

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018 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  
Vancine Sturdivant  
Dr. Jim Sims  
Jarvis Woodburn  
Bobby Sikes

Commissioner absent: Harold Smith

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 Minister Jimmy Knotts to deliver the **Invocation**.

**Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:**

Commissioner Sturdivant moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a budget amendment from Anson County Schools Capital Reserve Fund, seconded by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

**Public Addresses:**

**Todd Moore** appeared before the Board to invite members and audience to a “Meet the Candidate” scheduled for September 22, 2018, 12-2 at Peachland Park.

**Lewis Evans, Chairman of the Anson County Tourism Development Authority** appeared before the Board to recommend the appointment of Brandis Chewing and John Marek to the TDA Board. Commissioner Sims moved to appoint Brandis Chewing and John Marek to the Anson County Tourism Development Authority, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

**Rodney Diggs and Brett Blalock, Emergency Services** appeared to update Board members and audience members on the most current weather conditions regarding Hurricane Florence. Mr. Diggs assured the Board that Anson County has been preparing and taken adequate precautions given the current data and storm predictions, noting more updates will come throughout the week.

Mr. Diggs discussed with Board members the need for a replacement ambulance. Vice-Chair Streater made a motion for Emergency Services to purchase a new ambulance, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

### **Appearances:**

**Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant** presented several community leaders with Certificates of Appreciation for their hard work helping the citizens of Anson County.

**Lula Jackson, Anson County Department of Social Services** gave a brief timeline of the progress with the new DSS building. Ms. Jackson stated that the project is still within budget and is on schedule for groundbreaking December 2018, with construction to be completed in the first quarter of 2020. Ms. Jackson stated that in the October meeting Mosely Architects would present the final design, construction documents, and confirm the project schedule. Mr. Gatewood shared with the Board three funding options (1) pay with cash, (2) 15 year loan at 4%, and (3) Hybrid (50% cash/50% debt)(10 year loan at 3.85%). Mr. Gatewood stated that he and the DSS Board recommends the County pay cash or consider a hybrid method for the New DSS building.

**Michael Freeman, Superintendent of Anson County Schools** addressed the Board about funding an additional School Resource Officer position, located on the western end of the County, at Peachland/Polkton Elementary School, neighboring Anson Early College. Mr. Freeman informed the Board that Anson County Schools has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$33,333 with a required local match of \$16, 667. Commissioner Woodburn made a motion to approve the grant proposal for the School Resource Officer, Commissioner Sims seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Pat Millen, E2D, Inc.** made a PowerPoint presentation to the commissioners toward the goal of eliminating the digital divide and to introduce the Re-Imagine NC Lab program to Anson County. Mr. Millen gave a brief history of his company noting it was founded in Davidson, NC in 2013 to create digital inclusion opportunities for residents, yielding 0% digital divide among school-aged students in Davidson. Mr. Millen explained if you fast-forward five years to today and E2D has now provided laptops to over 7,000 families at over 140 schools in Mecklenburg County. Mr. Millen further explained to the Board that E2D obtains donations of retired laptop computers from corporations and then, using students in its own refurbishment labs through Mecklenburg County, restores, re-images, re-licenses, and redistributes these donations to low-income families with school

students. The Board asked Mr. Millen to discuss this matter further with Superintendent Freeman.

**Appointments:**

Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, moved to re-appoint Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn to the Anson County Board of Health. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, moved to re-appoint Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn to the South Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Sikes, moved to appoint Leon Gatewood to the Sandhills Community Action Program. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager's Report:**

Interim County Manager James informed the Board that on August 31 she received a phone call from Pryor Gibson informing her that Anson County has made the list of six hometown strong action team visits, scheduled for November 12-14. County Manager James stated that several State Departments, such as Departments of Administration, Commerce, Revenue, Environmental Quality, Public Safety, etc. is expected to come and host hometown meetings, so they can explained how they can provide funding and/or resources to Anson County.

**Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Baucom stated that the several Commissioners traveled to Hickory, NC, for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and she was very appreciative for the opportunity to go, noting that school safety was a vital topic. Chairman Baucom discussed the upcoming Veterans Day activities. Chairman Baucom also discussed the census with Mr. Freeman. Chairman Baucom mentioned the Board needs to come together to review County Manager applications, by consensus, September 19 was set for the Board members to return. Commissioner Sikes shared that the Burnsville Fire Department will have their helipad dedication on September 15, at 11:00 am.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Sims move to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Board minutes, property tax releases/refunds/adjustments, Sandhills Center Quarterly Report, and two (2) Anson County Schools budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Commissioners Concerns:**

Maureen Lett, Animal Shelter Director informed the Board of a flooring problem at the animal shelter. Ms. Lett explained that the State Inspector says it is imperative that the animal shelter fix the flooring issue at the animal shelter. Ms. Lett stated she put in a request with building maintenance and they hired someone to come out and fix the flooring. Within two weeks, after the flooring was fixed they encountered issues with the flooring, noting they are improved in comparison to pre-repair condition, but they are not much better either. Ms. Lett said the vendor that did the repairs requires more funding to come back and repair the floors properly, which she feels is not fair and they should stick by their word with their work. Building maintenance nor the vendor were present to comment. Ms. Lett also said the State could possibly fine the animal shelter \$5000 for the inadequate flooring. The Board asked Attorney Forbes and the County Manager to review this matter further with maintenance and to contact the State to explain the issues and concerns.

### **Closed Session:**

Motion by Commissioner Sturdivant, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, to go into closed session for Personnel, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn to come out of closed session, motion carried unanimously.

In regular session, Commissioner Sturdivant made a motion to approve the request of the Anson County Board of Elections regarding the compensation of the Director position, seconded by Commissioner Sims, motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Streater made a motion to recess until September 19, at 6:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Sturdivant, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon  
Clerk to the Board