

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Tim Phillips, Vice-Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No.121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting was broadcast live and recorded on the Avery County Youtube Channel.

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
Chair Hicks called the roll with all members being present.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led prayer.
Blake Vance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess to allow the clerk to provide the Board with a ballot for the Fire Commission appointments.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in session after a brief recess.

Board Appointments

Fire Commission (Commissioner Appointee)

There are two applicants for the commissioner appointee for the Avery County Fire Commission; Matt McClellan and Joe Hawkins. Each commissioner was given a ballot and instructed to place a one beside their top choice and a two beside their second choice. The ballots were signed and dated by the board member. The ballots will be on file in the clerk's office for public inspection and will be recorded in the minutes.

Chair Hicks voted as follows: Joe Hawkins 2; Matt McClellan 1
Tim Phillips voted as follows: Joe Hawkins 1; Matt McClellan 2
Dennis Aldridge voted as follows: Joe Hawkins 2; Matt McClellan 1
Blake Vance voted as follows: Joe Hawkins 2; Matt McClellan 1
Wood Hall Young, Jr. voted as follows: Joe Hawkins 2; Matt McClellan 1

Joe Hawkins received 1 first place and 4 second place votes. (9)
Matt McClellan received 4 first place and 1 second place votes. (6)

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Blake Vance to appoint Matt McClellan to the Avery County Fire Commission for a two year term. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Fire Commission (Fire Association Appointee)

Johnny Mathes has been approved by the Fire Association as their representative for a two year term.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to appoint Johnny Mathes to the Avery County Fire Commission as the Fire Association representative. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Social Services Board

The term of Jerry Markland on the Social Services Board ended June 30, 2020. Mr. Markland has expressed his desire to be reappointed for a three year term.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Jerry Markland to the Social Services Board for a three year term. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Agreement—Avery County Medical Director

Mike Edmisten, Avery County EMS Director, introduced Dr. Deborah Rogers to the Board. Dr. Rogers has expressed interest in being the Medical Director for Avery County EMS. Dr. Michelle Curry will retire from this position as of September 1, 2020. The agreement is essentially a contract that spells out the terms between Avery County and Dr. Rogers.

Chair Hicks welcomed Dr. Rogers to Avery County and expressed the Board's appreciation for her interest in the Medical Director position.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the Agreement and appoint Dr. Deborah Rogers as the Avery County Medical Director. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Community Building at the Agricultural Center

Pierre Henwood and Rob Johnson from Boomerang Architects presented the Board with a proposal for the sound system from Mountain Heritage Systems. There was discussion regarding the sound system. Consensus to discuss at the September meeting.

Mr. Henwood presented the Board with some options for the flooring at the Community Building. There was discussion regarding the flooring. It was decided that the samples for the flooring would be in the Clerk's office and the commissioners would come by and let the Clerk know what they would prefer.

Eagles Nest Holding LLC Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision Approval

Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision approval was tabled at the last meeting. Derrick Buchanan, Sales Manager for Eagles Nest Holding, presented a master plan map for the Vineyard Village to the Board. Mr. Buchanan stated he was unable to come to the last meeting and he was made aware that there was some question about the fire suppression and that there was an in ground tank that has its own well near Vineyard Village. Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated the main thing at the last meeting was that there was not a master plan and that is not on you but on Tommy Burleson who is the Planning and Inspections Director. Tim Phillips said he didn't think we needed to hold these people up because of something that we have done. Dennis Aldridge stated that what he was concerned about was the fact that it seems we have put together 12,000 acres 10 acres at a time and it is easy to look at it in segments without looking at the totality and before long you have this huge development that has occurred gradually. That is what I was thinking about was the whole impact and how this was going to fit into the entire development but also the future development. We are not trying to discourage development but I want to make sure everyone is on the same page and everyone is getting the same information. Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that the master plan of the entire subdivision should be approved by the Planning Board so the question is has the Planning Board approved the master plan. Mr. Buchanan stated a master plan of 2,000 acres was approved when Turchin had Eagles Nest. Mr. Buchanan said so we just need to update our master plan and get it to the Planning Board.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in session after a brief recess.

Closed Session

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to go into Closed Session regarding Personnel (G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) at 5:13 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0). Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session. During Closed Session, no vote was taken.

Finance Officer Report – Ashley Ingwersen

Budget Amendment

Avery County Sheriff's Office ordered a new vehicle and it was not received until June 30, 2020. They were unable to complete the outfitting of the vehicle, plus tag, tax and title. We need to do a budget amendment to move the money from last fiscal year out of general fund to their line item this year in order to pay for the items.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$5,997.00 with a debit of \$5,997.00 to Capital Outlay Auto (105100.7410) and a credit of \$5,997.00 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment

New doors were ordered for the Administration Building and the wrong doors were received and we have not been able to get the correct items until last week. We need to do a budget amendment to move the money from last fiscal year out of general fund to their line item this year in order to pay for the items.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding the new doors at the Administration Building in the amount of \$17,200.00 with a debit of \$17,200.00 to Building & Grounds Capital (105000.7410) and a credit of \$17,200 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment

Mike Gragg Construction was hired to seal the brick at the Avery County Courthouse. Due to rain and other delays the work has been started but not completed. We need to do a budget amendment to move the money from last fiscal year out of general fund to the line item this year in order to pay once the work is completed.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding the Avery County Courthouse in the amount of \$16,300.00 with a debit of \$16,300.00 to Building & Grounds Capital (105000.7410) and a credit of \$16,300.00 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment

A new phone system was started last fiscal year . Due to delays from AT&T and then COVID, the installing has been delayed. Installation is in the final stages of completion. We need to do a budget amendment to move the money from the last fiscal year to this fiscal year to pay for the phone system.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding the new phone system in the amount of \$44,723.45 with a debit of \$44,723.45 to Finance Capital Outlay (104400.7400) and a credit of \$44,723.45 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment

When I entered the budget into our software I did not include the \$8,000 special appropriation to Teen Leadership Development. We need to do a budget amendment to put this money into their line item.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding Teen Leadership Development in the amount of \$8,000 with a debit of \$8,000 to Teen Leadership Development (107000.6149) and a credit to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment

The County has received a payment from the Department of Health and Human Services. This is from the COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding the COVID-19 Recovery Act in the amount of \$340,745.31 with a debit of \$340,745.31 to Cares Relief (105250.3700) and a credit of \$340,745.31 to Emergency Management Revenue (103812.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

County Attorney Report – Michaele Poore

No items to be discussed.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020 due to the Labor Day Holiday at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 7:04 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) **Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk