

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their recessed meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center.

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

Commissioner absent: Harold Smith

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

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Baucom called the recessed meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who are present. Deacon Melvin Davis delivered the **Invocation**.

Budget Presentation:

County Manager Garner presented the Fiscal year 2017-2018 budget, in which she noted there were no increase in property or fire district tax.

EXHIBIT A

Commissioner Sims expressed concern with the fire departments not receiving sufficient funding. County Manager Garner noted that the Fire chief's association has prepared a packet for consideration by the Board. Wadesboro Fire District is at 9.6 percent and all the other fire districts are at 7.6 percent.

EXHIBIT B

County Manager Garner proposed a water and wastewater increase. Commissioner Woodburn made a motion for further discussion, Commissioner Streater seconded.

*Commissioner Woodburn withdrew his motion until the Board can hear a presentation from Utilities Director Mike Sessions at the June 6, 2017 regular Board meeting. Commissioner Woodburn noted he would like to hear what impact this may have on local businesses and industries.

County Manager Garner shared that a three (3%) percent cost of living raise for Anson County employees will be effective July 2017. Commissioner Streater asked County Manager Garner to increase the proposed cost of living raise to five (5%) percent for Anson County employees and recalculate the budget. Commissioner Streater requested County Manager Garner to move two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the fund balance to sustain the cost of living raise.

County Manger Garner explained that as of January 2018, the NC State Health Plan will no longer allow local government to pay for employees' health coverage directly. County Manager Garner proposed a seventy-five (\$75) dollar pay increase per employee effective January 2018, to support a mandatory payroll deduction to pay a portion of their health insurance. Allowing the County to continue to provide health insurance without negative effect to employees' paychecks. She also noted that the NC State Plan will not accept retirees. The County retirees' health insurance is being handled by a separate, local insurance agent.

County Manager Garner also shared with the Board, proposals for position allocations, Capital items, Anson County Schools and South Piedmont Community College.

EXHIBIT A

*Commissioner Sturdivant asked for a 10-minute break.

After the break, Commissioner Sturdivant shared she would like for the Board to meet individually with the Department Heads, noting some Department Heads are doing more than their job descriptions. Chairman Baucom agreed.

Chairman Report:

Chairman Baucom asked the Board what was their vision and legacy for Anson County.

Chairman Baucom shared she would like to see Anson County continue to be self-sustaining and self-sufficient. Noting that Anson County has a great agriculture (food) and an excellent water/sewer system, pointing out the need for diversity in Economic Development.

Commissioner Sims shared that he like to see an increase in the County's economic situation to where the young people could come back to Anson County and have a job.

Commissioner Woodburn expressed he would like to be more of a user friendly county. Be in full support of our school system and education, primary and secondary. Have a good economic program in place. Have a good quality of life, noting the bypass will yield growth. Commissioner Woodburn shared he wanted his legacy to be that he made the best decision for the county and citizens based on the data he had.

Commissioner Sikes shared he wanted growth for the citizens of Anson County, and the citizens to have what they need.

Vice-Chair Streater feels that some courses need to be placed back into the school system, such as carpentry, brick masonry, etc.

Attorney Forbes shared that he like to see poor kids get the same opportunities as other kids, with more programs such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, etc. He's liked to see more jobs to retain college educated youth in the county. He recommended the County exploit water and landfill revenue opportunities to increase money within Anson County, promote economic growth, and tourism. He would like to see improvement in school facilities as they are the nicest building many children will visit.

Commissioner Sturdivant shared that her legacy is education. She believes in the youth, elderly, economic development, safety and security.

Commissioner Sikes shared concern about the staffing at the airport and the landfill.

Commissioner Woodburn stated that solar farms are growing in Anson County and some information on these would be beneficial.

Closed Session: Motion by Commissioner Streater, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to go into closed session to consult with the attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3). Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sims made a motion to come out of closed session, Commissioner Woodburn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

In open session, Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to repel her previous motion to forgive the interest on Johnsie Jones Heirs property tax, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board