

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

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

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

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

Phillip Barrier led prayer.

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

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

Social Services Board

There is one application for review for the Social Services Board. This vacancy will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Mayland Community College Board of Trustees

Due to time restraints, Commissioner Blake Vance has requested that the Board appoint another commissioner to serve on the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Martha Hicks to the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees. Motion unanimously approved.

Termination of Lease between County of Avery and Avery County Agricultural & Horticultural Fair, Inc.; MOU between County of Avery and A.C. Ag. & Hort Fair, Inc.

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, explained that the Fair has an existing lease on Heritage Park for a 99 year term. They have acknowledged they don't need that lease. They want to be guaranteed to have a space for the fair each year but they do not want to interfere with the Ag building. We have two documents to consider. The first one is a termination of the existing lease. The second document is a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Fair.

Ms. Poore stated that in a previous meeting that this issue had been tabled.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to take the Lease Termination and Memorandum of Understanding with the Fair off of the table. Motion unanimously approved.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if these documents protect the county enough. Ms. Poore stated that this accomplishes what the county wanted to accomplish which is to give the county security in access to any buildings or usages of this property. Paragraph 7 of the MOU does address that.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to terminate the existing lease with the Avery County Agricultural & Horticultural Fair, Inc. and approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Avery and the Avery County Agricultural & Horticultural Fair, Inc. Motion unanimously approved.

Swimming Pool Design

Mr. Barrier stated that Mary Isaacs had sent the proposed changes that had been made to the new swimming pool to include a bigger pool 50X100 and also a concession area. There is a contingency of 10%. The play features and slide are included and this raised the cost \$100,000.

Blake Vance stated that he did not trust the information that we have. When I vote no on this I want it to be clear to the public that it is not because I am against a pool it is just I don't trust the information that we are receiving. I have no confidence in this architect. Mr. Young stated that he was somewhat inclined to agree to a certain extent with Blake. We told her from the onset that a \$150,000 slide was no. I hate for us to buy something and not know what we are getting. I think we need more detail of what we are getting. We should have had the ground broke by now.

Mr. Barrier stated that we are at 1.8 million now for the pool.

Mr. Vance stated that he thought this was a project that we should be moving on now and are not and is in favor of replacing the architect.

Tim Phillips commented that we need to take a look at this and weed out what we don't want instead of changing architects in midstream. I don't think we need to change architects but get some detailed information and cut some places and get this project started.

Faith Lacey stated "we asked her to enlarge the pool. I feel she is competent."

Chair Hicks stated that if we had known what we wanted to begin with it would be a lot easier. We have made a lot of changes. I think we need information on different slides. I agree with the size of the pool; there will be an increase in price with increasing the size. I think with the information that we give her she comes back and gives us what we asked for. Once we make our decision on what we want then you are going to be working with Tammy Ellis on doing the job.

Mr. Vance stated that we have made changes based on what we thought was going to save money and we make those changes and it doesn't save us money. The information she is giving us is not accurate.

Motion by Blake Vance for the county attorney to pursue in getting us out of our commitment to Isaacs & Associates.

Blake Vance withdrew his motion.

Mr. Barrier stated that he would ask Ms. Isaacs to give us five examples of slides and the price; what are the play structures and where are they located; the size of the concession stand; make sure the elevation is high enough, etc. We will get everyone's questions answered by Friday and then get something back by the August meeting.

15 Passenger Van – Ag. Extension—Afterschool and Summer WOW

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that he was asked by the Board to find out how often the van was used. Mr. Barrier reported that the 15 passenger van will be used 41 out of 52 weeks to transport afterschool and Summer WOW children. The van will be used Monday-Thursday for afterschool and daily for the Summer WOW program. This would be approximately 13,000 miles each year.

Martha Hicks stated that she had talked to Jerry Moody on Friday. I asked him to try to find a grant. He said that he would look for a grant. This van is mostly used right here in the county. It is not used out of the county.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. said "it is our children and they need to be transported more safely."

Faith Lacey stated "I do not have faith in grants. If we are going to get a van, get a new one and get the children in a safe vehicle."

Blake Vance commented that he was ok with waiting to see if Jerry could find a grant.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to table this issue until Jerry Moody can find out if there are any grant funds available but not to run past the second meeting in August.

Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Employee Safety Training

Mr. Barrier reported that staff was working on employee safety training.

Agricultural Building Update

Soil bore testing has been accomplished. Footing test has been accomplished.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting will be August 7, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr to adjourn this meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk