

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 19, 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.

Chair Hicks announced that anyone that would like to speak to an agenda item must sign up on the sheet with the clerk.

Chair Hicks led prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Records Retention Schedule for County Management

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that we need to update the Record Retention Schedule for County Management. This includes administration, airport authority, payroll records, emergency services, parks and rec, planning, and public transportation systems. The department heads have gone over their department's retention schedule. I present this for approval.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Records Retention Schedule for County Management. Motion unanimously approved.

Amend the Agenda

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to amend the agenda to include a Resolution for Parks and Recreation Grant application.

VOTE: Motion passes 4 to 1.

FOR---Martha Hicks; Blake Vance; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

AGAINST---Faith Lacey

Resolution Regarding a Grant Application for the Division of Water Resources

Robbie Willis, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Board had approved to apply for a grant with the Clean Water Trust Management but that it had been recommended that Avery County withdraw from the grant and apply for a grant from the Division of Water Resources which would be more suited for rural communities. The grant is due on the 30th of June so we had to present this to the Board today. This resolution is for them to know that the county commissioners are in support of the grant application.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution Regarding a Grant Application for the Division of Water Resources. Motion unanimously approved.

Chair Hicks rearranged the agenda to move the Swimming Pool Project discussion and Old Swimming Pool Project down to just before adjournment because these two issues will take some discussion.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Agricultural Building Project

Meeting with the architect June 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Demolition of Building Beside the Courthouse and the Old Swimming Pool

Sealed bids are to be opened on June 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board room.

Meeting

Joint Meeting with the Board of Education scheduled for June 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Central Office.

County Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse

Mr. Barrier stated the NCACC is asking for a leadership forum from each county. I would like to ask what role you would like management to take in this. I have talked to Mitchell County and since we are a health department district they would like to have a joint effort with the three counties. We will work on this and see how we want to proceed.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Soil and Water Department requests the following budget amendment to remove excess State Grant Funds appropriated in April 2017 for the Linville River Restoration Project. Only \$25,000 of this grant passed through Avery County.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the budget amendment of \$225,000 for the Linville River Restoration Project with a debit of \$225,000 to NC Soil & Water Conservation (103695.0000) and a credit of \$225,000 to Conservation/Development (106190.3410). Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Register of Deeds requests a budget amendment for additional excise tax received.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the budget amendment of \$60,300.00 for Avery County Register of Deeds with a debit of \$60,300.00 to Federal Excise Tax (104800.5700) and a credit of \$60,300.00 to Excise Stamps (103571.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment for additional revenue received for Foster Care.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the budget amendment in the amount of \$155,000.00 for the Foster Care program with a debit of \$155,000 to State Foster Care IV-E (106800.6070) and a credit of \$155,000 to Foster Care IV-E Revenue (103652.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment

Tax Mapping needs a budget amendment for employee benefits. A portion of benefits was budgeted to be paid out of E-911 funds. However, the State E-911 Board no longer allows counties to pay for employee benefits with E-911 funds.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of \$16,000 for Tax Mapping with a debit of \$2,550.00 to FICA (104550.0500); debit of \$2,650.00 to Retirement (104550.0600); debit of \$9,700.00 to Group Insurance (104550.0700); debit of \$1,100.00 to 401K (104550.0800) and a credit of \$16,000.00 to Appropriated Fund Balance (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

County Attorney Report- Michaelle Poore

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, reported that she had a matter that needed to be discussed in Closed Session and would like for her report to be moved down the agenda to after 3.6.

Closed Session

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to go into a time of Closed Session at 3:59 p.m. regarding Public Employee Employment Contract G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and Attorney/Client Privilege G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). Motion unanimously approved. Invitees are the Board, County Manager, Clerk, County Attorney.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session at 4:31 p.m. During Closed Session, no vote was taken.

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Ms. Poore reported that several tax collections had come in of about \$15,000 this week. I have received another round of three dozen accounts to send out letters. There are no other matters that require board action.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the May 1, 2017 Regular Minutes and the May 1, 2017 Closed Session Minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

June 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. with the Avery County Board of Education at their office.

New Swimming Pool Project

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that an email had been sent with the latest drawings of the new swimming pool. Mr. Barrier reminded the Board at the last meeting there was a consensus of a majority of the Board to build an outdoor pool with zero entry and several nice amenities. What you have from Mary is a note about those amenities and this price does include a large slide and water features. Is it still the consensus of the Board that we move forward with this project? This project comes in at 1.585 million.

Blake Vance stated that he continued to think that we are better off with an indoor pool. I know the Board has decided an outdoor pool is best. I feel like if we are going to do it we need to do it right. The plan was for the old one to be covered and it has set out there 42 years uncovered. I feel like a pool is something we have provided for our citizens. The Board has decided on an outdoor pool and I have accepted the Board's decision and I will do everything I can to help make it a success but I do want it as part of the record that it is a better option to have an indoor or hybrid pool.

Tim Phillips said that he was not against an indoor pool but my whole thought process is that we purchased that Wright property to put a rec center on. That was the whole idea behind the grant. If we spend the money to build an indoor pool, I don't think we will build a rec center like it should be built and that is why I am for building an outdoor pool and coming back later on and build the rec center. I think we will get more usage year around out of a rec center than we will get year round out of a pool.

Faith Lacey stated that she was for an outdoor pool and the upkeep of an enclosed pool would be more than we could put on the taxpayers.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that how many people would leave their place of work and go out in the winter weather and go home and get their children and bring them back to the swimming pool. Yes, I was in favor of an indoor pool to begin with but I don't think we can afford it and I don't think we can afford to keep it up. I think pretty much about the same size as the old pool but some special features for small children and zero entry. I think an outdoor pool is the way to go.

Chair Hicks stated that Tammy is the one with the pool experience and we need to have her here also to talk to. I was for an indoor pool and I did say I would not vote for anything but an indoor pool but I changed my mind because I didn't see how the county was going to pay for it because it was going to be over 3 million dollars. Every month after that there would be operating costs and after we seen what our fund balance contained I said where are we going to get the money.

Blake Vance stated that he didn't feel like the Board was making a full informed decision on that because the architect had been all over the map on this. Every time she has come back to us her numbers have changed around and I have zero confidence in Mary Isaacs. I don't feel like we are making an informed decision. She was at 1.6 million for a T shaped pool, we made the cuts again and we stay at the same price.

The County Attorney was questioned about the contract. Ms. Poore stated that there was no provision for partial payment or early termination or anything like that. Normally, there would be some negotiating and try to come up with some kind of agreement. If the county stayed with her, she is estimating that her total fee is 7% of the estimated cost of the project. The way this is she has one fee which is the \$28,900 which is basically a set of plans and then if she comes on with the rest of the project she would be 7% of the total estimated cost.

A special meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss with Mary Isaacs the pool.

Blake Vance stated that he was fully behind what the Board has decided. It is not my preference but I fully support what the Board has decided.

Old Swimming Pool Property

Mr. Barrier stated that we met on May 8th, 2017 regarding the old swimming pool property, the demolition of that pool and the future plan for that site. It was the consensus of a majority of the Board to have a picnic shelter 24X24, bathrooms, cornhole board, grills, water and electricity but not playground equipment at the old swimming pool site.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that he thought we needed a playground. Blake Vance said that he had pondered on that further and he was ok with a playground on that property. Martha Hicks stated that she had changed her mind on the playground and there is money that was collected from the rent from the two houses on the recreation property and we can take some of that money and do some playground equipment with it. There will have to be a fence put around it.

Robbie Willis presented some options for playground equipment. The playground equipment is about \$35,000 installed and serves about 84 children. That is installed on new safety surfacing with all the concrete out of there. That is part of Option 1 and Option 2. We had talked about a picnic shelter and

playground. The playground equipment with new surfacing and a steel structure picnic shelter with concrete with installation is \$70,000. We have \$65,000 in the fund. That does not include a restroom. The restroom with two stalls for women, block building would be about \$10,000. These are the options for the old pool property. \$75,000 to \$85,000 is the estimate for the playground equipment, picnic shelter and bathrooms.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve Option 1 for the Old Swimming Pool Property with bathrooms. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adjourn at 5:28 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk