

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, North Carolina.

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

Members Absent: Blake Vance, Vice-Chair

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Phillip Barrier, Jr. led prayer.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Organizational Meeting

Martha Hicks turned the meeting over to Phillip Barrier, Jr., County Manager. Mr. Barrier opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Tim Phillips nominated Martha Hicks for Chair. There were no further nominations. Mr. Barrier closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Martha Hicks as Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Mr. Barrier turned the meeting over to Chair Hicks.

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Dennis Aldridge nominated Tim Phillips as Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Chair Hicks closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Tim Phillips as Vice-Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for County Manager. Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Phillip Barrier, Jr. for County Manager. There were no further nominations. Chair Hicks closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Phillip Barrier, Jr. as County Manager. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for County Attorney. Tim Phillips nominated Michaelle Poore for County Attorney. There were no further nominations. Chair Hicks closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Michaelle Poore as County Attorney. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for Finance Officer. Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Tim Greene as Finance Officer. There were no further nominations. Chair Hicks closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Tim Greene as Finance Officer. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for Clerk/Assistant County Manager. Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Cindy Turbyfill for Clerk/Assistant County Manager. There were no further nominations. Chair Hicks closed the floor for nominations.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Cindy Turbyfill as Clerk/Assistant County Manager. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Proclamations and Awards

Resolution Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Sugar Mountain Resort

Whereas, Avery County is proud to celebrate Sugar Mountain Resort, Inc. on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary; and

Whereas, Sugar Mountain opened as a ski resort in 1969; and

Whereas, Sugar Mountain Resort, Inc. employs hundreds of local full-time and seasonal employees; and

Whereas, Sugar Mountain Resort, Inc. draws thousands of visitors to the Village of Sugar Mountain and Avery County which boosts the local economy; and

Whereas, Sugar Mountain Resort, Inc. contributes to the tax base of Avery County;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Avery County Commissioners proclaim December 14, 2019 as Sugar Mountain Resort, Inc. 50th Anniversary Day.

Adopted this 2nd day of December 2019.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Resolution Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Sugar Mountain Resort. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

Review

Review of applicant for the Avery County Joint Community Advisory Committee. This vacancy will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Community Paramedicine Grant – Carmen Lacey

Carmen Lacey, President of Charles A. Cannon, Jr. Memorial Hospital presented a power point presentation on the Community Paramedicine Grant. Ms. Lacey explained that the Community Paramedicine program would utilize an EMS professional with specialized training to provide intervention and resources to high risk individuals by face to face visits and telephone calls that assures the person has resources they need; provide education and health promotion programs; and integrate care with home health, public health, medical providers, and other resources. In 2018 there were 113 Emergency department visits by six patients (average of nineteen visits per patient) which are costly for both EMS and the hospital. Community paramedicine allows us to identify those who are at highest risk, develop a relationship to determine the underlying cause and create a “safety net” with needed resources within our community. The grant came from the Duke Endowment. The grant of \$290,000 was awarded to Cannon Memorial Hospital on November 5th, 2019 and the budget cycle will begin January 1, 2020. The first year we will receive \$121,000. This will pay for the salary for the community paramedic, lease or purchase for the vehicle and pay for the computer system. The computer system will enable us to track the information. The first few weeks of the program will be concentrated on developing protocols and then we will identify a couple of people to pull into the program and then add people as we move along.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned who determined the amount of money. Ms. Lacey answered that she, Mike Edmisten, EMS Director and Brian Whitefield with Appalachian Regional Health Care Systems developed a budget based on the current salary of the community paramedic which is Samantha Knight. Tim Phillips questioned if this turns out to be a success will there be more funding? Ms. Lacey stated that the goal is for this program to become self-sufficient at the end of the grant cycle. Mr. Edmisten stated that this grant takes care of the payroll, insurance, benefits, etc for the community paramedic and that the vehicle would be titled to Avery County. Ms. Lacey commented that as the nonprofit that applied for the grant, Cannon Memorial Hospital would be the pass through for the funding and will reimburse the county by submitted invoices. Ms. Lacey stated that she felt like this was a win-win for both the hospital and Avery County.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the Community Paramedicine grant. Mr. Young and Mr. Aldridge stated that they had concerns regarding the grant.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Martha Hicks to approve the Community Paramedicine Grant. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Surplus Property

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, and consisting of approximately .1 acre;

WHEREAS, such property was previously declared surplus property and was duly advertised for sale; and

WHEREAS, there was one bidder for said property, the same being William Lee Buchanan, who bid the amount of the back taxes of \$1015.08 plus the sum of \$111.11; and

WHEREAS, the Avery County Board of Commissioners found that it was appropriate to sell such property "as is" and approved such bid at its ___ October 2019 meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the 2nd day of December 2019 Resolves that:

1. The sale of that surplus property being of record in Book 513 Page 1942 of the Avery County Register of Deeds, and bearing parcel ID # 1805-00-53-9349-0000, is hereby authorized and the Chair is authorized to execute that deed attached hereto to William Lee Buchanan upon the receipt of the bid proceeds.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Surplus Property. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

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

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

WHEREAS, such property is more particularly described as follows:

1845-00-24-4502-00000 61 W Chestnut Ln Deed Book 466, Page 1404

1821-02-78-6500-00000 Florida Avenue Deed Book 480, Page 1502

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 2nd day of December 2019 Resolves that:

1. The following described real property is hereby declared surplus:

- 1845-00-24-4502-00000 61 W Chestnut Ln Deed Book 466, Page 1404
1821-02-78-6500-00000 Florida Avenue Deed Book 480, Page 1502
2. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the sale of the following described tracks of land by sealed bid:
1845-00-24-4502-00000 61 W Chestnut Ln Deed Book 466, Page 1404
1821-02-78-6500-00000 Florida Avenue Deed Book 480, Page 1502
 3. The County will accept sealed bids for the property until 3:00 pm on the ____ day of January, 2020. 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 January, 2020 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 in February 2020. 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 the greater of 5% of the amount of the bid or \$750.00. The bid deposit may take the form of Cash, Cashier's 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 any time and the right to reject any and all bids.

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

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections Report

The Tax Collections for the month of November 2019 is \$2,138,998.18.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of November 2019 as presented. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Releases

The Total Releases for the month of November 2019 is \$21,338.06. One of the releases was for \$19,527.46. This release was due to the State sending out the wrong values for a public utility. Every county in the state is going to have to do a release.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Releases for the month of November 2019 as presented. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Sales Statistics

The Sales for the month of November 2019 is 83 sales at 92%. The sales for last November were 59 sales at 84%.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

Courthouse Roof Project Bid

Mr. Barrier stated that two bids were received for the Courthouse Roof Project. It is my recommendation that we proceed with Randy Burleson Construction, Inc. with a bid of \$98,700.00.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve Randy Burleson Construction, Inc. bid of \$98,700.00 for the Courthouse Roof Project. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Finance Officer Report – Tim Greene

Mr. Greene stated that the Sheriff's office would like to add another corporal position. This would add approximately \$2,800 to the budget.

Sheriff Kevin Frye stated that this was not adding another new position. When the salary study was done, it was recommended by David Hill that there be a corporal position on each shift. Mr. Hill included this in the salary study which was approved by the Board in 2018. The salary study was approved when the budget was approved.

Mr. Greene stated that this was not put into the budget to begin with.

Sheriff Frye said that when the sergeant is out that the corporal would be in charge. This is the same number of allotted positions we are only moving one that is currently a deputy up to corporal.

Mr. Greene said that a budget amendment would be done at the next meeting. Chair Hicks stated that there should be money in the budget for that. There have been people quit and those positions have not been filled. We ought to have money in the budget to cover this \$2800.00.

Mr. Aldridge questioned if the vote needed to be to add a corporal position. Michaëlle Poore, County Attorney said it is her understanding that the board needs to approve to reclassify one individual from this existing position to the corporal position and then the second part would be if the Board wants to authorize the \$2800 in funding right now or they want to wait until further in the budget year and see if the Sheriff needs to do that.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Martha Hicks to authorize the reclassification of one position to the Corporal position and not have the

accompanied money to go with it until we see if that is necessary within the Sheriff's budget. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Senior Center has received an insurance settlement on a 2017 Subaru Forester.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget amendment in the amount of \$1,627.00 with a debit of \$1,627.00 to Auto Supplies (105960.3100) and a credit of \$1,627.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The EMS department has received two insurance settlement checks. One is for a 2019 Chevrolet Ambulance and the other is for a 2015 Chevrolet Ambulance.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$4,351.00 with a debit of \$2,226.00 to Auto Supplies (105300.3100); \$2,125.00 to Auto Supplies (105300.3100) and a credit of \$2,226.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000) and a credit of \$2,125.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Transportation department has received an insurance settlement check for a 2019 Nissan Pathfinder.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,313.00 with a debit of \$2,313.00 to Auto Supplies (106300.3100) and a credit of \$2,313.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Transportation Department has received an AMY Wellness Foundation Grant to be used for coordinating managed care transportation between Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties. Avery County's portion will be \$58,487.25. The first year we will receive \$33,515.00.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$33,515.00 with a debit of \$11,777.00 to (Maintenance Contracts (106300.1540); debit of \$1,000.00 to Advertising (106300.2600); debit of \$6,300.00 to Office Supplies (106300.3300); debit of \$14,438.00 to Capital Outlay (106300.7410) and credit of \$33,515.00 to Transportation (103610.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Nothing to report.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the October 15, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes; October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; and November 4, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Dennis Aldridge referred to a Vaya Health Report that was included in the Agenda Consent Items. Mr. Aldridge stated that he would like for the Board to be aware that Vaya is the LME/MCO for Avery County. The situation is dire for the citizens of the county with the money that has been appropriated and how it is used. We need to be in touch with our representatives about the funding.

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 5:07 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

**Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

Attest: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk