

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
County of Avery

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary regarding the design of the Community Room at the Agriculture Center.

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 2:00 p.m.

Rob Johnson with Boomerang Architects introduced Kyle Smith to the Board. Mr. Smith has worked with Boomerang on acoustics for high school auditoriums, etc. He comes from a musical and performance background.

Pierre Henwood, Boomerang Architect, updated the Board on the plans for the Community Room. The addition is made up of a community room that is a 62X60 space. It has a platform and ramps on one side. There are two green rooms. We have been asked to show an outdoor stage that was accessible from the outside of the building. There is a porch on the front and a porch on the back. It had been mentioned a desire to be able to take a large vehicle into this space. The door would be a lift and slide door but it would have the same appearance as the doors on the existing building. These doors have the same R value as a normal swing door according to the manufacturer.

There was discussion regarding a fixed stage or a portable stage. Mr. Smith said that 36 inches high would come to mind for the stage. You could build your fixed stage and then add an additional portable stage to be higher.

Pierre Henwood said the discussion he is hearing is that this will be a multipurpose space. The Board may need to decide on what the space primary need is and then work out from there.

Dennis Aldridge stated that the Board needs to determine what the usage of this room is. If we use multipurpose in a parallel process we are going to end up with something that does nothing well and everything mediocre. We need to decide on our primary purposes. Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that whatever we do we have to have room for tables and chairs, a stage and storage.

Jerry Moody commented that he felt that the primary purpose would be meeting space/educational purpose. The second would be trade shows, fairs, etc. The third would be performance. The most important thing is to get the acoustics set up right.

Dennis Aldridge stated that the community part is the driver. The functions it would be for are wedding receptions, reunions as well as club gatherings. The biggest thing we need to be aware of is to be designed for use by the people so it has to be available and open calendar to them and not entirely dedicated to just county type events. In doing so I think we will find that the sound becomes more and more critical with those types of things. Even though performance may not be the number one purpose one thing we can mess up is not accounting for the acoustics.

Tim Phillips said if we get the acoustics right everything else will fall in place.

There was discussion about the acoustics. Mr. Smith talked about putting an inch and a half fiberglass panel that is wrapped in cloth on the walls. Mr. Smith discussed the benefits of acoustical panels on the ceiling or hanging down from the ceilings.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if the ceiling was flat or vaulted. Pierre directed the Board to the sketch which shows a vaulted ceiling. Pierre said this was very preliminary drawings and could be changed as we go along.

Dennis Aldridge said I think we are going to have to wrap the walls with some acoustical wrap and use something in the ceiling.

Discussion regarding electrical outlets in the floor of the community room. Pierre suggested that a new product had come out that would be more beneficial and less maintenance than strips placed in the floor. Pierre said floor outlets are a long term maintenance issue.

Discussion regarding projection and what kind of screens that could be used. Pull down screens would be preferable.

Boomerang will begin on the design to present to the Board at a later date.

Adjourn

Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

