boards for the classrooms and give the kids an edge. Chairman Baucom stated that she would be perfectly happy to lance it out to them or have it sitting there for next year. Chairman Baucom again believes the way to sell it is for it to be for education in public schools. Chairman Baucom stated that the college could be included as they need major repair work but if it can help us make up this deficit and fully fund them, even with a little extra she says go for it. County Manager Gatewood agreed saying if you position it for education or public schools that includes the community college. County Attorney Forbes stated that the community college collects tuition and wondered if they were in a different category than public schools with Vice Chair Streater saying we have an early college on that campus. County Attorney Forbes wondered with all the low interest money coming from the federal government in the future he just wondered. Commissioner Sturdivant shared that the early college was ninth through twelfth grade. County Manager Gatewood suggested positioning it for education and that gives this board the discretion to distribute it as they desire. Chairman Baucom voiced that she would love to put smart boards in every classroom we have. Commissioner Sims voiced that he was fearful that in the next few years we will see more and more come down from the state that we have to pay for and it may be in a year or two we will be scrambling for money just to keep schools open. County Manager Gatewood stated that he would certainly do the research but asked how we start a referendum for this purpose. Chairman Baucom stated that first we

verify that it is still available to us and if not, we call McLaurin and Brody and tell them to get it on there. Vice Chair Streater asked if a vote was needed to put it on the ballot with the Chairman thinking they should. Vice Chair Streater asked if they would know by the next meeting what we need to do to get it going with County Manager Gatewood answering they would have a report two weeks from tonight. Chairman Baucom shared that as they went out the door they were talking about forming a committee. Chairman Baucom stated that we have to set up a committee for accounting, we need a bank account and a treasurer and we need to support and campaign for it. County Manager Gatewood asked what time frame are we looking at with Commissioner Sturdivant saying put it on the November ballot. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, that we look into putting the quarter cent sales tax for Anson County on the ballot for November and earmark it for education/public schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sikes asked if the landfill was being checked on why was all the electronics on the ground which is an EPA violation with County Manager Gatewood answering they were being prepared for shipment to the recycler for electronics. Commissioner Sikes feels they need to be covered and stacked when they come in and not just lay there. County Manager Gatewood shared that they were covering them with plastic wrap and preparing them for shipment and they should be shipped by the end of next week. Chairman Baucom felt we needed to make sure it is monitored with over sight. Vice Chair Streater asked if the two part time people would be there at all times and then asked if we have to pay benefits. County Manager Gatewood answered that we are looking to pay \$9/hour and nineteen hours per week max per employee. County Manager Gatewood stated that it was a total yearly cost of \$17,000 to \$18,000 with no benefits included. Commissioner Sikes asked if anyone was checking on the cells to see if they were leaking or staying up to date like they should be with County Manager Gatewood answering that the county has hired SCS engineers to monitor new cell development and construction to make sure it is done properly and correct and they also go to the convenience sites and monitor those operations to make sure things are done well and in order. Commissioner Sikes was of the opinion SCS worked for Waste Connections with County Manager Gatewood saying they were hired by the county. Commissioner Sikes felt it was illegal if they actually do work for Waste Connections and they try to monitor them too. County Manager Gatewood commented that Commissioner Sikes might be correct but he doesn't believe that is the case. Chairman Baucom asked the County Manager to check on it and he said he would double check on it. Commissioner Sikes stated that he had papers that says it is but we need to make sure whether they actually work for Waste Connections and was of the opinion they did as far as checking methane. Commissioner Sikes said he would share a copy of the paperwork with the County Manager to review. County Manager Gatewood mentioned the \$145,959 gap with the school system and asked the pleasure of the board. Vice Chair Streater wondered how it could be done with Chairman Baucom saying she doesn't see how we can close the gap without the additional funds. Chairman Baucom asked the amount we were taking from fund balance with County

Manager Gatewood answering \$799,000. Chairman Baucom stated that she would be uncomfortable going more than that. County Manager Gatewood stated that he was a product of Anson County school system and he has four siblings who all graduated from Anson County school system. County Manager Gatewood shared that it produced two doctors, a lawyer, an artist and the lonely County Manager. Commissioner Sims shared that Mr. Gatewood held a position with Eli Lilly and was in charge of all operations in Canada. Commissioner Sikes asked about our tax rate percentage with County Manager Gatewood answering it was not good. County Manager Gatewood stated that we were right at 92% -93% property tax collection rate and we've been stagnant there for the last four years. Commissioner Sikes asked the average state-wide with County Manager Gatewood answering right at 95% and some counties are 97%, 98% and 99%. County Manager Gatewood felt this was an issue and we've got to find a way to collect more of those dollars. County Manager Gatewood noted that Mr. Dutton does a good job but we've got to do better. Chairman Baucom agreed that he does a good job and he's been creative and she feels the two ladies at the counter are doing a good job. Chairman Baucom noted they are very pleasant and that was not always the case. Chairman Baucom asked about garnishing with County Manager Gatewood answering that Mr. Dutton is responsible for garnishments. County Manager Gatewood shared that the change was made about six weeks ago so it is his responsibility to do the garnishments and he has a staff to make it happen. Vice Chair Streater stated that he saw some county employees in that paper with County Manager Gatewood feeling departments are responsible for those employees. Vice Chair Streater felt it didn't look good and we have access to their paycheck and we need to start taking a little bit out. County Manager Gatewood noted that Mr. Dutton has that authority now. Vice Chair Streater asked who had the authority before with County Manager Gatewood answering Ms. James had that responsibility. Ms. James stated that she did all the garnishments last year herself. Chairman Baucom asked if she got the money with Ms. James answering she got \$5,000 the very first payroll. Vice Chair Streater stated that he did not want to send them home with no money but he thinks we need to start taking a little bit out of every check until the taxes are paid. County Attorney Forbes suggested following the statutes on this as there are limits. County Attorney Forbes was of the opinion you could not take a person's entire paycheck. Ms. James noted you can take 10%. Ms. James shared that several employees came to her and volunteered for garnishment and she's been garnishing their wages for the tax. Chairman Baucom asked about vehicle taxes with Ms. James answering they were wonderful and since the state is collecting them it was a whole lot better. Vice Chair Streater wondered since Mr. Dutton is appointed by this board if they needed to send him that directive with County Manager Gatewood answering which directive. Vice Chair Streater said to start garnishing with County Manager Gatewood saying he has that assignment. Vice Chair Streater asked if he was going to do it with County Manager Gatewood saying he asked for it with Vice Chair Streater thinking if he asked for it then he will do it. County Manager Gatewood stated that we can't close it all at \$145,959 but he would like to accept the assignment along with Ms. James and Ms. Randall to look through the budget to see areas that we can carve and come up with half of that money for the

school system. County Manager Gatewood stated that this would be his recommendation to the board and to challenge staff to come up with those funds. Vice Chair Streater added and not mess with fund balance with County Manager Gatewood saying and not mess with fund balance. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if a motion was needed with County Attorney Forbes suggesting not a motion but give the County Manager the assignment since you have not approved the budget. Chairman Baucom feels this will give them some upfront money and they seem very confident the referendum will pass and if it raises that much money we can just pick it up from there. Vice Chair Streater asked if it passes in November when will we start seeing the results with Ms. Randall answering the first collection we'll see will be April 1, 2015. County Attorney Forbes asked if the money they are asking for would go directly for pay raises or is it going to other things with County Manager Gatewood answering that about half is for operating expenses and half for teacher supplement. County Attorney Forbes asked if the board was giving them the money with no strings attached and they decide where to spend it with County Manager Gatewood saying he would like to target it for teacher supplement as that is what he has heard repeatedly. Vice Chair Streater stated that in the budget requested we could give another one-half percent. Vice Chair Streater stated that he wanted \$209,755 and he got \$137,652 with County Attorney Forbes saying that was only \$69,000. Ms. James offered that \$145,959 was the correct amount with Vice Chair Streater thinking the County Attorney was right. It was then noted the difference was \$72,103 but there is more to it. Ms. Randall noted it was on page 200 of the proposed budget. County Manager Gatewood stated that for the sake of time he would double check and he did reconfirm it with Mr. Freeman tonight. Chairman Baucom stated that with what you can find we can go ahead and do the supplement with County Manager Gatewood answering that is correct. County Manager Gatewood stated that the teacher supplement of \$72,103 is basically closing one-half of the gap. Chairman Baucom felt this would help in recruiting. County Attorney Forbes asked if the gap was about giving them \$145 more than last year compared to where they were. County Manager Gatewood explained that it was \$65,000 for years and then last year we doubled it so this is over and above the doubling. Vice Chair Streater stated that whatever you do we want to make sure you keep our employees where they're at with County Manager Gatewood saying that was his recommendation. Chairman Baucom voiced that she would like to see the two ladies in collections and she knows if you do one you've got the whole bunch with County Manager Gatewood saying they were customer service representative. County Manager Gatewood explained that one is a senior and one started just three years ago and she will move up to the senior level after six years of service. County Manager Gatewood noted that we have more customer service representatives that are doing a great job than just these two. Chairman Baucom stated that these two look like they are some of lowest paid with County Manager Gatewood saying that all of our customer service representatives are right at the same level. Ms. James added that we have six total, two at water, two in the DMV office and two in the tax office. Chairman Baucom commented that she was impressed with the attitude and the greetings of those two. Chairman Baucom mentioned DMV, saying she was not going there. Vice Chair

Streater felt the 2.5% proposed would help everybody and didn't many people in the private sector get that last year. Commissioner Sims voiced that his retirement has gone five years without an increase with Chairman Baucom saying she was losing money. County Attorney Forbes commented that the real inflation rate was about 16% but what the government tells you is it is around 3% or 4% which is just a sham. County Manager Gatewood noted that for the close out on the budget there is another piece he would like to discuss in closed session.

Closed Session: Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to go into closed session for personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) 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 Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, to approve the County Manager's recommendation for increases.

Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to recess until next Thursday, June 26th. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 2 hr. 30 mins.