

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Community Room at the Avery County Agricultural Center and take any action necessary including the possibility of a budget amendment, an amendment to the project ordinance, awarding the bid and a letter of intent.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: Tim Phillips, Vice-Chair; Blake Vance

Call to Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Hicks led prayer.

Chair Hicks turned the meeting over to Boomerang Architects. Pierre Henwood stated that Marion Dixon, owner of Audio/Video Enterprises from Morganton has provided proposals for the sound system. He had suggested that we have this meeting and also Woodie and Dennis had indicated that it would be a good idea to talk about the sound system and make sure we are providing everything that you want and that it has the ability to be expandable later as technology expands.

Mr. Dixon stated that basically the proposal was from the guidelines that he had been presented. Over the past several years technology for sound has changed and come down in price. Based on the guidelines that we are looking out is an audio mixing console that has 16 inputs such as microphone, CD player, smart phone, etc. and it can be expanded to have additional 16 inputs. We can use a wireless router with an Ipad so you do not have to be at the mixing board to adjust the system. The system is flexible enough so that you can be in the auditorium or you can be at the outdoor stage. That is why we sent with this type of mixing board. This item also has a recall button so if you program in your settings and then someone changes them you can hit the recall button and get your settings back.

Dennis Aldridge said that he thought this was a good system but he felt there was a lack of communication or awareness of what we are really doing here. We are trying to look at the overall cost so where are the microphones, stage monitors, cables, etc. I don't think the wattage for the amplifiers is enough.

Mr. Dixon said two speakers can throw the sound to the back of the room with no problem but the people in the front of the room it will be a little loud for them. The two speakers and the way the room is set up will work in the room with no distortion. My thought on it is there needs to be a distributed system and that is where you put speakers in the ceiling so you put the same amount of volume across the room front to

back. Twelve ceiling speakers would give you ample sound. You would get a more even coverage with that. The sound board will work with speakers or with the distributed system. We are trying to look at one system to do two different things. There was considerable discussion regarding the speakers and the sound.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that this conversation should have happened about the sound at least six months ago. Dennis Aldridge agreed and said that he had tried for two months to get some ideas on cost for the sound system, furniture and ancillary costs. I have gotten quotes for this myself and I am not being paid as a consultant to do this. All of the specifics should have already been decided. This is one of the most critical aspects of this project. Mr. Young said we should have done this months ago. We are here to award bids and still don't have the numbers we need.

Mr. Dixon said that with the sound system that the Board is asking for it would be around \$25,000 which is a ballpark figure at this point. Mr. Aldridge said this is very important to get the correct system in this building because this is using taxpayer's money and we need to get this right.

Mr. Barrier questioned if we would have training on this system. Mr. Dixon said yes it's a two-step system. We will have you work with it for a month and then we will come and do a follow up visit. There can also be maintenance contracts purchased.

Mr. Barrier said so we want 10 microphones with stands, a distributed sound system, 2 clip on mics and 2 wireless mics and a maintenance contract.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

Mr. Barrier stated that the chairs that we had initially looked at were in the \$300 dollar range so we decided that was not feasible. We have priced some commercial tables and chairs from Sam's Club. These have ten year warranties. We can start with these and see what the needs are and get some more later. We will look at getting some round tables for receptions. The nesting fold tables would be more for meetings. These are \$300 dollars a piece and these are 30X72. We were looking at getting the strips for plugging in computers, etc.

The proposal for the acoustical panels is for \$8,860 and that is a company out of Hickory and that includes finishing and installing thirty 2 inch thick panels. These are fiberglass wrapped in fabric wall mounted panels.

This building contract includes grassing the disturbed areas and paving is also included.

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, said if we accept the low bid we would need another \$275,000 and that would be with no contingency other than what is already built in.

Right now in the project ordinance under general construction we have \$1,075,000. If we go with Garanco's bid then we will be short about \$250,000. We already have \$35,000 in furniture and we are about \$25,000 short in the FF&E. We are talking about \$275,000.

Pierre Henwood with Boomerang Architects presented some possible cost savings for the project. The exterior handicapped ramp could be taken away. The ramp inside could be used. There is some wiring that could be changed. The ceiling tile could be changed but this would change the acoustics. The one that is worthwhile considering is an alternative on the stage to do it in a ¼ inch corkboard floating system that is wood look floor that comes with a warranty and can be refinished one time. Dennis Aldridge said he didn't have a problem with changing the floor but did not want to change out the ceiling tiles. Chair Hicks and Mr. Young agreed with Mr. Aldridge.

Mr. Young stated that we have tried to do everything right and be good stewards of the people's money. It is not an elaborate building with a lot of bells and whistles but it is going to be nice. There is a lot of community interest in this building. With that said we are \$275,000 short and we had 1.2 million dollars in the project ordinance but we knew it would not be enough.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to take \$350,000 out of general fund and put it in the project ordinance with the understanding that any money left over would revert back to the general fund and to amend the project ordinance and the current year budget with a debit of \$320,000 to General Construction (526600.4004) debit of \$30,000 to Furniture (526600.4007) and a credit of \$350,000 to Transfer from General Fund (523101.0000) and a debit of \$350,000 to Tfr to Ag. Bldg Community Room (107000.6251) and a credit of \$350,000 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000).

Dennis Aldridge questioned what that would make the ordinance come to. Mr. Greene said it would be \$1,550,000. Mr. Aldridge said we are \$275,000 right now with the way it sits so we are saying \$75,000 for any unforeseen circumstances. That would be \$350,000 over our original.

Second by Dennis Aldridge. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to award the bid to Garanco, Inc. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adjourn this meeting at 12:26 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk