

**State of North Carolina  
County of Avery**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Avery County Agricultural Building, 661 Vale Rd., Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary regarding the Community Building Project at the Avery County Agricultural Building.

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

Members Absent: None

**Call To Order**

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.  
Wood Hall Young, Jr. led prayer.

Pierre Henwood and Rob Johnson were present from Boomerang Architects. A power point presentation was presented to the Board of Commissioners showing different aspects of the design. Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned why the bathroom was on the right hand side instead of the side where the sewer lines were located. Mr. Henwood said given all the parts of the outside door, window and the handicapped ramp it seemed better sense to put it on the right side. If we flip and put the handicapped ramp on this side it will interfere with the exit door. Jerry Moody said he was concerned about the double doors because of the high winds. Pierre said that the doors could be exit only doors because the people would be entering through the vestibule. The Board discussed the design. Jerry Moody questioned how big the back porch was and if they brought in a big piece of equipment would that porch be a hindrance. Phillip Barrier suggested a concrete slab instead of a porch. Pierre said that the manufacturer recommended that a cover be over the type of door that was under the porch. He also said that the porch is higher than the front porch and the beam that goes across is at the same height as the top of the door.

Pierre said that we are not showing a solid ceiling but we are showing clouds. The light fixtures shown are 2X2 LED dimmable down to 10% of the light because for this to be considered an exhibit hall it needs to have 65 foot candles at the floor. If you are doing a presentation you don't need 65 foot candles so you would have to dim it down. The stage is also dimmable but it has a light level of 100 foot candles. Mr. Barrier questioned where the light dimmers would be. Mr. Young questioned if the entire room would be controlled together. Pierre said that it is set up so that there is bay 1, bay 2 and bay 3, light switches at the back and light switches at the stage. Discussion about the lights. Jerry said so we are going to change the lights to go crossways instead of long ways and we are going to fit all of the lights with the sound booth in the same location.

Pierre said I know there was discussion about not having floor boxes in the main floor but how does the Board feel about having boxes on the performance platform for mic plug ins and other things. Dennis Aldridge said that everything needs to come up at center stage and there needed to be some power along the walls for amps but anything you are tying to a control panel should be coming up through center stage.

Dennis Aldridge questioned about the voids that they were speaking about in the ceiling. Rob Johnson said that there are suspended panels which would allow sound to go up and dissipate back on top of the ceiling which will have two inches of fiber to absorb the sound. You want to have the back of the three sides of the stage to be reflective to project out and the rear wall needs to absorb and the top of the space above the ceiling.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned how big the stage was from front to back. Pierre said it was 17 feet and 27 feet wide.

Blake Vance said he had concerns about the lack of openness on the stage. In my opinion the stage sticks out about 4 feet and that makes me feel like it is not enough. Phillip said that was so that we could use the portable stage. Blake said that he would rather flip the storage to the outside and add about 600 square feet which will add to the cost of the building. I think that is not enough stage. Woodie said instead of putting all outside put half inside and half outside. Blake said his concern was there was only 4 feet in the front of the roof. Dennis asked how high the beam was. Pierre said it was 13 foot 4 inches. Dennis said we are looking at spending tons of money here that we don't need to. That beam is 13 foot high so it is not like being in a cavern. Blake said I think you are still in a hole. Dennis said I don't want to add a half million dollars to this project. Tim Phillips said this building is not going to satisfy every situation that we are going to have. There was considerable discussion regarding the performance platform.

Rob Johnson said if you added 4 feet to the front of the stage you would probably just lose about one row of seats on the floor.

### **Recess**

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

Rob said the wood in the ceiling is a little more expensive and could bid it as an alternate. This is a suspended ceiling. Rob went over the budget and the time schedule. We are looking at going out to bid February 3 and opening bids March 5.

Jerry Moody questioned where the speakers would be. Rob said that had not been determined yet. Dennis Aldridge said that he had a real problem with that and that we have an acoustic engineer that should have already figured this out. Rob said we are trying to get permission to bid the building to know what it is going to cost. Dennis said we are trying to get our heads wrapped around a number right now and it appears to me

we still don't have any insight of what this is going to be. Rob said the building is under the basic bid and these things would be in a separate procurement package.

Phillip asked the Board if they wanted to move forward without the outdoor stage. The Board said they wanted the outdoor stage and that it not be bid as an alternate.

Woodie said he thought it would look better if there was crown molding added.

Chair Hicks asked for a motion to approve what had been presented tonight with the changes that were made.

The changes discussed were adding several feet to the front of the stage, including the outdoor stage in the base bid, and adding crown molding.

Rob said we have made notes about the lighting and thermal controls and coming back to the table and talking about the particulars of the sound and those procurements.

**Motion by Tim Phillips to approve to go to bid with the above changes. Seconded by Blake Vance. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

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

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk