

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 beginning at 9:00 A.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

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

Commissioner absent: Harold Smith
Dr. Jim Sims

Staff members present: Rita James, Interim County Manager
Denise Cannon, Clerk to the Board
Cary Garner, Finance Officer

Other: Scott Forbes, County Attorney

Chairman Baucom called the meeting to **Order**, welcoming all who are present. Chairman Baucom asked Reverend Dr. Sarah Kalish to deliver the **Invocation**.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:

Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve the agenda, with item 3b, appearance by Gene McLaurin, moved to a later time and the correction of item 3f Christine Valcourt-GreenGo Energy, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Public Addresses:

Roshunda Terry, Anson County Extension Office Director, appeared before the Board to give a brief update and get some input from Board members on the Agri-Civic Center. Ms. Terry informed the Board that the Agri-Civic Center Facilities Planning Committee met on October 31 and discussed decreasing the Agri-Civic Center square footage and downsizing several offices. Ms. Terry explained the original design was about 55,000 square feet, but to possibly remove USDA, and reduce the conference room that was originally 800 seated at tables, to 600 seated at tables, will decrease the size of the Agri-Civic Center to about 40-45,000 square feet, bringing total cost estimated at 23 million dollars to about 15-17 million dollars. Ms. Terry reminded the Board that they agreed to 11 million dollars, but is requesting the

Board consider contributing 15 million dollars, for the construction of the Agri-Civic Center. Board members stated they would take this project under advisement.

Appearances:

Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant, Democratic Party Chair, introduced and presented Mr. Greg Eudy, Democratic Party nominee for Register of Deeds effective December 1, 2018. Commissioner Sturdivant stated Mr. Eudy has been a resident of Anson County for 45 years, and married for 33 years. Commissioner Woodburn made a motion to appoint Mr. Greg Eudy as Anson County Register of Deeds, effective December 1, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, motion carried unanimously.

Lula Jackson, Anson County Social Services Director, and Mr. Stuede, Moseley Architects, presented an update on the new DSS building. Ms. Jackson thanked the Board for all of their support, and continued support to get the new DSS building completed for the citizens of Anson County. Chairman Baucom asked about the plans for the old DSS building, Ms. Jackson said the current plan is to demolish the building, and then the County can decide further. Mr. Stuede highlighted several different aspects of the building, noting the floor plan has not changed and natural light will be accommodated within the offices as much as possible. Mr. Stuede shared it will be a security area and other increased safety areas. Mr. Stuede continued to describe several benefits and highlights of the new DSS building, in addition to thoroughly explaining the actual layout of the building. Mr. Stuede stated the project is on schedule and is ready to go out for bids in December with an attempt to award in January. Vice-Chair Streater shared the importance to continue working with Interim County Manager James and Finance Officer Garner as this project move forward. Vice-Chair Streater made the motion to move forward with the new DSS building, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Landric Reid appeared before the Board to request a resolution for retiring Detective Steven J. Erdmancyk. Sheriff Reid informed the Board that Detective Erdmancyk would be retiring on December 1, 2018. Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to approve a resolution for Detective Steve Erdmancyk; retirement of his badge and duty weapon, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

Abby Peterson and Martin Fisher, Atrium Health, appeared before the Board to discuss with Anson County the possibilities of an operation of a Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA), located at the Anson County Airport in order to serve the local community and surrounding areas. Mr. Fisher stated they currently operates 3 HAA bases, Concord NC, Hickory NC and Rock Hill

SC, Anson will be the fourth base. Mr. Fisher stated they would be looking to place office space, a hanger for the aircraft, four to six personnel staffing the base 24 hours a day, 365 days, once at full maturity they are expecting 35-45 patient transport a month. Most patients will go to CMC-Main, Charlotte, NC CMC-Northeast, Concord, NC or CMC-Pineville, NC. Mr. Fisher stated that they would be using about one hundred gallons of jet fuel per day, approximately 36,000 gallons of jet fuel a year. Mr. Fisher stated that the discussion of land and building construction will be optional, noting that most county airports do a long-term lease and Atrium build the facilities. Board members appeared to agree with the idea of Atrium providing their own facility and welcomed future discussions. Ms. Peterson stated once final approval comes from Atrium Health, the startup time would be between 3-12 months. Vice-Chair Streater made a motion to move forward with the discussions with Atrium Health for an operation of a Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA), located at the Anson County Airport, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

Christine Valcourt, GreenGo Energy presented a new solar project developing off Airport Road and Morgan Sellers Road, Wadesboro, NC. Ms. Valcourt stated that they are currently in the process of purchasing seventy-two acres, with the project using twenty-eight acres, from the current landowners early next year. Ms. Valcourt stated that this project would be a 5MWac, fixed tilt system that will interconnect to and serve the existing Duke Energy grid. Ms. Valcourt noted that Airport Solar would be located within close proximity to the Anson County Airport, and GreenGo Energy is currently following the processes with the FAA to establish whether the proposed construction will impact airport operations. Ms. Valcourt shared that Airport Solar has not applied for its special use permit from Anson County, but is still gathering all documentation so it can present a complete product later next year. Ms. Valcourt shared that prior to Airport Solar making a substantial investment they would like to seek input from Board members and the general public, which could be mitigated before completing the real estate transaction. Board members shared some concerns about Airport Solar, purchasing property before getting clearance from the FAA and decommissioning.

Steve Adams, Elections Director appeared to request the use of the parking area of the old hospital. Mr. Adams stated that Anson County lead the State, county our size in voter turnout, yielding parking congestion. Mr. Adams asked Board members to consider allowing the Board of Elections the opportunity to utilize the former emergency room parking area. Mr. Adams stated that staff and campaigners would park in the additional spaces, allowing the main lot accessible to voters. Board members stated they did not want to pass ownership to the Board

of Election, but would consider an agreement. Attorney Forbes suggested an agreement, transferring liability. County Attorney Forbes stated he would like to research the area and review walking access from the parking lot to the Elections building.

Julian Swittenberg, Director of Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. discussed the transfer of the town square property to the town of Wadesboro. Mr. Swittenberg stated there are two areas of concerns, the holly shrubs around the gazebo and trees on the county property on the town square. Chairman Baucom stated she hate to see the trees die. Commissioner Sturdivant feels the shrubs and trees could be a safety issue. Ms. Swittenberg stated the Town of Wadesboro is willing to take care of the trees growing alongside the Belk building. Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to do what is needed, as far as Mr. Swittenberg's landscaping recommendations. Commissioner Woodburn asked Commissioner Sturdivant to amend her motion to include the County Manager involvement in landscaping recommendations and resolutions for the uptown square property, Commissioner Sturdivant agreed, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters:

Rosalyn Ingram, HR Manager appeared before the Board with an amendment request to the Personnel Ordinance. Ms. Ingram stated the amendment of Article III. The Pay Plan Section 9 Overtime of the Anson County Personnel Ordinance will cover exempt and nonexempt (overtime eligible and comp time eligible) employees during a declared State of Emergency. Ms. Ingram shared that by adopting this policy, the County will be able to receive additional reimbursements from FEMA. Vice-Chair Streater made a motion to amend Article III. The Pay Plan Section 9 Overtime of the Anson County Personnel Ordinance as follows:

State of Emergency. The amendment will read as follows.

Section 9. (b)

- (5.) In the event Anson County declares a State of Emergency for any natural or manmade disaster, exempt employees and non- exempt time employees are eligible for overtime compensation for hours worked over their normal work schedule during the event. Employees will return to their respective classifications when the State of Emergency declaration period ends.
- (6.) In the event a North Carolina county has been declared a disaster county by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, exempt employees and non-exempt employees that are required to work after the initial

event in a declared disaster county are eligible for overtime compensation for hours worked over their normal work schedule during the event.

Seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments:

Commissioner Woodburn, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, moved to appoint Cynthia Springer as Trustees to the Anson County Library Board for one term. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager's Report:

Interim County Manager James recognized Cary Garner, Finance Officer to address the issue of financing vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Garner gave a handout with three bank proposal comparisons, with Uwharrie Bank being the bank of choice. Mr. Garner explained the initial loan amount will be \$214,869.00, with an interest rate of 2.99%, for 3 years, with an annual payment of \$76,012.79, cost of the loan \$13,169.37, and total cost of the loan \$228,038.37. Motion made by Vice-chair Streater, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant to approve the financing of the Sheriff's Office vehicles through Uwharrie Bank, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Baucom shared that it has been a privileged to serve twelve years on the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Baucom expressed her heartfelt feelings on her time serving Anson County. Chairman Baucom shared several accomplishments while serving on the Board, building the EMS building, Government Center renovations, Belk building renovations, courthouse renovations, and airport improvements. Chairman Baucom stated that during her time as Commissioner, the Board has improved employee salaries, and put items on the drawing board such as the Agri-Civic Center, DSS building, and a new middle school, in addition to an improved economic development strategy and a state of the art landfill. Chairman Baucom shared that the County has an active County Attorney, which is protective of the Board. Chairman Baucom expressed it has been a pleasure to serve with the Board.

Consent Agenda:

Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, property tax refunds/adjustments, and an emergency management resolution, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Concerns:

Commissioner Woodburn shared his concerns on the condition of the Belk building. Commissioner Woodburn stated that the basement fills with water and has to be pumped out, and the Department of Public Safety Offices are covered in mold and other unhealthy conditions and the employees need to be moved from the building. Commissioner Woodburn feels the Town of Wadesboro needs to be aware that removing the trees alongside the Belk building could aggravate the already existing issues. Commissioner Woodburn shared that the County Manager should be authorized to research other office space options for the Department of Public Safety employees, because the child support employees will move to the new DSS building. Finance Officer Garner stated that drainage has to be taken into consideration and something has to be incorporated to remove water from the property, along with the trees being a contributing factor. Finance Officer Garner shared that the mold situation is being addressed and remedied, but cannot ensure it will not happen again.

Aaron Mehaffey, Library Director presented a report of the impact on the community, to show the return on the county's investment in their public library for the last fiscal year. Mr. Mehaffey stated the County investment was \$223,827 dollars, which included \$10,000 payment for regional contracts, with the advantage of the region providing \$114,726, worth of training, materials, and professional salaries, which is \$11.46 for each tax dollar given to the library. Mr. Mehaffey explained that the total value of service that the library provided in the 2017-2018 year is approximately \$943,113.00. Mr. Mehaffey also shared with the Board that the library will start lending out internet kits, a backpack which contains a Chromebook, and a fully charged wireless internet hot spot, with free access to the library internet service at home.

Vice-Chair Streater asked for a 10 minute-break

Wanda Exum, Elderly Services Director, shared with the Board information about the annual Senior Citizens Luncheon scheduled for December 5 and 6. Ms. Exum shared that her staff is doing a great job and thanked the Board for their support.

Vice-Chair Streater recognized the Agri-Civic Center Committee members (Roshunda Terry, Janine Rywak, and LeRoy Lookabill), and asked them to the podium to discuss the Agri-Civic Center. Ms. Terry stated that the actual facility would be reduced in size from 55,000 total square feet to 42,000 square feet,

therefore reducing construction costs. Ms. Terry stated that the Board has already agreed to \$11 million dollars but is requesting the Board to consider contributing \$15 million dollars. Vice-Chair Streater explained that the subject should not be discussed at this time, due to all the Commissioners not being present and asked to further discuss this issue at the December Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Streater recognized Mr. Gene McLaurin to present Chairman Baucom with the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award. Mr. McLaurin asked Chairman Baucom and her family, along with retired Judge Fetzer Mills and retired Sheriff Tommy Allen to all join him for the presentation. Mr. McLaurin, retired Judge Fetzer Mills, and retired Sheriff Tommy Allen gave an extensive background and history of Chairman Baucom professional and personal accomplishments, noting her outstanding community involvement and her affection for Anson County. Mr. McLaurin presented Chairman Anna H. Baucom with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award. Chairman Baucom thanked everyone and shared her words of gratitude with Board members and the audience.

Vice-Chair Streater made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board