

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 5, 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.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led prayer.

Phillip Barrier recited "The Ragged Old Flag" in memory of Robert Wiseman, previous Avery County Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Proclamations and Awards

Celebrate Avery County

Juanita Cantrell was recognized for 15 years of service in the Social Services Department.

Larry Smith was recognized with a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners.

Whereas, since 1966, the Grand Champion of the National Christmas Tree Association has provided the White House Christmas Tree; and

Whereas, Avery County has, until now, been twice represented as the Grand Champion; and

Whereas, Larry Smith of Mountain Top Fraser Firs began growing Christmas trees while a student at Avery County High School; and

Whereas, he is the National Christmas Tree Association's Grand Champion for 2018 and will be providing the White House Christmas Tree for 2018 to be displayed in the Blue Room;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Avery County Board of Commissioners recognizes this great accomplishment which brings international distinction and congratulates Larry Smith of Mountain Top Fraser Firs.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2018.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution Recognizing Larry Smith for his accomplishment with providing the White House Christmas Tree for 2018. Motion unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Ken Ketchie with High Country Press reported that he was here to comment about the High Country Press. We cover news stories for Watauga County and Avery County. Tim Gardner is our reporter in Avery County and he does a great job covering what is going on here.

Jerry Moody, Extension Director, announced that the Christmas Tree cutting at Larry Smith's Tree Farm will be on November 14th and that everyone was invited. The tree will be cut and then brought to the Agricultural Center to be loaded.

Board Appointments

Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

There are five applications for one appointment to the Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee. This appointment is to fill the remaining term of Roy Reynolds.

Each Commissioner will vote with their top choice being given a 1 and the lowest choice a 5. Each Commissioner will sign and date the ballots. The results will be available for public inspection and be included in the minutes. These applications have been reviewed.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess to tally the votes.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in session.

Kate Gavenus received 16 votes (1 first place; 1 third place; 3 fourth place)

Clayton Harpold received 11 votes (1 first place; 2 second place; 2 third place)

Keith Hoilman received 18 votes (1 first place; 1 third place; 1 fourth place; 2 fifth place)

Richard Honeycutt received 11 votes (2 first place; 2 second place; 1 fifth place)

Mike Reese received 19 votes (1 second place; 1 third place; 1 fourth place; 2 fifth place)

Martha Hicks voted as follows: (Richard Honeycutt 1; Clayton Harpold 2; Mike Reese 3; Kate Gavenus 4; Keith Hoilman 5)

Blake Vance voted as follows: (Clayton Harpold 1; Richard Honeycutt 2; Keith Hoilman 3; Kate Gavenus 4; Mike Reese 5)

Faith Lacey voted as follows: (Keith Hoilman 1; Clayton Harpold 2; Kate Gavenus 3; Mike Reese 4; Richard Honeycutt 5)

Tim Phillips voted as follows: (Richard Honeycutt 1; Mike Reese 2; Clayton Harpold 3; Kate Gavenus 4; Keith Hoilman 5)

Wood Hall Young, Jr. voted as follows (Kate Gavenus 1; Richard Honeycutt 2; Clayton Harpold 3; Keith Hoilman 4; Mike Reese 5)

There was a tie between Clayton Harpold and Richard Honeycutt. The Board was instructed to vote for their top choice and second choice.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess to tally the votes.

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

Clayton Harpold received 6 votes (4 first place; 1 second place)

Richard Honeycutt received 9 votes (1 first place; 4 second place)

Martha Hicks voted as follows: (Clayton Harpold 1; Richard Honeycutt 2)

Blake Vance voted as follows: (Clayton Harpold 1; Richard Honeycutt 2)

Faith Lacey voted as follows: (Clayton Harpold 1; Richard Honeycutt 2)

Tim Phillips voted as follows: (Richard Honeycutt 2; Clayton Harpold 1)

Wood Hall Young, Jr. voted as follows: (Clayton Harpold 1; Richard Honeycutt 2)

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Clayton Harpold to the Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

NCACC Voting Delegate for the 2019 Legislative Goals Conference

Each Board of County Commissioners is requested to designate a commissioner or other official as a voting delegate for the 2019 Legislative Goals Conference.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Faith Lacey to appoint Blake Vance as the Legislative Goals Conference Voting Delegate. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Mayland Community College 2018/2019 Budget- Dr. John Boyd

Dr. John Boyd, President of Mayland Community College, explained that every year a signature must be obtained on the budget from the Chair of the Board to send back to the state. This is the budget that you approved this year. Some of the things that we have done already this year have been quite a few renovations at the Avery Campus. We have taken the tile off of the floor in the main hallway and round room. We have painted every room in the interior and put new flooring in the offices. One of the classrooms we are going to divide into two. We have a plan and we keep track ten years out when things need to be replaced. Most of this we do ourselves which saves a ton of money. We have a contract signed for them to put a new entranceway to the campus. We have done a lot of work on this campus. We will be putting a new room in the green building. We now have a \$200,000 endowment to help with upgrading the green building.

We do a lot of high school classes. The college pays for the full expense of the class but the high school still gets funding at the full rate. Dr. Boyd asked for approval of the budget sheet.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the amount of \$355,000 for the 2018/2019 budget. Motion unanimously approved.

Resolutions for the Avery County Transportation

Mr. Barrier advised that there are resolutions regarding memorandum of understandings between Avery County Transportation and Mayland Community College for fiscal years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 which will allow them to apply for grants. There is also a resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding between Avery County Transportation and Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc. for 2019/2020.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH AVERY TRANSPORTATION AND MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION, INC. FY 2018/2019**

WHEREAS, the Avery County Board of Commissioners has been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc. for the fiscal year 2018-2019; and

WHEREAS, Avery County Transportation Authority desires to provide transportation services to the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc., and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc. desires to utilize transportation offered by Avery County Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for said agreement to be memorialized by a Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in session on the 5th day of November 2018 hereby approves that Memorandum of Understanding for the fiscal year 2018-2019 between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc.. The Board further authorizes the County Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WITH AVERY TRANSPORTATION AND MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION, INC. FY 2019/2020**

WHEREAS, the Avery County Board of Commissioners has been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc. for the fiscal year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, Avery County Transportation Authority desires to provide transportation services to the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc., and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc. desires to utilize transportation offered by Avery County Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for said agreement to be memorialized by a Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in session on the 5th day of November 2018 hereby approves that Memorandum of Understanding for the fiscal year 2019-2020 between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Mayland Community College Foundation, Inc.. The Board further authorizes the County Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
AVERY TRANSPORTATION AND AVERY ASSOCIATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL
CITIZENS, INC.**

WHEREAS, the Avery County Board of Commissioners has been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc. for the fiscal year 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, Avery County Transportation Authority desires to provide transportation services to the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc., and the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc. desires to utilize transportation offered by Avery County Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for said agreement to be memorialized by a Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in session on the 5th day of November 2018 hereby approves that Memorandum of Understanding for the fiscal year 2019-2020 between Avery County Transportation Authority and the Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens, Inc.. The Board further authorizes the County Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the two Resolutions regarding the Memorandum of Understandings with Avery Transportation and Mayland Community College and the Resolution regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with Avery Transportation and Avery Association for Exceptional Citizens. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Tax Administrator Report –Bruce Daniels

Tax Collection Report

The Total Tax Collections for the month of October 2018 were \$1,668,987.28.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Total Tax Collections for the month of October 2018 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Releases

The Releases for the month of October 2018 were \$4,268.28.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Releases for the month of October 2018 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

There were 50 sales in October 2018 compared to 63 sales in October 2017.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

Swimming Pool

The plumbing has been installed, electrical is being installed. We will have a construction meeting on November 15.

Playground

We are working on the playground. We will be getting mulch, corn hole and a border in a few weeks. Swing sets and buttercups are in.

Drug Crisis Roundtable Update

We have had two meetings with a group of individuals about the drug crisis. We are ready to have meetings in the old Avery Cares Building. Maintenance has repaired some things. Tommy Burleson has been out there to inspect.

Toe River Health District Meeting Update

The Toe River Health District Board has taken the fund balance and divided among the counties according to their appropriation. That county now can spend that money they way they see fit. Each county has their own fund balance. As a committee we are working on inter-local agreements for all three boards.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. explained that what we are trying to do as a health district board is for each county to see their expenditures and their income. We are the only county that is balancing what we take in as to what we spend. Our health department is doing a wonderful job. This mechanism is going to help with funding.

National Parks Legacy Fund

Mr. Barrier reported that there are 11.3 billion dollars needed in repairs for our National Parks and so Congresswoman Virginia Foxx took it up on herself to host a meeting about how important the Blue Ridge Parkway is to the mountain counties. There are two bills in Congress that hopefully will pass to keep the National Parks open and repaired.

Finance

The Finance Officer resigned in September. Interviews have been completed and as Manager I recommend that Tim Greene be appointed as Finance Officer effective November 19, 2018.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Tim Greene to Finance Officer effective November 19, 2018.

VOTE: 4 to 1.

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

AGAINST---Faith Lacey

Broadband Update

An agreement has been finalized with all the landowners. The drone has been flown and a full site survey has been done. They have contracted with the pole installers and electricians. The equipment has been ordered.

County Attorney Update – Michaele Poore

Ms. Poore stated that she has done a report for the Board on the matters that have been appealed to the Property Tax Commission. We had six residential taxpayers appeal to the Property Tax Commission this year and all of those matters have been resolved. There was one commercial appeal that has been resolved and will not need to be heard.

The tax office sends delinquency notices to me periodically and I send out letters trying to urge taxpayers to make their payments. Through the accounts that have been turned over to me the amount that has been collected is (\$253,788.52).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the minutes for May 24, 2018 Budget Workshop; May 29, 2018 Budget Workshop; July 30, 2018 Special Meeting; August 17th 2:00 p.m. Special Meeting; August 17th 2:30 p.m. Special Meeting; October 1, 2018 Regular Session; October 10, 2018 Special Meeting; October 10, 2018 Closed Session. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Upcoming Meetings

Next Regular Meeting is December 3, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

Blake Vance thanked the citizens of Avery County for being able to serve on the Board as did Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Faith Lacey stated that she had enjoyed her four years on the Board and that she was handing it over to very competent people.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 4:50 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk