

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

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

Members Absent: Blake Vance

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Tim Phillips led prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Amend the Agenda

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to amend the agenda to add discussion with the Sheriff regarding vehicles for the 2019/2020 fiscal year under the Finance Officers Report 3.4B. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Celebrate County Government

Phillip Barrier, Jr. County Manager recognized the Avery Morrison Library Board. The board members are: Clayton Harpold; Stephen Bender; Susie Potter; Kathie Masee; Josh Smith; Aneda Johnson.

Public Comment

Sarah Gray from Grandfather Home for Children invited the Board and the audience to tour Grandfather Home for Children. A lot of folks are confused and concerned about Grandfather Home for Children and we just want to show them what we do and answer any questions that they may have. We are also opening up the historical portion of Grandfather Home so we can have the community be a part of it also.

Shannon Cook and Amy Harris expressed appreciation to the Board for the donation that was given to Avery County Little League for the new concession stand. We appreciate the support and thank you for supporting the efforts. We served approximately 150 kids this past year including a senior league team.

Dennis Aldridge commented that Avery County Little League got the project moving and this Board was just following your lead. We commend you for the work that you are doing.

Board Appointments

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Matthew Bonestell has applied for an at-large position on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. His application has been reviewed.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Matthew Bonestell to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Review of Applications

The Board will review applicants for the Fire Commission and High Country Workforce Development Board.

Cannon Memorial Hospital– Carmen Lacey

Carmen Lacey, CEO of Cannon Memorial Hospital, explained that healthcare had changed drastically down the years. Twenty years ago Cannon had 70 beds, 20 of which were behavioral and 50 medical but that has changed because of the push from commercial insurances, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. to provide care on an outpatient basis. Our current daily census is 6 to 7 which has been the case for the past two years. We had an opportunity 2 ½ years ago to apply for a grant which we did. The intent of that money that was dedicated by the legislature was to convert unused medical beds to behavioral beds. We applied and received a 6.5 million dollar grant. As part of the grant, we will add an additional 27 adult behavioral beds for a total of 37 behavioral beds. This will increase the capacity to around 1500-1800 admissions annually. There will still be 8 critical access beds for inpatient medical needs. We will continue to provide the existing traditional hospital services: Emergency Department; Laboratory; Radiology including CT; Rehab services; Surgical services and continued inpatient medical treatment. The new construction of the 8 bed inpatient medical beds began in June. The medical unit will be located between the Emergency Department and the admissions department with the anticipated completion February 2020. The project for the additional 27 behavioral health beds should be completed in about 24 months. This will add 50+ additional positions to Cannon Memorial Hospital. The positions added will include psychiatrist, psychologist, social workers, registered nurses, certified nursing assistants, and support staff.

Dennis Aldridge questioned if all the services were inpatient. Carmen Lacey stated that there is a current outpatient behavior program and that as inpatient services are expanded so will outpatient services be expanded. Tim Phillips questioned if they would be equipped to handle the violent behavioral clients. Ms. Lacey stated that they already do handle them.

Sheriff Kevin Frye stated that this would save the county a lot of money. A lot of times the Sheriff's Office has to transport across the state for commitments. He stated that the Sheriff's Office had a great working relationship with the hospital.

Foster Care Program – Barbara Jones

Barbara Jones, DSS Director, spoke to the Board about the Foster Care Program for DSS. As of July 29, 2019, Avery County has 21 children in foster care. Of these 21 children, seven of them are five years old or younger and four are teenagers. We also have four teenagers who have signed up for the 18-21 year old program with us that aged out of Avery County foster care. DSS does not retain custody but does pay a monthly stipend to the placement provider or the young adult to help with living expenses while a social worker works with them to learn independent living skills. The program requires the young adult to be enrolled in school or employed at least 20 hours a month.

Currently, we are recruiting for foster parents to begin our MAPP training in September. There is always a need in our county for foster parents. We often run into a dilemma in placement of teenagers due to many foster parents only wanting babies or small children. It would be wonderful to have families or individuals that could mentor the teenagers in the 18-21 year old program. Many of the teenagers that age out of custody do not have the family to return home to during the holidays or just to call. This is something we are trying to get the word out about and hopefully get more resources and connections for the teenagers.

Avery County Cooperative Extension – Jerry Moody

Jerry Moody, Extension Director, stated that the Avery County Cooperative Extension had received an \$18,000 grant to build a greenhouse. Mr. Moody stated that this would be a 26X48 foot greenhouse that would give opportunities for children to learn how to grow things and help with research on different crops. Mr. Moody asked for permission to build the greenhouse at Heritage Park at the end of the field.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to allow Avery County Cooperative Extension to proceed with building the greenhouse on the Heritage Park property. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Tax Administrator Report

Bruce Daniels, Tax Administrator, was not present at this meeting. Phillip Barrier, Jr. County Manager presented the Tax Administrator Report.

Tax Collection Report

The Total Tax Collection for the month of July 2019 was \$57,438.68.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Tax Collection Report for the month of July 2019 as presented. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Sales Statistics

There were 95 sales for the month of July 2019 at 90%. Last year there were 54 sales at 102%.

Avery Senior Services Funding Plan – Philip Adams

Philip Adams presented the 2019/2020 Funding plan for the Avery Senior Services. This plan has been approved by the High Country Council of Government Block Grant committee and the High Country Area Agency on Aging. The county funding plan is \$189,553. It is a couple of thousand dollars less but generally during the year we will get a little bump. Services are approximately at the same level. We are asking for approval of the funding plan

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Avery Senior Services Funding Plan for 2019/2020. Motion unanimous with those in attendance.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

Department Head Meetings

Management has had meetings with each department head and discussed public service numbers. These numbers are on the website. We are also working on a mission statement. We will be bringing this proposed mission statement to the Board soon.

Broadband

We met with a representative from Thom Tillis’s office. We discussed the Reconnect grant that Skyline/Skybest has gotten turned down for the past three years. They do realize that we need this money to help get broadband in this area.

Resolution Declaring Certain Real Property Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale by Sealed Bid

WHEREAS, Avery County owns certain real property which it acquired by virtue of certain tax foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, such property is more particularly described as follows: Being that property of record in Book 513 Page 1942 of the Avery County Register of Deeds, and bearing parcel ID # 1805-00-53-9349-0000;

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §160A-268 permits the County to sell real property by advertisement and sealed bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the _____ day of _____ 2019 Resolves that:

1. The following described real property is hereby declared surplus: Being that property of record in Book 513 Page 1942 of the Avery County Register of Deeds, and bearing parcel ID # 1805-00-53-9349-0000.

2. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the sale of the above property by sealed bid.

3. The County will accept sealed bids for the property until 3:00 pm on the _____ day of _____, 2019. Bids shall be delivered to the office of the County Manager, County Administrative Building, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC 28657.

4. On the ____ day of _____, 2019 all bids received shall be opened in public and the amount of each bid recorded. The record of bids shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners at their next regularly scheduled meeting after the opening of bids.

5. The Board of Commissioners will determine the highest responsible bidder for the property and will award the bid at its regular meeting on _____ day of _____ 2019. Bids will remain open and subject to acceptance until the Board of Commissioners award the bid.

6. To be a responsible bidder, a bidder must be current on payment of all property tax owed to the County.

7. To be responsible, a bid must be accompanied by a bid deposit of 5% of the amount of the bid. The bid deposit may take the form of Cash, Cashiers Check, Certified Check or a Surety Bond. The deposit of the bidder to whom the award is made will be held until the sale of the property is closed; if that bidder refuses at any time to close the sale, the deposit will be forfeited to the County. The deposits of other bidders will be returned at the time the Board of Commissioners awards the property to the highest responsible bidder.

8. The County reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale at anytime and the right to reject any and all bids.

This RESOLUTION is effective upon adoption this the ____ day of _____, 2019.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to Adopt the Resolution Declaring Certain Real Property Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale by Sealed Bid. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Finance Officer Report – Tim Greene
Budget Amendment

The Solid Waste Department has received an insurance reimbursement for the 2019 Mack Truck.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,691.00 for insurance reimbursement with a debit of \$2,691.00 to Auto Supplies (105800.3100) and a credit of \$2,691.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Sheriff's Office has received \$1,500.00 for body armor.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$1,500.00 with a debit of \$1,500.00 to Uniforms (105100.3600) and a credit of \$1,500.00 to Miscellaneous (103350.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The four vehicles and equipment budgeted in the Sheriff's Office budget for 2018/2019 did not arrive last fiscal year and the purchase orders were closed.

PO # 76611 was for four vehicles totaling \$158,734.00; PO #76684 was for four VHF radios and four viper radios totaling \$12,305.00; PO #77116 was for undercoating four vehicles and striping two vehicles totaling \$3,200.00.

These amounts need to be re-budgeted for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a Budget amendment in the amount of \$174,239.00 with a debit of \$158,734.00 to Capital Outlay-Auto (105100.7400); debit of \$12,305.00 to Capital Outlay – Auto (105100.7400); debit of \$3,200.00 to Capital Outlay – Auto (105100.7400) and a credit of \$174,239.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Tax, tag, and title for the four vehicles in the 2018/2019 budget for the Sheriff's Office need to be re-budgeted.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$5,000.00 with a debit of \$5,000.00 to Capital Outlay-Auto (105100.7400) and a credit of \$5,000.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The five viper radios budgeted in the Sheriff's Office for 2018/2019 did not arrive last fiscal year and purchase order #76749 for \$10,477.00 was closed. This amount needs to be re-budgeted for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$10,477.00 with a debit of \$10,477.00 to Capital Outlay-Equipment (105100.7410) and a credit of \$10,477.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Sheriff's Office received a Governors Crime Commission Grant in the amount of \$24,483.00 in 2018/2019. The monies are to be used to purchase Netmotion for the car laptops and for viper radios. The monies were not spent and need to be re-budgeted.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$24,483.00 with a debit of \$24,483.00 to Capital Outlay-Equipment (105100.7410) and a credit of \$24,483.00 to Governor's Crime Commission Grant (103615.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment needs to be approved for additional monies to be added to the Pool Project fund. This amount is \$22,000.00

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$22,000.00 with a debit of \$22,000.00 to Transfer to Pool Project Fund (107000.6249) and a credit of \$22,000.00 to Fund Balance – Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Amendment of Pool Capital Project Ordinance

The Pool Capital Project Ordinance needs to be amended to add \$22,000.00 to the Pool Capital Project Ordinance.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to amend the Pool Capital Project Ordinance. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Mr. Greene advised the Board that Vaya Health's spendable cash had decreased to the point that it was not going to be sustainable. Dennis Aldridge replied that about two months ago at a Vaya Health meeting this issue was discussed. The days of spendable cash had been going downhill at a fast pace. This is true with most of the providers across the state. This is a systemic problem across the state.

Mr. Greene stated that we amended the agenda to discuss the Sheriff's Office vehicles. We had budgeted for seven vehicles. The Sheriff brought to us about leasing vehicles and then it was decided to purchase the vehicles. The problem is we budgeted \$30,000 per vehicle for 7 vehicles but we did not budget the up fitting charges. Dennis Aldridge stated that this was specifically discussed during the budget workshop. Sheriff Kevin Frye stated that he thought where the confusion came in was that where we were transferring from the leasing to purchasing all of this was included in the leasing price. Tim asked me how much the vehicles would be and I gave him a price. I assumed the

up fitting charges would be added to that. He assumed that included the up fitting charges. This was an oversight and miscommunication. Mr. Greene said we also left out the tax, tag and title. Sheriff Frye stated that he could switch things around and also use some grant money to help fix this problem. We are not kicking anything down the road.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of \$17,700.00 with a debit of \$17,700.00 to Capital Outlay-Auto and a credit of \$17,700.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

User Agreements

There are two user agreements that the County Attorney has worked on. The first one is a generic user agreement. The second one is specifically for the Cooperative Extension Building. Mr. Barrier stated that he would like approval of these user agreements with the approval for the County Manager to amend these user agreements and what we mean by amending is there may be a cleaning schedule attached to these agreements. We are asking that you approve both of these user agreements giving the County Manager and County Attorney the authority to change anything necessary in order for the public to utilize the grounds. We have never had a generic official user agreement that has been approved by the County Manager.

Dennis Aldridge questioned if every department will use this all the time. Mr. Barrier stated that yes this would be discussed with each department head and each department will use the same agreement.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the User Agreements as written with authority for the County Manager and County Attorney to attach addendums as needed so long as they do not substantively change the general user agreement. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Mr. Aldridge stated that the reason that he added the “do not substantively change” was because at some point down the road another County Manager may say I can change this and make a change to it that changes the tone. My concern was it not being changed on a whim.

Approval Of Minutes

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the June 3, 2019 Regular Session; June 17, 2019 Regular Session; and July 1, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting will be September 3, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adjourn this meeting at 5:20 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk