

**THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** convened for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center, Wadesboro, NC.

Commissioners present:	JD Bricken, Chairman Robert Mims, Vice-Chairman Jarvis Woodburn Priscilla Little-Reid Jamie Caudle Lawrence Gatewood
Staff members present:	Leonard Sossamon, County Manager Denise Cannon, Clerk to Board Lula Jackson, DSS County Employees
Other:	County Attorney Forbes

Chairman Bricken called the meeting to Order, welcoming all who were present. Chairman Bricken asked Pastor Donnie Helms, North Wadesboro Baptist Church, Wadesboro, NC to deliver the **Invocation**.

(Chairman Bricken read the State Government Ethics Act, G.S. 138-A statement.)

#### **Approval of the Agenda by Commissioners:**

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Vice-Chair Mims, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Vice-Chair Mims made a motion to approve the Consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Caudle, motion carried unanimously. Consent agenda as follows: Property tax/Refunds/Adjustments, Health Department, 2023 Debt Setoff, Budget Amendment (CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program), and Budget Amendment, Communicable Disease Pandemic Recovery.

**Appearances:**

**Sheriff Howell** appeared before the Board to present a resolution honoring Lieutenant Richard Little for his many years of dedication service to the citizens of Anson County. Sheriff Howell presented Lt. Little with his individual duty weapon after Chairman Bricken read Lieutenant Little's resolution aloud.

**Public Addresses to the Board:**

**Pastor Michael McLeod** appeared before the Board, contending that four Commissioners should not have made the decision for countywide district voting. Mr. McLeod stated that the Board must inform citizens about important issues being discussed and voted on, noting that things must be done in decency and order, and that the people had a right to offer their input and decide.

**Pastor Donna McNair** appeared before the Board to share that she discovered the idea of district wide voting has been floating around for quite some time. In the future, town hall meetings would be preferred for matters of high importance. Ms. McNair questioned the procedure and/or process of petitions, in order to not continue to be a divided county.

**Appointments:**

Vice-Chair Mims made a motion to appoint Robert Smith to the Anson County Jury Commission, seconded by Commissioner Caudle, motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Mims made a motion to reappoint Lee Ainsworth to the Anson County Board of Health, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Matters:**

Board members discussed whether or not to change the 2023 BOC meeting schedule. Specifically, whether to keep meeting twice a month in November and December considering the holidays. Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to maintain the current 2023 BOC schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Caudle, motion carried 5-1. Commissioners Gatewood, Bricken, Mims, Caudle, and Woodburn voted yes. Commissioner Little-Reid voted no.

Chairman Bricken presented a draft of the Boardroom Occupancy Policy, noting that it adheres to Fire Marshal policy. Board members agreed to consider the policy at the next Board meeting.

### **Manager's Report**

Spectrum was awarded a \$4 million grant from the State of North Carolina through the GREAT grant program, according to County Manager Sossamon. In addition to Spectrum's \$10.5 million dollar contribution, Anson County will contribute \$250,000 in ARPA supplemental funds, for a total of \$14.7 million dollars. This would provide broadband services to an additional 2,940 Anson County households and businesses, with an estimated completion date of 2025 or early 2026.

Mr. Sossamon informed the Board that Department Heads were provided with the opportunity to review and complete a survey in order to provide feedback on the revision of the County's travel policy. According to County Manager Sossamon, based on poll results from Department Heads, they prefer to do a comprehensive overhaul of the entire policy for the Board's consideration.

The Board was informed by County Manager Sossamon that tax notices would be distributed as soon as possible. The notices will not be affected in any way by the absence of a barcode.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Bricken stated that the Department of Environmental Quality Public Hearing regarding the landfill expansion is set for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Anson County Courthouse, noting that the meeting is hosted by the State and Waste Connections, not the County.

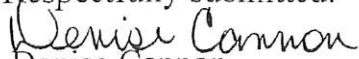
### **Commissioners Concerns:**

Commissioner Woodburn mentioned that he has recently seen previous interim County Manager Ray Allen, and he sends his regards to everyone.

### **Adjourn:**

Vice-Chair Mims made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gatewood, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Denise Cannon

Clerk to the Board