

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for a recessed meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015 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  
Dr. Jim Sims  
Vancine Sturdivant  
Jarvis Woodburn

Staff members present: Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC Clerk to the Board

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

**Lease with SanStone for Kitchen:** Chairman Baucom reported that she had a phone call from Alex Atchinson, Attorney for SanStone saying that they have moved the hospital kitchen for Anson Health and Rehabilitation to the former Ashe Street building and they want out of the contract. Chairman Baucom asked the pleasure of the board. Commissioner Woodburn noted that was the condition that when they were finished they would turn it over to us. The Clerk shared that according to the contract it can be terminated at any time with 30 days written notice and shared a copy with those attending. Chairman Baucom stated that she received the call on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May and asked if June 18<sup>th</sup> would be the end of the contract. Vice Chair Streater commented that they were not good community neighbors as they were all for profit. Commissioner Woodburn felt we should go by the contract and check and make sure nothing is hanging out there that they need to do or we need to do. Commissioner Woodburn felt we should coordinate with Carolina Healthcare. After discussion, motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, that we stick to the 30 days' notice. Chairman Baucom asked if that was from today or when with Vice Chair Streater saying when he called. Commissioner Woodburn then read from the contract: tenant may terminate this lease at any time during the lease term with thirty (30) days prior written notice to Landlord of such termination. Upon such termination, the monthly rent shall be prorated from the date rent is payable pursuant to Section 2 below through the effective date of termination. The monthly rent during the term of this lease shall be \$1,000.00 per month due and payable on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Rent for the first month and last month, if not for a complete month, shall be prorated. Commissioner Woodburn noted that the June rent would be prorated. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Baucom shared that she has had two inquiries about the county flag in the past two weeks. Chairman Baucom felt this was discussed once before and asked

the clerk if we lost the flags we had with the clerk answering we sold or gave them out and there were no more. The Clerk shared that Alisha Huntley called her yesterday asking about a flag and she has a note in the office to contact Conder Flags to see if they have any and the cost to make more.

Chairman Baucom stated that at some time this board agreed to redraw fire district maps. Commissioner Sims voiced that he was glad she brought this up as he has had some calls about this. Chairman Baucom added that this afternoon she had a call from John Greene saying the maps were to be sent to Raleigh but it has not been done. Vice Chair Streater thought the Fireman's Association was going to do this and bring it back to the board with the clerk thinking Rodney was to handle this. Chairman Baucom asked when this was done saying Mr. Greene implied it was several years ago. Commissioner Sims understands you have to be within a certain mileage limit to a volunteer fire department or your insurance shoots up. Commissioner Sims stated that we have people outside the five mile limit and when it was drawn up you did not have all the equipment and fire trucks that we have now. Commissioner Sims felt all we have now is insurance companies making money on all these people outside the five mile limit. Vice Chair Streater explained that Morven was answering calls that actually Wadesboro is closer. Chairman Baucom stated that she would have a conversation with Rodney tomorrow to see where we are with this. Chairman Baucom thinks Mr. Greene or someone has talked with Rodney and she thinks it is being held up in the tax assessor's office. Chairman Baucom will follow it to the Assessor's office after she talks with Rodney. Commissioner Sims asked what the new maps will show with those present thinking it will show six miles. Commissioner Woodburn stated that this may be a question Rodney can answer.

**Meeting Date to Approve Water/Sewer Rates:** Vice Chair Streater asked if there would be an increase in the rates with the Clerk answering she understands they are not recommending an increase this year. The Clerk shared that they are asking if the board has some time next week that they could meet with them for 30 minutes to approve the rates for next fiscal year. Commissioner Sims voiced that if we have to raise taxes he did not want to raise water rates at the same time if it can be avoided. Commissioner Sims mentioned the 24-inch line with Vice Chair Streater feeling we will have to borrow money for that. After discussion, board members agreed to meet Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon.

**Water/Sewer for the Agri-Civic Center:** Chairman Baucom stated that this process was moving on down the road and they are in the process of selecting an architect. Chairman Baucom noted the discussion came up about water and sewer to the site. Chairman Baucom was not sure if the site was in the town or the county. The Clerk shared that they have both town and county sewer in the area and there is county water on Morven Freight Line Road. Vice Chair Streater felt the project needed to be on county water. Chairman Baucom asked to discuss this at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting when they discuss water rates to find out exactly what is there.

**Review Applications for County Manager:** Commissioner Sims shared that he read completely all applications submitted and felt we were in bad shape. Vice Chair Streater and Commissioner Sturdivant agreed. Commissioner Sims shared that we have people with a GED, several making \$12 to \$15 an hour applying for this job and three from the same place. Commissioner Sims feels there is one guy that is a possibility and he feels he will want in excess of \$115,000. Vice Chair Streater agreed with Commissioner Sims saying he did not see anyone to interview. Commissioner Sturdivant felt if Bonnie, Rita, Anna and Ross would stay on as our group and Bonnie and Rita agree to say one more year to the end of 2016, we should keep the group we have. Commissioner Sims felt we needed more applications. Commissioner Sturdivant felt we should take Tiffany and Jeff off the group. Commissioner Sims stated that he would take the group we have now over any application in the book. Chairman Baucom voiced that she was in over her head and nothing in her background or training, except for the time she has served on this board, prepared her to do a good job as County Manager. Commissioner Sims voiced that she has good helpers. Chairman Baucom felt Bonnie was catching the brunt of it as she is on the front line and she is the one they call. Vice Chair Streater felt when Lawrence was here she got all the calls. Chairman Baucom felt the board was short changing themselves with her because she is doing the best she can but there is so much she does not know. Vice Chair Streater asked who was complaining about her with Commissioner Sturdivant answering nobody. Commissioner Sturdivant asked what if we put Bonnie as the interim. Commissioner Sturdivant asked Chairman Baucom if she was tired and she said yes. Chairman Baucom reminded board members that she would be gone a week in June and she would have her cell phone if they needed to call with Vice Chair Streater saying he would be here. Chairman Baucom stated that she would not bail out on them but they needed to know that this has not been her best work. Commissioner Woodburn stated that he saw one that probably has the background and experience and initially he was concerned that he recently retired from the military but after reading his references he came out of it thinking if those things he did actually happened he felt it was worth bringing him in to talk with. Commissioner Woodburn stated that he was going to make a call and he did not but the other person was the lady from Stanly County. Commissioner Sims voiced that she did not have the background with Commissioner Woodburn saying she was persistent because she has applied every time we've had an opening. Commissioner Woodburn asked how long our ad had been out there with Chairman Baucom thinking six weeks. Commissioner Woodburn felt if the applications were only coming in at this rate how many more are we going to get with Commissioner Sims thinking we might need to widen the search. Vice Chair Streater suggested getting through budget and then start up again. Commissioner Woodburn suggested advertising through NACo next time and that would be nationwide. Chairman Baucom shared that she made a score sheet and the retired military person won with 29 point, another had 27 points and it went downhill from that. Chairman Baucom stated that she was going solely on the background experience and education. Chairman Baucom shared that she was impressed with the retired military person's ability to improve the tax collection rate and felt a 4% increase would move us out of

the hole. Chairman Baucom felt since he was retired military he might be harsh and she thinks our employees would not do well with someone who was stern. Vice Chair Streater felt that might be what they need. Commissioner Woodburn commented that if you read the references on him he is not completely that way. Chairman Baucom stated that she liked that he was hands on leadership and he seems to be competent with complex projects. Board members noted that the top two candidates had both been fired from their last position because of a new board with Commissioner Woodburn saying you always have that exposure when the makeup of the board changes. Vice Chair Streater felt when a new board comes in and gets rid of the manager there is something going on. Commissioner Woodburn stated that if you pay attention to what goes on around the state all it takes is something to happen and sometimes it just takes one or two people to think something is not going the way they feel it ought to go and if they start working the county and have the support they need and get in there they can make a lot of things happen that you think would not happen. Vice Chair Streater felt the new board ran on something and the community got them in office. Chairman Baucom voiced that it sounds like the board is not going to interview anybody and we are going to drag this out some more. Chairman Baucom added they are going to look at advertising with NACo. Vice Chair Streater asked Chairman Baucom if they could talk with Ms. James tomorrow. Commissioner Sims commented that Bonnie could run it by herself but we are all going to need Rita. Chairman Baucom asked how many would like to interview the retired military person with Vice Chair Streater saying he would come but he was not interested in interviewing. Commissioner Woodburn felt if the majority was not interested there was no need to proceed. Chairman Baucom noted they would start back at square one. Chairman Baucom and Vice Chair Streater agreed to meet tomorrow at 11:00 A.M. to review the ad and talk with Rita and Bonnie. Vice Chair Streater felt we should wait until December to re-advertise. Chairman Baucom stated that tomorrow at Noon is for she and Vice Chair Streater to work on the ad and Noon Wednesday is for the water and sewer rates. Vice Chair Streater asked when would the team drop back to two or three with Commissioner Sturdivant saying she meant to include Jeff in the team.

Chairman Baucom called for a closed session to discuss personnel. Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6) to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against a public officer or employee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vice Chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sims, to recess until Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at Noon for the water/sewer budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie M. Huntley, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

Meeting time: 1 hr.