

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

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

Members Absent: None

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No.121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting was broadcast live and recorded on the Avery County Youtube Channel.

Call To Order

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

Chair Hicks called the roll with all board members present.

Chair Hicks led prayer.

Phillip Barrier, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

The public could comment via email or telephone by June 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. There were no public comments received.

Board Appointments

Mayland Community College Board of Trustees

The term of Martha Hicks on the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees will be ending on June 30, 2020. Ms. Hicks has expressed her desire to be reappointed to this board for another four year term.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Martha Hicks to the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees for a four year term. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Social Services Board

The term of Wood Hall Young, Jr. on the Social Services Board will be ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Young has expressed his desire to be appointed for another three year term.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Wood Hall Young, Jr. to the Social Services Board for another three year term. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Resolution in Support of the Heritage Park Trail Improvement Project

WHEREAS, a trail exists in Heritage Park with the potential of serving hikers and equestrians, and;

WHEREAS, to accommodate expected uses and the handicapped, the trail needs to be reconfigured, widened, and resurfaced, which will also increase its sustainability, and;

WHEREAS, the County desires to pursue a Recreational Trails Program grant to make needed improvements,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AVERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THAT the County approves submission of a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for trail redevelopment, and;

THAT the County approves the trail scope of work proposed in the application, and;

THAT if the County is the recipient of a grant and decides to accept the grant, the County agrees to provide the matching funds in cash or in-kind matching funds equal to 25% of the grant funds requested, and;

THAT if the County accepts the grant and decides to proceed with the project, the County commits to completing the project within two years after the grant funds are obligated.

Tim Phillips questioned whether animals and people can be on the same trail without any problem. Phillip Barrier, Jr., County Manager, stated yes and that it was the County's responsibility to keep the trail clean. Wood Hall Young, Jr. asked if this was a natural surface and Mr. Barrier stated yes.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution in Support of the Heritage Park Trail Improvement Project. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections

The Tax Collection Report for the month of May 2020 is \$102,992.69.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Tax Collections Report as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Mr. Daniels stated that he would give a more detailed annual report in July. Currently the outstanding balance for taxes is \$524,000.00. We have a 97 ½% collection rate with a ten year collection rate of 99.4%. In my estimations we are in a good place as far as collections.

There were no releases this month.

Sales Statistics

There were 30 sales for the month of May 2020 as compared to 47 sales for the month of May 2019. Sales are down for the month of May but the sales prices are maintaining a strong growth.

Finance Officer Report – Ashley Ingwersen

Budget Amendment

The Department of Social Services has received an additional \$1,684.95 allocation for the Duke Energy Neighbor Funds. There is no county match.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment for the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$1,684.95 with a debit of \$1,684.95 to Duke Energy Neighbor Fund (106800.6091) and a credit of \$1,684.95 (103634.0000) to County Welfare (103634.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Budget Amendment

The Department of Social Services has received an additional \$2,457.38 allocation for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). There is no county match.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment for the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$2,457.38 with a debit of \$2,457.38 to LIEAP (106800.6095) and a credit of \$2,457.38 to County Welfare (103634.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Budget Amendment

The NC Department of Public Safety has allocated the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council additional funds for intervention and prevention services to delinquent youth and those at risk of delinquency. Avery County received \$19,368.00. There is no county match for these funds.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in the amount of \$19,368.00 with a debit of \$2,000.00 to CBA Juv SVC-Proj. Challenge (107000.6145); debit of \$3,000.00 to Teen Leadership Dev (107000.6149); debit of \$5,967.00 to Juvenile Serv-Sentencing Circle (107000.6141); debit of \$6,610.00 to

Teen Leadership Dev. (103496.0000); debit of \$1,791.00 to Avery Mentoring Program (107000.6130) and a credit of \$2,000.00 to Project Challenge (103480.0000); credit of \$3,000.00 to Teen Leadership Dev. (103496.0000); credit of \$5,967.00 to Juvenile Serv-Sentencing Circle (103497.0000); credit of \$6,610.00 to Teen Leadership Dev. (103496.0000); credit of \$1,791.00 to Avery Mentoring Program (103492.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Budget Amendment

The initial spreadsheet that was completed for the 2019/2020 Fire Commission Monthly Allocations did not have the salary of \$42,100 in Linville Fire Department salary line item. The \$42,100 was placed in the Fire Commissions salary line item. This was caught later on and Linville Fire Department and the Fire Commission have both been paid their correct monthly allocations. A budget amendment needs to be done to correct the mistake so it will show correctly in the budget.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$42,100.00 with a debit of \$42,100.00 to Linville Fire Department (206600.4004) and a credit of \$42,100.00 to Fire Commission (206600.4012). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Budget Amendment

At the May 14, 2020 budget meeting it was discussed about the HVAC at Avery Middle School and Cranberry/Freedom Trail. The board agreed to pay for one HVAC system if the Avery County School Board would pay for the other in an amount up to \$205,000.

The Avery County School Board has requested 50% of the cost in regards to the HVAC at Cranberry/Freedom Trail.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$104,040.00 with a debit of \$104,040.00 to Avery County Schools Capital Outlay (107000.6115) and a credit of \$104,040.00 to Fund Balance-Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

COVID 19 Cares Act

The Health Department will be doing a drive thru on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 in the evenings from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Avery County has received \$535,658 in relief funds. It is our responsibility to oversee this money. We need to share these funds with the school system, college systems, hospital, health department and all of the towns. There is a plan in the packet that we have to submit to the Cares Act by June 9th on how we plan to spend the money.

Public Hearing Regarding Fiscal Year Budget 2020/2021

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year Budget 2020/2021 at 4:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Chair Hicks turned the meeting over to Phillip Barrier, Jr., County Manager. Mr. Barrier presented the budget message along with a power point presentation.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-11, the Avery County Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proposed budget is respectfully submitted for your review and consideration. This document provides the financial framework for the programs and services which Avery County government will be undertaking in the next fiscal year. The budget provides the resources needed to ensure the delivery of governmental services in a fiscally responsible manner. The proposed budget is a continuation of the financially sound and conservative practices Avery County government has established and embraced. The Board held budget workshops in order to make changes to the proposed budget. North Carolina General Statute 159-11 stipulates that a public hearing be held in order to inform the public and allow any interested citizens the opportunity to express their opinions on the budget after the budget message is presented. This budget message represents an explanation of the budgetary decisions derived as a result of in depth dialogue between the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Finance Officer, Department Heads and changes made during budget workshops. The cumulative total of necessary operational and capital expenses considered in light of revenues generated by the departments, combined with State and Federal funding, determines the amount of funding which will be necessary from the citizens of Avery County.

The 2020/21 budget as presented is balanced based on a total property valuation of \$4.142 billion. This represents an increase of \$106 million dollar or 2.63 % over last year's valuation of \$4.036 billion. The general fund tax rate will remain at 48 cents (\$0.48) per \$100 valuation which will generate an estimated \$19.4 million dollars in revenues. The county wide fire tax rate will remain at 7.0 cents (\$0.07). The Fire Commission and volunteer fire departments will receive an estimated \$2.8 million dollars in revenue.

The combination of these two rates results in an overall tax rate of 55 cents (\$0.5500) for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. This rate is the same as the last fiscal year.

GENERAL FUND

Expenses

The total General Fund Budget is set at \$30.3 million. This is a \$113,000 increase from the 2019/20 fiscal year. The increase includes payment for the Avery County High School construction and renovation.

General Government is decreasing \$174,000. The decrease is primarily attributed to a cut in capital expenditures, repairs and maintenance. The county has taken a “fix-it-now approach” with buildings and general maintenance.

Public Safety is increasing \$207,000. This increase is \$99,000 less than last year. New fleet replacement for our sheriff’s office, tax office, and EMS is on a rotational basis now. Capital expenditures for this current year include a much needed new ambulance, and new tower enhancements and repeaters for central dispatch.

Transportation is increasing \$73,000. The increase is due to a new caravan and office equipment.

Environmental Protection is decreasing \$75,000 due primarily to the Solid Waste Department collecting waste from some of the schools thus eliminating the use of a contractor; in addition to moving the Banner Elk convenience site to the Sugar Mountain location.

Economic and Physical Development is increasing \$15,000. The increase is primarily due to capital outlay equipment for the agricultural department.

Funding for Human Services is increasing \$148,000. The increase is primarily due to a new method of state funding for foster care, daycare and Medicaid.

Cultural and Recreation is increasing \$46,000. The primary reason is increased programs in the Parks and Recreation department, and funding for the Mountain Alliance youth program.

Education is increasing \$83,000 from the previous year’s budget. The primary reason is proper planning of capital expenditures.

Public Safety is the largest expenditure for the County consuming 32% of the total budget. Education and the associated debt service is the next largest expenditure at 25%. Human Services is third largest at 17% while all other County functions total 26%.

Revenue

Property tax revenue is projected to increase \$410,000 or 2.16% from last fiscal year. The increase is due to a \$106 million dollar increase in the ad valorem tax base.

Local Option Sales Taxes are projected to decrease \$550,000 due to the COVID 19 pandemic effect on our economy.

Other Taxes and Licenses are projected to remain the same as last fiscal year.

Intergovernmental revenues are projected to increase \$111,000 thousand dollars primarily due to increased state and federal payments.

Licenses and Permits are projected to remain the same as last fiscal year.

Sales and Services are projected to increase \$182,000 primarily due to increased revenue in transportation fees.

Investment Earnings and Other Income are projected to decrease \$50,000 due to lower forecasted investment income.

Property tax revenue will generate 64% of the County's revenue, followed by sales taxes at 17%, intergovernmental transfers at 8%, sales and services at 7%, fund balance appropriation at 0% and all others at 4%.

OTHER FUNDS

Fire Tax Fund

The Fire Tax Fund budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year is \$2.8 million dollars or \$65,000 more than last fiscal year.

E911 Fund

The E911 Fund budget for fiscal year 2020/21 is \$215,000. This is a decrease of \$155,000 from the prior fiscal year.

Revaluation Fund

The Revaluation Fund budget is \$135,000 for the fiscal year 2020/21. Avery County budgets annually for the mandatory revaluation. It should be noted that the County performs an in-house revaluation using existing staff as opposed to contracting this service out.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Avery County is proud to report that the county fund balance exceeds the state requirements. This amount provides great financial stability and coverage in the event a catastrophic event was to strike the county. The County must have the financial resources available to address unknown and unexpected situations that could cripple

our community, if we are found unprepared. This budget for 2020/21, as presented, does not include any fund balance appropriation.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Over the past several years, Avery County has developed and adhered to a financial plan designed to promote a “pay-as-you-go” capital philosophy. As a result of this philosophy, the county has funded the Agricultural Center, and the County Recreation Pool, in cash. The Community Building is currently under construction without incurring any debt. The new Avery County High School addition is also currently under construction. As a result of proper capital planning and the use of lottery funds, Avery County has been able to avoid any tax rate increase for the construction of the high school.

The current major capital projects are:

Community Building

Start spring 2020
Finish fall 2020
Estimated Cost - \$1,550,000

High School Addition & Renovation

Start fall 2019
Finish spring 2021
Estimated Cost - \$20, 296,000

Future proposed capital projects is the additional development of the recreation property.

OVERVIEW

The attached 2020/21 FY Budget Ordinance for Avery County contains the detailed breakdown of anticipated revenues and expenses for the year to end June 30, 2021.

AVERY COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of Avery County, North Carolina:

SECTION 1:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the operation

of Avery County Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Government	3,908,299
Public Safety	9,373,319
Transportation	919,426
Environmental Protection	2,233,918
Economic & Physical Development	404,322
Human Services	5,188,853
Cultural & Recreational	587,357
Education	5,907,783
General Fund Debt Service	1,634,206
Transfer to Revaluation Fund	130,000
Transfer to High School Renovation Project Fund	-
Transfer to Component Unit (Airport)	63,771
Total Appropriations	<u><u>30,351,254</u></u>

SECTION 2:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Ad Valorem Taxes	19,422,000
Local Option Sales Tax	5,150,000
Other Taxes & Licenses	480,000
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	255,779
Restricted Intergovernmental	2,334,815
Licenses & Permits	330,500
Sales & Services	2,151,160
Investment Earnings	175,000
Other Income	52,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	-
Total Estimated Revenues	<u><u>30,351,254</u></u>

SECTION 3:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the 911 Emergency Telephone System Fund for the operation of the system for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Addressing & Data Provisioning	-
Operating Expenses	164,297
Capital	50,714
Total Appropriations	<u>215,011</u>

SECTION 4:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the 911 Emergency Telephone System Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

911 Charges	132,084
Interest on Investments	375
Fund Balance Appropriation	82,552
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>215,011</u>

SECTION 5:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Fire Districts Fund for the operation of fire protection services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Fire Association	14,275
Elk Park Fire Department	89,969
Crossnore Fire Department	87,911
Linville Fire Department	157,800
Frank Fire Department	86,218
Green Valley Fire Department	75,109
Banner Elk Fire Department	103,210
Newland Fire Department	82,522
Fall Creek Fire Department	85,117
Seven Devils Fire Department	19,558
Beech Mtn. Fire Department	37,441
Fire Commission	1,841,810
Avery County Ladder Truck Co.	28,555
Linville Central Rescue Squad	87,005
Total Appropriations	<u>2,796,500</u>

SECTION 6:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Fire Districts Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Fire Tax Levy Revenue	2,796,500
Transfer From General Fund	-
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>2,796,500</u>

SECTION 7:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Revaluation Fund for revaluation of property in Avery County during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Personnel Expenses	120,039
Operating Expenses	15,197
Capital	-
Total Appropriations	<u>135,236</u>

SECTION 8:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Transfer From General Fund	130,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	5,236
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>135,236</u>

SECTION 9:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the High School Renovation Project Fund for the construction of a new classroom and office building during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Construction	18,080,304
Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees	1,085,148
Permits, Insurance, Surveys, Other	305,098
Furniture	775,489
Attorney Fees	50,000
Total Appropriations	<u>20,296,039</u>

SECTION 10:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the High School Renovation Project Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Transfer from General Fund	7,349,013
Proceeds from Bank Financing	11,000,000
Proceeds from Lottery Fund	1,947,026
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>20,296,039</u>

SECTION 11:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Ag Building Community Room Project Fund for the construction of an community room addition during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Construction	1,395,000
Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees	60,000
Permits, Insurance, Surveys, Other	30,000
Furniture	65,000
Total Appropriations	<u>1,550,000</u>

SECTION 12:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Ag Building Community Room Project Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Fund Balance Appropriation	1,550,000
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>1,550,000</u>

SECTION 13:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Grants Project Fund for community development in Avery County during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Neighborhood Revitalization Program	610,000
	-
	<u>610,000</u>

SECTION 14:

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Grant Projects Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Grant Revenue

610,000

SECTION 15:

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of forty-eight cents (\$0.48) per hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed as of January 1, 2020 for the purpose of raising revenue included in "Ad Valorem Taxes" in the General Fund in Section 2 of this ordinance.

This rate of tax is based on an estimated total valuation of property for the purpose of taxation of \$4,142,345,494 and an estimated collection rate of 96%.

SECTION 16:

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of seven cents (\$0.07) per hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property listed as of January 1, 2020 for the purpose of raising revenue included in "Fire Tax Levy Revenue" in the Fire Districts Fund in Section 6 of this ordinance.

This rate of tax is based on an estimated total valuation of property for the purpose of taxation of \$4,142,345,494 and an estimated collection rate of 96%.

SECTION 17:

The Budget Officer is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein in accordance with the Avery County Board of Commissioners Policy Manual.

SECTION 18:

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and to the Budget Officer and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that we worked hard on the budget. We are able to provide services, the school, pool, community building, vehicles, etc. without a tax increase. It is our job to provide services and I think that is what we are doing. Mr. Young thanked the staff and Board for the work on this budget. We were presented the easiest budget this year.

Blake Vance thanked the staff, department heads and the Board for the budget. This was a very good budget and I was very surprised. There were very few changes that needed to be made. I believe this budget reflects the willingness of everyone to come together. We are maintaining our tax rate and we have built a high school without raising the tax rate. We have built the agriculture extension office, pool and community room without a tax rate increase within the last several years. Our tax rate including our fire tax is in the top 15 lowest tax rates in the state.

Tim Phillips thanked the staff and Board for the budget. We don't always see eye to eye but at the end of the day we come together and get it done. I would like to thank the taxpayers because this is what this is all about working for them and making the decisions and creating the best budget that we can create in order to keep the tax rate down. I think we have done a lot of great things with taxpayer money and I think these were needed. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Dennis Aldridge stated that whenever we go through this budget process and look at the budget that is presented by the staff, we as a board fully realize we are not looking at Monopoly money. It is not numbers. It is real dollars representing real sacrifice by the people who pay taxes and who pay for services that the county provides. In doing that we try to humanize a very inhumane process of looking at numbers and sometimes we are not in total consensus but we reach some level of agreement on the totality of it. This year has been very odd because we are looking at some unknown entities down the road. We are trying to project and trying to have an awareness of what impact the changes of the culture and sales tax and all these things that are going to affect our budget. It is very difficult to do that because it is operating from an unknown quantity. I think we have tried to understand that the things we do are for the citizens of Avery County and we are just not here mandating things that we feel should be done but what is for the good of the citizens and county. So in doing that and blending that together we have tried to reach something that is palatable to everyone.

Chair Hicks stated she thought of a budget as being a book. We start out at the beginning and go to the end and then at the end we have to make a cover for it. We have covered Avery County the best that we know how. We thank the staff, department heads and the Board.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to go out of the Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year Budget 2020/2021 at 4:24 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Chair Hicks announced that there would be no vote taken on the budget at this meeting. The North Carolina General Statute during the State of Emergency requires that public comment be taken twenty four hours after the public hearing. This meeting will be recessed until June 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. when the budget will be voted on.

County Manager Updates Continued ---Phillip Barrier, Jr.
Care Act—Continued

Dennis Aldridge stated that this money is very regulated and cannot be used for any and everything. Some of this is totally out of our control. Cities are under the same restrictions.

Consensus by the Board to send in the Cares Act Plan.

Nantahala Pisgah Forest Plan

The comment period for the forest plan has been extended to June 29, 2020. This plan is done every four years. The planning team will be answering questions and there is a number to call for public comment which is 888-251-2949.

Pool Opening

The pool will open June 12, 2020. This will be by reservations only for Avery County residents with a maximum of 50 people per session. There will be a session from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and then another session from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Diane Creek, Toe River Health District Director, worked with us to get a plan in place to be able to open.

Tim Phillips stated “we appreciate all of the outside people coming last year but with the limitations we need to serve Avery County residents first and foremost.”

Community Building Update

Garanco has begun work on the Community Building. We will have our first construction meeting next week. We will be having a meeting with the Board very soon.

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Nothing to report at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the March 27, 2020 Special Meeting; April 6, 2020 Regular Meeting; May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting will be June 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Recess

Chair Hicks declared this meeting to be recessed until June 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to be held in the Commissioners Board Room and livestreamed on Youtube.

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk