

THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS convened for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 18, 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
*Vancine Sturdivant
Jim Sims
Bobby Sikes
Jarvis Woodburn

Commissioners absent: Harold Smith

Staff members present: Andrew Wilkison, 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 were present. Chairman Baucom asked for a moment of silence in honor of September 11, Interim County Manager Wilkison delivered the **Invocation**.

Dr. Sims publically thanked Vice-Chair Streater for all of his hard work at the Anson County Animal Shelter. Dr. Sims also acknowledged that Vice-Chair Streater has spent a lot of time at the animal shelter and Dr. Sims feels that the whole County owes him a “thank you”.

Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:

Chairman Baucom added property tax releases/refunds/adjustments to the consent agenda and the airport to administrative matters. Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve the agenda with the additions, Commissioner Sturdivant seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Appearances:

Chris and Robin Sanford appeared before the Board to request an assessment of the Anson County Animal Shelter by Brother Wolf, the largest rescue and sanctuary in the state of North Carolina. Mrs. Sanford told the Board that the

assessment was approved last year, but was canceled by the former County Manager because of a break out of kennel cough. Vice-Chair Streater shared it was additional information to cause the cancellation. Chairman Baucom asked if the County would have a commitment, Mrs. Sanford answered none and this would be a three-part assessment. Chairman asked for a motion. No motion made. Commissioner Sturdivant asked if the Sanford's would like to take over the animal shelter operations. Mrs. Sanford felt that she could not answer at this time.

Janine Rywak, Cooperative Extension Director, invited the Board of Commissioners to their annual Report to the People meeting on December 5, 2017, at the Cooperative Extension Center. Commissioner Sturdivant recognized Ms. Katie Edwards and her outstanding representation of Anson County at the 2017 NCACC Conference.

*Attorney Forbes joined the meeting.

Ms. Rywak also addressed the Board with a request to consider a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Delivery Method for the Anson Agri-Civic Center. Ms. Rywak shared several points with the Board; Anson County is a small county with a small staff, which means there is limited professional expertise to work on projects, the architects will not be in Anson County daily to oversee everything, once the construction begins, citing that there needs to be someone in Anson County making sure the project is being handled the way it should be. If you do not have a professional at the start of the project during the design phase, you can possibly miss some key issues, they would be able to find or see items that could help save money in the future. Ms. Rywak further explained that hiring a CMR is like hiring a forester consultant, paying a little bit for their expertise, winding up with more money for you in the end.

Kristen Hess and Laura Kiser of HH Architect presented the preliminary Agri-Civic Center schematic design and budget to the Board. Ms. Hess asked the Board to consider hiring a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), citing that they add a lot of value and do charge a fee. Commissioner Sturdivant asked is this someone that will be on site daily and what is the closet firm to Anson County? Ms. Hess answered that a Charlotte firm would be the closet, noting that she is working with the one out of Goldsboro for Wayne County. Vice-Chair Streater asked was that not their job to handle the daily activities. Ms. Hess explained that her job was to provide the best design possible, but do not handle the actual day-to-day construction of the project. Chairman Baucom asked for more feedback and a list

of firms that could possibly provide the service. Ms. Hess encouraged the Board to consult with their peers. Commissioner Sims noted that Anson County has built approximately six schools while working with an architectural firm out of Wilmington, NC, noting that they handled everything from design to overseeing construction. Ms. Kiser presented a PowerPoint presentation for the actual building, providing information on site design, building design, schedules, ideas for the overall project, and general project information. Ms. Kiser projected the Agri-Civic Center could be completed at the earliest, February 2020, depending on the delivery method and how the project shapes out over the next year. Several Commissioners shared concerns with the roofing design and the number of restrooms in the facility. Ms. Hess noted that there will be follow up discussions with the Board at future Board meeting, addressing their concerns. Commissioner Woodburn asked for the Board to be provided with drainage information as well.

*Chairman Baucom asked for a 10-minute break

* Commissioner Sturdivant was excused from the meeting.

Christine Valcourt and John Burke, of GreenGo Energy US, Inc. appeared before the Board requesting a utility easement through the following Anson County property locations: 845 Airport Road/SR 1645 and Airport Road/SR1645/Adj Little Park. After several minutes of discussion from the Board, Commissioner Woodburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve authorization of the County Manager Wilkison and staff to prepare a proposal for the Board to review and present to GreenGo Energy US.

Public Addresses:

John Marek appeared before the Board to invite them and the others to the Set VII Uwahrie Region Civic Forum, scheduled for September 28, 10 pm to 2 pm. Giving anyone from Anson, Montgomery, and Stanly counties an opportunity for their input on economic development.

Charlotte Rhue Bennett appeared before the Board to voice her concerns and inquire about the process of removal of the Confederate soldier statue/monument on government properties. Ms. Bennett feels that symbols have done a lot of damage and they continue to be used as reminders to keep people separate and divided. Ms. Bennett feels that Anson County can lead the way in removing offensive symbols, and suggest the statue be placed somewhere more appropriate. Chairman Baucom feels the statue needs to be relocated. Chairman Baucom stated she is going to ask two Commissioners to serve on a task force to come up with suggestions and ideas on what can be done. Ms. Bennett expressed that her nightmares lead her to believe she would be mobbed and attacked by crowds once she protested the monuments. County Attorney Scott Forbes confirmed her fears

were merely dreams and she clearly expressed that she did not fear being attacked at the meeting nor in the parking lot afterward. County Attorney Scott Forbes volunteered to have a deputy escort her to her car, Ms. Bennett declined.

Tommy Allen appeared before the Board to invite them and others to the Anson County one-day special exhibit of documents from the NC State Archives, held at Lockhart-Taylor on Thursday, September 21 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Administrative Matters:

Maureen Lett, Animal Shelter Director presented the animal shelter report (8/29/2017) to the Board. Ms. Lett discussed animal shelter deficiencies, including building maintenance and gravel requirements. Vice-Chair Streater suggested putting cement in certain areas would be more cost efficient. Vice-Chair Streater stated that the inspector gave sixty days to be in compliance. Ms. Lett also shared the need for a kennel bank, and announced they are down to only two cats in the whole facility. Commissioner Sims feels the Board needs to spend additional money for shelter upkeep. Ms. Lett shared that the animal shelter policies and procedure manual needs to be updated within thirty days and have reached out to Cabarrus, Gaston, and Cleveland counties for assistance; they have all forwarded copies of their manuals. Ms. Lett stated to function as a no kill shelter they have to get their percentages down to ten percent, which they are currently at fifteen percent. The Board asked for a total amount of additional funding needed.

Aaron Mehaffey, Library Director presented the revised By-Laws for the Local Advisory Board of the Anson County Public Library. Commissioner Sims moved to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mehaffey also invited the Board and others to the Library's annual Batman Day celebration on September 23, from 12 pm to 3 pm.

Cary Garner, Finance Officer presented to the Board the Sandhills Center Quarterly Report, and noted it was consistent. Mr. Garner also presented a purchase request from the Anson County Health Department. He noted it was not budgeted for 2017-2018, however they did have a carry-over of unspent money from 2016-2017, approximately \$27,551. Commissioner Sims made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously.

Mike Sessions, Utilities Director, explained to the Board that Anson County previously applied for an AIA grant but was one of many communities that did not receive funding. The proposed resolution is requesting the grant funds again for the fall, 2017, noting that the County will have a five-thousand-dollar match. Mr. Sessions shared that if the grant is awarded to Anson County the one hundred-thousand-dollar award will be distributed, fifty

thousand dollars for water and fifty thousand dollars for wastewater treatment. Commissioner Sims made a motion to approve the resolution to apply for a State of North Carolina Asset Inventory and Assessment (AIA) grant for water and sewer systems, seconded by Vice-Chair Streater, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sessions shared information about the lagoons, having the bids opening Thursday, and the engineer will be there in October for approval.

Old Business:

Countywide Zoning:

No action taken

Manager's Report:

Interim County Manager Wilkison reminded the Board to set a date to review County Manager applications; date set for October 9th. He also reminded the Board of the Uptown Wadesboro fall festival will be October 28, from 10 am to 1 pm, with an outdoor movie event for the evening beginning at 7pm, County Manager Wilkison discussed the current and additional staffing options for the Anson County Airport. County Manager Wilkison noted he has reached out to surrounding counties for current airport staffing information. The Board asked County Manager Wilkison to report his staffing recommendations during the October Board meeting. County Manager Wilkison recognized that under Dr. Thompson's leadership the Anson County Health Department passed with honors their re-accreditation.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Baucom shared with the Board that the pre-agenda meeting will be September 26th at 3:00 pm. Chairman Baucom shared that she received a letter from Burnsville Learning Center requesting a donation. Chairman Baucom reminded the Board that the CDBG grants closeouts has been filed. Chairman Baucom informed the Board that Dr. Pharr, will be installed as SPCC president October 6th. Chairman Baucom also shared that along with herself, Vice-Chair Streater, Commissioners Sturdivant, Commissioner Woodburn, and the Clerk, all attended the 2017 NCACC Conference.

Consent Agenda:

Vice-Chair Streater moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: minutes, four Health Department budget amendments, 4-H flag, surplus items to be auctioned, and tax releases/refunds, seconded by Commissioner Woodburn, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Concerns:

Commissioner Woodburn shared that the Rocky River RPO met and the Town of Wadesboro Comprehensive transportation plan is set to start with no changes.

Closed Session:

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Cannon
Clerk to the Board