

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Budget Workshop on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget.

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

Members Absent: None

**Call To Order**

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chair Hicks recessed this meeting after calling it to order because the Commissioners had a previously scheduled meeting that took longer than expected.

Chair Hicks called the meeting back to order after the recess at 6:25 p.m.

Chair Hicks turned the meeting over to Tim Greene, Finance Officer. Mr. Greene stated that this was a balanced budget. All of the nonprofits and outside agencies are in at last year's numbers, i.e. Mayland Community College; Avery County Schools, etc. The nonprofits are in at where they were funded last year. The airport authority shows an increase. The airport authority typically gets grants that are usually a 90/10 and we have always funded those grants. I actually cut their operational because last year there was no grant.

Tim Phillips questioned if Drug Court should be taken out of the nonprofits and put in as something that we fund every year. Mr. Greene stated that it has its own line in the budget so that would stay like that but we could take it out of the discussion part.

Last year the nonprofits were funded a total of \$55,000; \$25,000 for Yellow Mountain; \$2500 for Little League; \$2500 for Shriner's; \$5000 for Blue Ridge Partnership; \$5000 for Avery Chamber; then we came back and added Drug Court at \$15,000.

There was some discussion about the nonprofits. Blake Vance said he was pretty comfortable with what was funded last year. Chair Hicks and Tim Phillips agreed. Mr. Young said we cut it back from \$116,000 to \$55,000 last year. Dennis Aldridge stated "it is a pretty poor optic to budget 22 million dollars for projects and be really close on some of the nonprofits that work in the county." Blake Vance said his contention on that and has been is we are obligated to do the 22 million dollars but this is something that we do if we can. It is not necessarily a defined responsibility. Mr. Aldridge said it does not sit well to increase all the other departments and not fund the things that are scrimping by such as the nonprofits. Mr. Vance said the first responsibility is the employees, buildings, etc. that was his opinion. Mr. Aldridge added that he would like

discussion on all the nonprofits that has presented. I have looked through the whole book and then there are some new ones that we should look at. To me there should be consideration given to work that is not tied directly to county employees.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if we needed to come up with a set amount that we are going to give to nonprofits. The way we did last year was we decided on the ones that we wanted to fund. Blake Vance suggested \$55,000. Mr. Vance stated that he was content with what we did last year as far as funding the nonprofits. Mr. Aldridge said he thought that \$20,000 divided between some of these nonprofits would make a difference in what they do and inconsequential in the terms of the budget and will give much more credence in the community.

Blake Vance stated that in his opinion he thought this is the last thing that should be discussed. We need to look at our budget and then come back and see what we can do. Mr. Phillips agreed. Mr. Aldridge said that these people are our responsibility also.

Mr. Barrier directed the Board members to turn to Tab 4. The department budgets were examined and discussed thoroughly.

### **Recess**

Chair Hicks asked for a brief recess.

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

Mr. Barrier directed the Board to the Capital Improvement Plan. Each department's capital plan was discussed. It was the consensus of the Board to cut the new roll off truck and walking floor trailer out of the solid waste budget at this time. It was the consensus of the Board to add the partial fencing to the Parks and Recreation department budget for the playground at Schultz Circle due to safety reasons.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be adjourned at 10:17 p.m. The next budget meeting will be Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be with the Fire Commission; Sheriff; and Board of Education.

---

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

