

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 18, 2018 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.

Blake Vance led prayer.

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

Chair Hicks read the following statement:

*The time limit for any comment to the Board is three minutes.*

*Board members are not expected to comment or take any action on matters during public comment.*

*Any individual speaking during public comment shall address the entire Board.*

*Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts the session will be asked to leave the meeting.*

*If you would like to speak to an agenda item, you must sign up on the sheet with the clerk. Time limit to speak to an agenda item is also three minutes.*

*Please silence all cell phones or electronic devices.*

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Board Appointments**

**NCACC Voting Delegate**

The NCACC Conference will be held in Catawba County August 23-25, 2018. During the business session on Saturday, August 25, 2018 each county will be entitled to one vote on items that come before the membership. Each county should designate one voting delegate for the NCACC Conference.

**Motion by Faith Lacey to appoint Tim Phillips to be the NCACC Voting Delegate.**

Mr. Phillips stated that he was not sure at this time that he would be attending the NCACC Conference because of a previous commitment.

**Ms. Lacey withdrew her motion.**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Martha Hicks as the NCACC Voting Delegate for the business session on Saturday, August 25, 2018 in Catawba County. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Avery County Fire Association—Bobby Powell**

Bobby Powell, President of the Avery County Fire Association, stated that at the last fire association meeting that the chiefs and fire association members had requested that the commissioners change the makeup of the fire commission board. They requested that there be three fire association appointees, one board of commissioner appointee, and one at large member. They also requested an out of county firefighter be allowed to serve on the board as now the policy reads that the person must be an Avery County resident. Blake Vance questioned when the fire association selected their member for the fire commission how that was accomplished. Mr. Powell answered that each fire department had two votes including rescue and the ladder company.

**Motion by Faith Lacey to send a letter requesting that the fire commission makeup be changed to the legislatures.**

Blake Vance stated that he would like to discuss this issue. He stated that he felt if the makeup of the board was changed that the fire association members could not be from the same fire department and that maybe there needed to be districts established such as one from the lower end of the county, one from the center of the county and one from the upper end of the county so there is equal representation.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if that would have to go through legislation. Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that it would have to go through the legislation to change any makeup of the fire commission. Ms. Poore stated that the Board might want to consider other provisions that would need to be sent to the legislation.

**Faith Lacey withdrew her motion.**

Blake Vance suggested that this be placed on the July agenda so the County Attorney could research this issue thoroughly.

**Consensus by the Board that this issue be placed on the July agenda so the County Attorney would have time to do more research on this.**

**Home and Community Care Block Grant – Philip Adams**

Mr. Adams explained that the North Carolina Home and Community Care Block Grant is vital to assuring the availability of cost effective home and community-based services to the elderly, the malnourished, homebound, dependent and those who are socially and economically needy. To be served by services of the HCCBG clients must be 60 or over. In addition, there are other requirements for particular service. In Avery County we utilize these funds to offset some of the costs for Transportation; In Home Aide Level 1 and 2; Home Delivered meals; Congregate meals and Senior Center operations. Our

grant was increased by \$5,000 and we will need approval from the Board of Commissioners to accept the grant.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Faith Lacey to approve the Home and Community Care Block Grant for Senior Services. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Resolution to Establish and Maintain the Avery County Capital Reserve Fund (amended)**

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that it may establish and maintain a capital reserve fund for any purpose for which it may issue bonds, and the Board has previously established the same; and

**WHEREAS**, the Avery County Board of Commissioners previously designated funds for the renovation of Crossnore Elementary School in the amount of \$687,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires to create a capital reserve fund to accumulate moneys for capital reserve projects, including funds for the renovation/construction/improvement of Avery County High School; and

**WHEREAS**, the approximate periods of time during which the moneys will be accumulated and expended for each project are as follows:

Crossnore Elementary School - the estimated cost is \$687,500.00 with a tentative completion date of fall 2020, with such sums accumulated up to that date

Avery County High School - the estimated cost is Nineteen Million Dollars (\$19,000,000) with a tentative completion date of fall 2020, with sums accumulated up to that date; and

**WHEREAS**, The revenue source from which the money for each of the above purposes will be derived is property tax proceeds, with funds to be transferred from the General Fund;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved as the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018 hereby establishes a Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of renovation/construction/improvement of Avery County High School.

The Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair to sign this Resolution.

The motion to adopt this resolution was made by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and passed by a vote to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution to Establish and Maintain the Avery County Capital Reserve Fund (amended). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Memorandum of Understanding (FY 2018/2019) Between the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services and Avery County**

Barbara Jones, Director of the Department of Social Services, stated that basically what this MOU is doing is regionalizing the social service agencies in the state of North Carolina; breaking the state up into 3 or 4 county regions of similar size and geographical locations. It is putting regional supervision into those areas so there will be more state involvement in county DSS activities, more state monitoring, more effort to bring more uniformity to the county DSS. We have been state supervised but county administered but now more and more it will be state administered. We have a list of performance requirements that they want each DSS to reach. Those requirements are based on percentages which are very unfair to smaller counties. For example, we had a communication from the state which said one of the smaller work first programs had a performance rate of 50%. We only had two applications for that program and one person didn't turn in the required information so we only had one applicant. That is one of the problems associated with the agreement. It holds us responsible for other things we are not responsible for. For example, if the court makes a ruling that we have to abide by but is not in the performance guidelines then who are we going to obey the court or the state. Several other performance guidelines have requirements that directly countermand existing policy so do we obey policy. That is some of the concerns that directors and commissioners have. I submitted to the County Manager a signing document from the Craven County DSS Director who is also an attorney. He has gone through and exhaustively outlined each of the weaknesses in this MOU and basically he is saying we know we have to sign it we don't have a choice if we don't sign we don't get the Federal money or the state money that they send us. That is basically where we are with this agreement.

Blake Vance stated that the state was increasing oversight and control but not increasing funds. Ms. Jones stated that was correct. Less than 10% comes from the state and most is Federal funds but the state is involved.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned what would happen if the mandated performance requirements were not met. Ms. Jones stated that they would come in and say Avery DSS is not meeting their performance requirements and would put a performance improvement plan in place and as long as we comply with the plan and are making efforts, everything is fine. If something happens and for some reason we can't do that, they will come in and run that program for us.

Ms. Jones stated that you will be receiving reports if DSS is not performing as required.

Ms. Poore stated that it is our impression that if this isn't signed there is no funding.

Blake Vance stated that sometimes commissioners have to “hold their nose” and do things and this is one of those times.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (FY 2018/2019) Between the NC Dept. of Health & Human Services and Avery County. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

Chair Hicks questioned if Ms. Jones felt it would help if Avery County sent a statement like Craven County did. Ms. Jones stated that there were a lot of counties that was doing that and the director from Craven County has given permission to send the letter.

**Consensus by the Board to send the letter from Craven County to the state DSS with the MOU.**

### **County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier**

#### **Agricultural Building**

The Ag. Building is coming along well. There is a stamped concrete porch, finishing up on the painting inside and out, finishing up on the pavement, septic work should begin shortly.

#### **Swimming Pool**

There was a prebid conference held on June 12. Those bids will be opened on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Playground**

Restrooms are going in at the playground.

### **Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson**

#### **Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment is needed to amend the Pool Project Fund for additional building costs. The revised Pool Project Ordinance needs to be approved also.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$1,786,052.00 for additional building costs with a debit of \$745,074.00 to General Construction (51.6600.4004); debit of \$66,213.00 to Architect/Engineering Fees (51.6600.4005); debit of \$7,000 to Permits, Insurance, Surveys, other (51.6600.4007); debit of \$10,000 to Furniture (51.6600.4007); debit of \$524,765 to Site Prep (51.6600.4008); debit of \$433,000 to Grant Proceeds (51.3100.0000) and a credit of \$1,786,052 to Transfer from General Fund (51.3101.0000); a debit of \$1,786,052 to Transfer to Pool Project Fund (10.7000.6249) and a credit of \$1,786,052.00 to Appropriated Fund Balance (10.3990.0000).**

**Vote: 3 to 2**

**For: Martha Hicks, Tim Phillips, Wood Hall Young, Jr.**

**Against: Faith Lacey, Blake Vance**

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Revised Pool Project Ordinance.**

**Vote: 3 to 2**

**For: Martha Hicks, Tim Phillips, Wood Hall Young, Jr.**

**Against: Faith Lacey, Blake Vance**

**Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment is needed for additional hours for the part-time maintenance assistant.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the budget amendment for additional hours for the part time maintenance assistant with a debit of \$2500 to Salary-Maintenance Assistant (10.5000.0220) and a credit of \$2500 to Fund Balance Appropriations (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment is needed for propane at the new Ag. Building.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the budget amendment for propane at the new Ag. Building with a debit of \$1,700 to Utilities (10.6050.1300) and a credit of \$1,700 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment is needed for the Register of Deeds to recognize additional revenue received.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the budget amendment to recognize additional revenue received for the Register of Deeds with a debit of \$60,000 to Federal/State Excise Tax (10.4800.5700); debit of \$350 to VRAS State (10.4800.5725) and a credit of \$60,350 to Recording Fees (10.3570.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment is needed for inmate medical expenses.

Commissioner Vance stated that he had a real burn with spending \$200,000 to \$250,000 to take care of a sick criminal.

Commissioner Young added that the board has looked at several avenues to try to curb this but this was the least expensive route.

Sheriff Kevin Frye said that there was a nurse on staff 16 hours a week. When they are coming in sick you have to take care of them.

**Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the budget amendment for inmate medical expense in the amount of \$65,000 with a debit of \$65,000 to Inmate Medical (10.5200.8000) and a credit of \$65,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the May 7, 2018 Regular Session and May 7, 2018 Closed Session. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Agenda Consent Items**

**Adopted by consensus of the Board.**

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next Regular meeting is Monday, July 2, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

**Recess**

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

**Public Hearing FY 2018/2019 Budget**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding the FY 2018/2019 Budget at 4:33 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, presented the Budget Message along with a Power Point presentation.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 159-11, the Avery County Fiscal Year 2018-2019 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, Finance Officer and 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 general reappraisal of real property for Avery County occurred for 2018. State law requires that units of government publish a revenue-neutral tax rate in the budget documents. The revenue-neutral tax rate, as defined by G.S.159-11e. is the rate that is estimated to produce revenue for the next fiscal year by the current tax rate if no reappraisal had occurred.

Growth and the 2018 reappraisal increased the tax base \$209 million or 7% from \$3,734,071,572 to \$3,943,241,340. The revenue-neutral tax rate for the General Fund is proposed to be \$0.4545. The revenue-neutral tax rate for the Fire Tax Fund is proposed to be \$0.0663. Combining the two tax rates results in an overall tax rate of \$0.5208. This is a \$0.0292 difference from the 2017/18 Tax Rate. This rate reflects a very conservative estimate and was not adjusted by any growth factor due to the current economic conditions of our county, based on the fact that the 2014 reappraisal decreased the tax base by \$1 billion dollars from \$4.6 billion to \$3.6 billion.

The 2018/19 budget as presented is balanced based on a total property valuation of \$3.943 billion. This represents an increase of \$209 million or 7.9% over last year's valuation of \$3.734 billion. The general fund tax rate will remain at 48 cents (\$0.48) per \$100 valuation which will generate an estimated \$18.5 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 \$2.67 million dollars in revenue.

**The combination of these two rates results in an overall tax rate of 55 cents (\$0.5500) for the 2018/19 fiscal year.** This rate is the same as the last fiscal year.

## **GENERAL FUND**

### *Expenses*

The total General Fund Budget is set at \$29.6 million. This is a \$1-million-dollar increase from the 2017/18 fiscal year. The increases include \$450 thousand dollars employee classification pay plan.

General Government is increasing \$168 thousand dollars. The increase is primarily attributed to capital expenditures, repairs and maintenance, and various projects in administration, and buildings and grounds departments.

Public Safety is increasing \$577 thousand dollars. The increase is primarily for two additional school resource officers, sheriff, jail, inspections, emergency management,

EMS and central dispatch departments. Capital expenditures include a much needed re-mounted ambulance, and new CPR mechanical vests for EMS.

Transportation is increasing \$521 thousand dollars due to increase in fleet for our department. Ninety percent of the fleet expenditures are reimbursed by the state.

Environmental Protection is increasing \$223 thousand dollars due primarily to the closure of phase 3 cell 1 at the Solid Waste Department.

Economic and Physical Development is increasing \$39 thousand dollars. The increase is primarily due to the new certified position with the agricultural department.

Funding for Human Services is decreasing \$392 thousand dollars. The decrease is primarily due to a new method of state funding for daycare and Medicaid.

Cultural and Recreation is decreasing \$72 thousand dollars. The primary reason is reduced funding of non-profits.

Education is decreasing \$342 thousand dollars from the previous year's budget. The primary reason is an overall decrease in funding for capital expenses. However, two additional school resource officers have been added to the public safety budget and the commitment to renovate Avery High School is reflected in this budget.

Public Safety is the largest expenditure for the County consuming 30% of the total budget. Education and the associated debt service is the next largest expenditure at 19%. Human Services is third largest at 17% while all other County functions total 34%.

### *Revenue*

Property tax revenue is projected to increase \$963 thousand dollars or 7% from last fiscal year. The increase is due to the reappraisal and a \$209 million-dollar increase in the ad valorem tax base.

Local Option Sales Taxes are projected to increase \$250 thousand dollars.

Other Taxes and Licenses are projected to increase \$100 thousand dollars.

Intergovernmental revenues are projected to decrease \$716 thousand dollars primarily due to reduced federal payments.

Licenses and Permits are projected to increase \$7 thousand dollars from last fiscal year.

Sales and Services are projected to increase \$353 thousand dollars primarily due to increased revenue collections in jail and transportation fees.

Investment Earnings and Other Income are projected to increase \$75 thousand dollars due to higher forecasted investment income.

Property tax revenue will generate 63% of the County's revenue, followed by sales taxes at 17%, intergovernmental transfers at 7%, sales and services at 8%, fund balance appropriation at 0% and all others at 5%.

## **OTHER FUNDS**

### *Fire Tax Fund*

The Fire Tax Fund budget for the 2018/19 fiscal year is \$2.6 million dollars or \$148 thousand dollars more than last fiscal year.

### *E911 Fund*

The E911 Fund budget for fiscal year 2018//19 is \$318 thousand dollars. This is a decrease of \$11 thousand dollars from the prior fiscal year.

### *Revaluation Fund*

The Revaluation Fund budget is \$125 thousand dollars for the fiscal year 2018/19. 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 2018/19, as presented, does not include any fund balance appropriation. This proposed budget also continues the capital philosophy to pay as you go and establishes an allocation of \$1,011,900 to a capital reserve "project" fund.

## **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 EMS, Senior Center, and County Museum renovations in cash. The County has also been able to fund the new agricultural office

complex and plans to move forward with the recreation pool project without any debt incurred.

The current major capital projects are:

**Swimming Pool**

Start Summer 2018

Finish Summer 2019

Estimated Cost - \$2,973,052

The Swimming Pool project will involve the construction of a new pool to be located on the recreation property. This will allow the county to fulfill the conditions of the 2008 grant.

Future capital projects are the commitment to Avery County High School and additional development for the recreation property.

**OVERVIEW**

The attached 2018/19 FY Budget Ordinance for Avery County contains the detailed breakdown of anticipated revenues and expenses for the year to end June 30, 2019. This Ordinance is respectfully presented for adoption this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018.

**AVERY COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE  
FISCAL YEAR 2018-19**

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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Government	3,741,804
Public Safety	8,860,978
Transportation	1,359,584
Environmental Protection	2,458,918
Economic & Physical Development	376,688
Human Services	4,924,558
Cultural & Recreational	522,550
Education	5,691,172
General Fund Debt Service	592,066
Transfer to Revaluation Fund	119,322
Transfer to Capital Reserve/Project Fund	926,900
Transfer to Component Unit (Airport)	63,771
Total Appropriations	<u>29,638,311</u>

**SECTION 2:**

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Ad Valorem Taxes	18,607,456
Local Option Sales Tax	5,175,750
Other Taxes & Licenses	480,000
Unrestricted Intergovernmental	258,900
Restricted Intergovernmental	2,159,105
Licenses & Permits	330,500
Sales & Services	2,409,600
Investment Earnings	175,000
Other Income	42,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	-
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>29,638,311</u>

**AVERY COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE  
FISCAL YEAR 2018-19**

**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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Addressing & Data Provisioning	47,101
Operating Expenses	252,341
Capital	19,100
Total Appropriations	<u>318,542</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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

911 Charges	203,511
Interest on Investments	375
Fund Balance Appropriation	114,656
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>318,542</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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Fire Association	40,975
Elk Park Fire Department	100,605
Crossnore Fire Department	107,883
Linville Fire Department	544,200
Frank Fire Department	169,783
Green Valley Fire Department	94,080
Banner Elk Fire Department	124,660
Newland Fire Department	182,980
Fall Creek Fire Department	101,353
Seven Devils Fire Department	41,750
Beech Mtn. Fire Department	60,250
Fire Commission	915,388
Avery County Ladder Truck Co.	31,874
Linville Central Rescue Squad	162,947
Total Appropriations	<u>2,678,728</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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Fire Tax Levy Revenue	2,678,728
Transfer From General Fund	-
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>2,678,728</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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Personnel Expenses	110,219
Operating Expenses	15,732
Capital	-
Total Appropriations	<u>125,951</u>

**SECTION 8:**

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Revaluation Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Transfer From General Fund	119,322
Fund Balance Appropriation	6,629
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>125,951</u>

**SECTION 9:**

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Pool Project Fund for the construction of a new Swimming Pool during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

General Construction	2,245,074
Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees	171,213
Permits, Insurance, Surveys, Other	22,000
Furniture	10,000
Site Prep	524,765
Total Appropriations	<u>2,973,052</u>

**SECTION 10:**

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the Pool Project Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Grant Proceeds	187,000
Fund Balance Appropriation	2,786,052
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>2,973,052</u>

**AVERY COUNTY  
BUDGET ORDINANCE  
FISCAL YEAR 2018-19**

**SECTION 11:**

The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the High School Additions & Renovations Project Fund for the construction of a new classroom and office building during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, in accordance with the chart of accounts heretofore established for this County:

Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees	1,950,626
Total Appropriations	1,950,626

**SECTION 12:**

It is estimated that the following revenues will be available in the High School Additions & Renovations Project Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019:

Fund Balance Appropriation	3,600.00
Proceeds from Lottery Fund	1,947,026
Total Estimated Revenues	1,950,626

**SECTION 13:**

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of forty-eight cents (\$0.48) per hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation of property listed as of January 1, 2018 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 \$3,943,241,340 and an estimated collection rate of 96%.

**SECTION 14:**

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, 2018 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 \$3,943,241,340 and an estimated collection rate of 96%.

**SECTION 15:**

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

**SECTION 16:**

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.



Adopted this 18th day of June 2018.

AVERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Hicks, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Blake Vance, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faith Lacey, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Phillips, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wood Hall Young, Jr., Member

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Turbyfill, Clerk to the Board

Dr. Bryan Taylor spoke to the Board about the needs of the Avery County Schools. Dr. Taylor stated that in May the school board came to the commissioners with a very small increase in the operating budget. Dr. Taylor requested that the Board look at cutting the \$75,000 out of capital and putting it back in the operating budget because it would be better overall for all of the programs.

John Greene, Chair of the Board of Education, stated that this cut had put the school board in a bind because of the volatility and because of rising fuel prices. We need this funding. We know that you have the children of Avery County at heart. We have made significant cuts ourselves by cutting 15 positions and \$750,000. We respectfully ask that you reconsider.

Stan McNabb spoke briefly about the beginnings of drug court and the benefits of drug court. He requested that the commissioners fund drug court.

Ruth Brown spoke about her daughter going through drug court and how it had helped her.

Nancy Morrison stated that she was at the first meeting back in 2002 when DART started their program. She requested that the Commissioners add the funding back for drug court because of the benefit to the community and citizens.

Dale Kirkley requested that the funding be reinstated for drug court.

Sheriff Kevin Frye explained that the effectiveness of drug treatment court is greater than anything else that we have in this county. If we didn't have drug treatment court, these people would still be in jail. This is a rigorous program that teaches accountability. I believe this is a worthwhile program.

Vanessa Henley and Marissa Johnson spoke about the benefits of drug treatment court. They requested that the commissioners consider funding this program.

Chair Hicks stated that Joe Seegers, Attorney had spoken with all of the commissioners earlier in the week and asked the Board to reconsider funding drug treatment court.

There were no further comments.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go out of the Public Hearing regarding the FY 2018/2019 Budget at 5:14 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.**

Tim Phillips stated that he felt like the drug court was a good thing and it works and if there is a way to fix it we are going to try to get it right.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that he agreed with Mr. Phillips. You don't know the implications of what you have done until people tell you. I would hate to think that I was

the cause of someone not getting the help that they need through mainly a group of volunteers that are willing to give their time.

Blake Vance stated that he would concur as far as drug court goes. Addressing the budget as a whole which is where we are at this point, it took me three years to get to vote for a budget and that was last year with this board. There are some very good things in this budget with adding two resource officers, we have put money in the employee's pockets and we have done good things without raising taxes. There are several little things in the budget that I don't like but there are things that I can live with. The one thing that I cannot live with is a cut to Avery County Schools. I am in favor of funding their request because I think they need it. If this is allowable I put this in the form of a motion.

**Motion by Blake Vance to modify the budget that has been presented by taking \$75,000 from the line item "transfer to capital reserve" and bring the schools to last year's operating budget.**

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that we cut the Sheriff's budget about 13%. We cut the school system approximately 2% to give them an additional 8% to have a million dollars set aside on a 19 million dollar high school. I don't think it is right that we make this department help fund this other department. Mr. Young asked if it would be permissible for Blake to amend his motion to take \$7,000 out of that line item also for drug court.

Faith Lacey stated that they asked for \$10,000.

**Blake Vance amended his motion to include \$10,000 for drug court to come out of the same line item which would be a total of \$85,000 coming out of the line item "transfer to capital reserve" with \$75,000 going to the operating budget of Avery County Schools and \$10,000 going to drug court.**

Chair Hicks stated that it bothered her that the school system is trying to build up their fund balance. We, as commissioners, need to be careful with our fund balance.

**Wood Hall Young, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the FY 2018/2019 Budget. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Adjourn**

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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

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