

**State of North Carolina
County of Avery**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, May 7, 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.

Proclamations and Awards

Celebrate County Government

Khristie Barrier was recognized for her 18 years of service in the Emergency Medical Services Department. James Seaberg was recognized for 17 years of service in the Mapping department. Misty Brewer was recognized for 17 years of service with the Addressing Department. Andrea Turbyfill was recognized for 17 years of service in the Tax Department.

Public Comments

Edward Hinson, Skyline/Skybest, updated the Board about a USDA grant for broadband infrastructure. We applied for this grant in 2017 but we were declined due to a few small highlighted areas in the grant. This time we have focused on these diligently in the last few weeks. Our deadline is May 14th but we want to have everything submitted this Friday. We will be filing an electronic and hard copy as well. The key thing that we were instructed by the USDA was that we needed more community support and when I read that I was pretty astounded. You can't find another county anywhere that has given more support for the need for broadband but we need more letters. We have been going door to door. We have a website with a link for general comment from the public. The area that we applied for was the Pyatte area. The Pyatte Community Center is the place we would provide free computers and internet service for two years free to the public. Some of the grant money would go into remodeling of that facility. One question asked is why Pyatte. We have to connect to our specific facilities so as we are going to Pyatte there will be distribution cable all the way so everything along the way would be served so it gives you a lot more service. The maximum amount of the grant that you can apply for is 3 million and we applied for 2.97 million. I think we have a good shot of getting it this year. We have in excess of 200 handwritten letters. This is a win-win for everyone. It is expensive to do fiber in the mountains and I have not seen anything less than \$30,000 per mile and that is just to hang it.

Jennifer Herman and Michelle Grit with Oasis spoke regarding the services of Oasis in Avery County. Oasis is celebrating 40 years of service. In 2013 we resumed services in Avery County. We have partnered with the Sheriff's Office and Clerk of Court's office and developed some domestic violence response protocol. They are working to identify weaknesses and strengths in the system. We also have a grant where we are partnering with the Baker Center. We are partnering with Lees McRae College. Last year we served 150 people in Avery County already this year we have served 96. We have served 51 people in the shelter that is 25 adults and 26 children. The crisis calls continue to go up. We have submitted a grant proposal to Avery County.

Faith Lacey thanked Oasis for their work in Avery County.

Board Appointments

Avery Airport Authority Board Appointment

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that there is an application for Jack Riley for the Avery County Airport Authority in the packet. This application has been reviewed.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to approve Jack Riley for reappointment to the Avery Airport Authority Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

High Country Workforce Development Board

We have an application for Amy Crabbe who has indicated her desire to be reappointed to this board. This application has been reviewed.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to reappoint Amy Crabbe to the High Country Workforce Development Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Social Services Board

There are five applicants for one position on the Social Services Board. Ballots were handed out to each Commissioner. 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.

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess to tally the votes.
Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in session.

Chair Hicks announced Wood Hall Young, Jr. as the top choice for the Social Services Board.

Danny Phillips received 12 votes (1 first place; 2 second place; 1 third place; 1 fourth place)

Wood Hall Young, Jr. received 11 votes (2 first place; 1 second place; 1 third place; 1 fourth place)

Tami Hagie received 15 votes (2 second place; 2 third place; 1 fifth place)

Jennifer Roark received 24 votes (1 fourth place; 4 fifth place)

Maxine Laws received 13 votes (2 first place; 1 third place; 2 fourth place)

Chair Hicks voted as follows: Maxine Laws 1; Tami Hagie 2; Danny Phillips 3; Wood Hall Young, Jr. 4; Jennifer Roark 5

Blake Vance voted as follows: Wood Hall Young, Jr. 1; Danny Phillips 2; Tami Hagie 3; Maxine Laws 4; Jennifer Roark 5

Faith Lacey voted as follows: Maxine Laws 1; Tami Hagie 2; Wood Hall Young, Jr. 3; Danny Phillips 4; Jennifer Roark 5

Tim Phillips voted as follows: Danny Phillips 1; Wood Hall Young, Jr. 2; Tami Hagie 3; Maxine Laws 4; Jennifer Roark 5

Wood Hall Young, Jr. voted as follows: Wood Hall Young, Jr. 1; Danny Phillips 2; Maxine Laws 3; Jennifer Roark 4; Tami Hagie 5

Review of Applications for the Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

There were applications to review for the Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee. These applicants will be considered for appointment at the next regular meeting.

Chair Hicks announced that the public hearing could not start until 4:30 p.m. and that the agenda would be rearranged since there was time remaining until the public hearing could be started.

Resolution Regarding Board Policy Section 9.1 of the Avery County Board of Commissioners

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that at the last meeting there was some discussion about the Board Policy on the section regarding selection of the auditors and the board had indicated that they wanted to change the existing policy and that is what this resolution does. The resolution deletes the language that would require a new auditor come in after a certain period of time and gives the board discretion on who they appoint as an auditor; the board would consider professional competence and experience and whether or not the auditor has served in this capacity as an auditor for a governmental entity. This Resolution is for the board to consider for replacing Section 9.1 of the board policy with a new Section 9.1.

RESOLUTION REGARDING BOARD POLICY SECTION 9.1 OF THE AVERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, *The Avery County Board of Commissioners has adopted a Board Policy; and*

WHEREAS, *the Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Board", has adopted a resolution which establishes a process for selection of independent accountants; and*

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it best serves the Board and the efficient use of County resources to change said policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to delete the existing Section 9.1 and substitute in its place the following:

9.1 Selection of Independent Accountants

As required by North Carolina General Statutes Paragraph 159-34, the Board of County Commissioners shall select a certified public accountant or an accountant certified by the Local Government Commission as qualified to audit local government accounts. Avery County shall have its accounts audited annually. The audit will also include a compliance examination in accordance with applicable Federal and State rules, regulations and guidelines as required under the Single Audit Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-502) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, as contained in G.S. 159-34. The audit shall be conducted as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year, and the auditor shall report directly to the governing board.

The selection of an independent accountant should be based on professional competence and experience as demonstrated by high level of attainment in professional practice. Therefore, the Board should consider such factors as:

A. Prior experience in audit of governmental units, including both financial and compliance audits under Single Audit.

B. Professional qualifications of individuals to be assigned to audit, as evidence by (1) academic degrees, (2) professional certifications, and (3) continued professional educational attainment.

C. Professional reputation recognized in the financial and bond markets.

D. Number of locally based personnel available for audit engagement.

E. Proposed fee arrangements.

Due to the value of a continuing relationship with its independent accountant and due to the administrative difficulties and inefficiencies ensuing from frequent changes, the Board should consider reappointing the same firm of independent accountants.

A policy of change, or continuity, in accountants is not the prime importance and should never take precedence over professional competence and experience.

Once the auditing firm has been selected by the governing board, a written audit contract or agreement shall be entered into which shall be in writing, shall include the entire entity in the scope of the audit, except that an audit for the purposes other than the annual audit required by G.S. 159-34 should include an accurate description of the scope of the audit; shall require that a typewritten or printed report on the audit be prepared as set forth in G.S. 159-34; shall include all the terms and conditions of the agreement between the parties; and shall be submitted to the secretary of the Local Government Commission for his or her approval as to form, terms, conditions, and compliance with the rules of the Local Government Commission.

All bills or claims for audit fees and cost shall be submitted by the County Finance officer to the secretary of the Local Government Commission for his or her approval prior to the same being paid by the County, as required by G.S. 159-34.

These policies are subject to review, change, and reaffirmation prior to any bidding proposal process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Avery County Board of

Commissioners meeting in regular session on the ____ day of _____, 2018, hereby deletes the existing Policy Section 9.1 and adopts in its place Section 9.1 Selection of Independent Accountants, as follows:

9.1 Selection of Independent Accountants

As required by North Carolina General Statutes Paragraph 159-34, the Board of County Commissioners shall select a certified public accountant or an accountant certified by the Local Government Commission as qualified to audit local government accounts. Avery County shall have its accounts audited annually. The audit will also include a compliance examination in accordance with applicable Federal and State rules, regulations and guidelines as required under the Single Audit Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-502) and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, as contained in G.S. 159-34. The audit shall be conducted as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year, and the auditor shall report directly to the governing board.

The selection of an independent accountant should be based on professional competence and experience as demonstrated by high level of attainment in professional practice. Therefore, the Board should consider such factors as:

A. Prior experience in audit of governmental units, including both financial and compliance audits under Single Audit.

B. Professional qualifications of individuals to be assigned to audit, as evidence by (1) academic degrees, (2) professional certifications, and (3) continued professional educational attainment.

C. Professional reputation recognized in the financial and bond markets.

D. Number of locally based personnel available for audit engagement.

E. Proposed fee arrangements.

Due to the value of a continuing relationship with its independent accountant and due to the administrative difficulties and inefficiencies ensuing from frequent changes, the Board should consider reappointing the same firm of independent accountants.

A policy of change or continuity in accountants is not the prime importance and should never take precedence over professional competence and experience.

Once the auditing firm has been selected by the governing board, a written audit contract or agreement shall be entered into which shall be in writing, shall include the entire entity in the scope of the audit, except that an audit for the purposes other than the annual audit required by G.S. 159-34 should include an accurate description of the scope of the audit; shall require that a typewritten or printed report on the audit be prepared as set forth in G.S. 159-34; shall include all the terms and conditions of the agreement between the parties; and shall be submitted to the secretary of the Local Government Commission for his or her approval as to form, terms, conditions, and compliance with the rules of the Local Government Commission.

All bills or claims for audit fees and cost shall be submitted by the County Finance officer to the secretary of the Local Government Commission for his or her approval prior to the same being paid by the County, as required by G.S. 159-34.

These policies are subject to review, change, and reaffirmation prior to any bidding proposal process. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes the Chair to sign this resolution.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Resolution Regarding Board Policy Section 9.1 of the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

VOTE: 4 to 1.

**For—Martha Hicks; Blake Vance; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.
Against—Faith Lacey**

Ms. Lacey stated that she did not believe in changing the policy because you don't like what the policy says. Also, we have not had an accountant from Avery County.

Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan Revisions – Debbie Smith

Debbie Smith, Director of Avery County Transportation, explained that Avery County Transportation must continually update the Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan as required by the state. The reason for being here today is to get approval of the revisions that we have made throughout the year. We only have four this year. One is in the employee driver section; we replaced some old interview questions with some new questions. Another is general system description; we reformatted some of the human service organizations; we changed the wording and removed one of the federal requirements that is no longer one of our requirements. Another revision is installing the new revised drug and alcohol policy in this plan. What I need from the Board is the revisions approved.

Ms. Smith updated the Board on activity at Avery County Transportation. There has been 263,288 miles driven already this year. We have served 18,629 trips. We expect that number to be around 26,500 before the year is over. There are a lot of clients served through the transportation system. Our transportation system is open to all residents of Avery County; we are not just for the elderly or children.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the revisions to the Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections Report

The Total Tax Collections for the month of April 2018 is \$157,317.05.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Tax Collections report for the month of April 2018 as reported. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Regular Releases

The Regular Releases for the month of April 2018 is \$14.23.

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

Mr. Daniels reported that there were 53 different parcels that were appealed to the Board of Equalization and Review. Of the 38 individuals with the 53 parcels the board recommended adjustment on 6 different parcels. The total scroll for 2018 as we stand right now with the total assessed market values is \$3,731,064,571. We have gone up from last year's tax base.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Agricultural Building Updates

We are on schedule with the agricultural building. IT is working with the phone system and internet service.

Economic Development Board update

We know have a billboard on Hwy 321 and Hwy 421. We talk about broadband every single meeting and jobs every single meeting.

Rock Gym Update

The renovation of the Rock Gym is completed. We have a lift in to get to the second floor. We have new equipment also.

Broadband

The grant that was received through the Avery Chamber of Commerce should be awarded within the next 30 days.

Museum

The museum wanted to thank the Board for the repairs that have been completed.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Appointment of Auditor

The Avery County Board of Commissioners needs to appoint the auditor for the upcoming year. The recommendation is for Young, Miller, & Gillespie, P.A. to audit the financial statements for the County of Avery as of and for the year ending June 30, 2018. The audit will begin in July 2018 and the report will be issued no later than October 31, 2018 at a price not to exceed \$36,400.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Young, Miller, & Gillespie, P.A. as the auditors for the year ending June 30, 2018 not to exceed \$36,400 and authorize the chair to sign the contract.

VOTE: Vote passes 4 to 1.

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

Against---Faith Lacey

Budget Amendment

Emergency Medical Services requests a budget amendment for salaries—part time due to workers comp claims and comp time for trainings.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000 for Emergency Medical Services with a debit of \$100,000 to Salaries—Part Time (10.5300.0210) and a credit of \$85,000 to Salaries—EMT's (10.5300.0220); \$5,000 Insurance Refunds (10.5300.7450); \$10,000 to Gas/Diesel Usage (10.5300.3110). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Elections Department needs a budget amendment to increase Board Member pay because of the State mandated placement of a fourth board member.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment for the Elections Department in the amount of \$1,050.00 with a debit of \$1,050 to Salary—Board Members (104300.0210) and a credit of \$1,050.00 to Supplies (104300.3300). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed for Public Buildings and Grounds repairs and maintenance. The County has had many unexpected heat unit and building repairs this year.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment for Public Buildings and Grounds in the amount of \$20,000 with a debit of \$20,000 to Repairs and Maintenance (10.5000.1510) and a credit of \$15,000 to Available for Appropriation (10.7000.6000) and a credit of \$5,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed to reallocate JCPC funds. One program was not needed this year.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment to reallocate JCPC funds with a debit of \$2,790.00 to Juv. Services-Project Challenge (107000.6145); debit of \$800.00 to Juv. Services – Mediation (107000.6147); debit of \$2,000.00 to Juv. Services – Mentoring (107000.6130); debit of \$1,800.00 to Juv. Services-Lifeskills (107000.6148); debit of \$261.00 to Juv. Services – Operational (107000.6125) and a credit of \$7651.00 to Juv. Services – Crossnore School (107000.6121). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed for Museum repairs and maintenance.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$1,500.00 with a debit of \$1,500.00 to Museum (10.8000.6355) and a credit of \$1,500.00 to Buildings and Grounds- Capital (10.5000.7410). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

The Budget Amendment regarding the Pool Project Fund and revision of the Pool Capital Project Ordinance will be scheduled for the next regular meeting.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess until 4:30 p.m. when a public hearing is scheduled.

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

Chair Hicks asked for a motion to go into the Public Hearing Regarding Assessment on Real Property known as 410 Adams Apple Drive, Cluster 10.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding Assessment on Real Property known as 410 Adams Apple Drive, Cluster 10 at 4:30 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Michaëlle Poore, County Attorney, stated that as the Board is aware there was a condominium building at Adams Apple that was condemned several years back by the Inspections department and that building had to be demolished. The purpose of the public hearing is to determine the need for a Special Assessment pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, 153A-372(b) and Chapter 153A, Article 9, regarding whether the Board of Commissioners will annul, modify or confirm the preliminary assessment roll, such assessments being for the demolition of Adams Apple Cluster 10 Condominium building located at 410 Adams Apple Drive, Newland, NC 28657. The preliminary assessment roll was available for inspection in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court and the office of the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners. The proposed amount of the total assessment of the building is \$12,934.96 dollars and that is composed of the amount \$1,100 paid to Western Asbestos, Inc. for asbestos removal. The building was part of a controlled burn by the fire departments and then after that \$11,835 was paid to Cranberry Creek Farms and Grading to remove the debris. The total assessment would be assessed against the property owners on file in the Clerk's office. The percentage of the ownership for each one of the individuals is also set forth on the preliminary assessment roles. There are some individuals that had larger units than others and some individuals that had multiple units. The total amount of the assessments for the various units is \$12,934.96.

The terms of payment are: Due and payable in full in one annual installment on 1 September 2018, so long as said date is later than 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. In the event that the assessment roll is published more than 30 days before 1 September 2018, then the assessment is due

and payable in full within 30 days after the date that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. Any portion of the assessment that is not paid within 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published shall, until paid, bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum.

There were no public comments.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if the lien is not taken care of then does the County retain ownership. Ms. Poore stated that not immediately but that this procedure is similar to the tax foreclosures. Once the assessment becomes delinquent, the county can foreclose on the property to collect the lien. There are four property owners of the eight units that were in the building.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go out of the Public Hearing at 4:39 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ASSESSMENT ON REAL PROPERTY
PURSUANT TO NCGS 153A-372**

WHEREAS, the Avery County Inspections Office held a corrective action hearing on the real property known as 410 Adams Apple Drive, Condominium Cluster 10, and the demolition of said building was subsequently ordered by the Director of Inspections; and ***WHEREAS***, the County subsequently caused the building to be demolished and removed; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to place an assessment upon the real property known as 410 Adams Apple Drive, Condominium Cluster 10 for the cost of the demolition; and ***WHEREAS***, the County has expended the following sums in the demolition of said building: \$1,100.00 paid to Western Asbestos, Inc. and \$11,835.00 paid to Cranberry Creek Farms and Grading; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amount of the assessment is \$12,935.00, consisting of the \$1,100.00 paid to Western Asbestos, Inc. and \$11,835.00 paid to Cranberry Creek Farms and Grading; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the property and their respective interests are as follows:

Unit Tax Parcel # Percentage

Ownership

Owner Mailing Address

18670266739200000
Adams Apple Condo Dev
PO Box 2137
Banner Elk, NC 28604

1 18670266739200001 9.72%

Thomas Joel Hemphill &
Rosemary H. Hemphill
27405 Polaris St, Apt 502
Orange Beach, AL 36561

2 18670266739200002 15.28%
John A. Elmore II PO Box 381
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

3 18670266739200003 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

4 18670266739200004 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

5 18670266739200005 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

6 18670266739200006 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

7 18670266739200007 9.72%
Real Vision, Inc.
PO Box 1954
Banner Elk, NC 28604

8 18670266739200008 15.28%
Real Vision, Inc.
PO Box 1954
Banner Elk, NC 28604

WHEREAS, the assessment per unit owner, based on percentage ownership, is proposed to be as follows:

**Unit Tax Parcel # Percentage
Ownership
Owner Amount of
Assessment**

18670266739200000 Adams Apple Condo Dev

1 18670266739200001 9.72%
Thomas Joel Hemphill and
Rosemary H. Hemphill
1257.28

2 18670266739200002 15.28%
John A. Elmore II 1976.46

3 18670266739200003 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1257.28

4 18670266739200004 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg 1976.46

5 18670266739200005 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1257.28

6 18670266739200006 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1976.46

7 18670266739200007 9.72%
Real Vision, Inc. 1257.28

8 18670266739200008 15.28%
Real Vision, Inc. 1976.46

Total Assessment 12934.96

WHEREAS, the terms of payment are: Due and payable in full in one annual installment on 1 September 2018, so long as said date is later than 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. In the event that the assessment roll is published more than 30 days before 1 September 2018, then the assessment is due and payable in full within 30 days after the date that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. Any portion of the assessment that is not paid within 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published shall, until paid, bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avery County Board of

Commissioners, meeting in regular session on 7 May 2018, hereby finds and resolves that:

1. The County has expended the following sums in the demolition of said building: \$1,100.00 paid to Western Asbestos, Inc. and \$11,835.00 paid to Cranberry Creek Farms and Grading;
2. The amount of the assessment is \$12,935.00, consisting of the \$1,100.00 paid to Western Asbestos, Inc. and \$11,835.00 paid to Cranberry Creek Farms and Grading;
3. The owners of the property and their respective interests are as follows:

Unit Tax Parcel # Percentage

Ownership

Owner Mailing Address

18670266739200000 Adams Apple Condo Dev
PO Box 2137
Banner Elk, N 28604

1 18670266739200001 9.72%
Thomas Joel Hemphill &
Rosemary H. Hemphill
27405 Polaris St, Apt 502
Orange Beach, AL 36561

2 18670266739200002 15.28%
John A. Elmore II PO Box 381
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

3 18670266739200003 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

4 18670266739200004 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

5 18670266739200005 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

6 18670266739200006 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg

PO Box 347
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

7 18670266739200007 9.72%
Real Vision, Inc.
PO Box 1954
Banner Elk, NC 28604
8 18670266739200008 15.28%
Real Vision, Inc.
PO Box 1954
Banner Elk, NC 28604

4. The Board confirms the following assessments against the properties and in the amounts set forth below:

**Unit Tax Parcel # Percentage
Ownership
Owner Amount of
Assessment**

18670266739200000 Adams Apple Condo Dev
1 18670266739200001 9.72%
Thomas Joel Hemphill and
Rosemary H. Hemphill
1257.28

2 18670266739200002 15.28%
John A. Elmore II
1976.46

3 18670266739200003 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1257.28

4 18670266739200004 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg
1976.46

5 18670266739200005 9.72%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1257.28

6 18670266739200006 15.28%
Dean Eisenberg and
Shanaaz Eisenberg
1976.46

7 18670266739200007 9.72%
Real Vision, Inc. 1257.28

8 18670266739200008 15.28%
Real Vision, Inc. 1976.46

Total Assessment 12934.96

5. The Chair is hereby authorized to sign this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to publish the notice required by NCGS 153A-196 and to collect the assessment authorized herein and to: have such assessments reflect the terms of payment as follows: Due and payable in full in one annual installment on 1 September 2018, so long as said date is later than 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. In the event that the assessment roll is published more than 30 days before 1 September 2018, then the assessment is due and payable in full within 30 days after the date that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published. Any portion of the assessment that is not paid within 30 days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment roll is published shall, until paid, bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Resolution Regarding Assessment on Real Property known as 410 Adams Apple Drive, Cluster 10. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Avery County High School Construction/Renovation

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that he and the Finance Officer had been in contact with the Local Government Commission and that they were fine with Avery County moving along with the construction/renovation of the high school. The balance on the lottery funds is \$1,798,000 as of April 14, 2018. The qualified school construction bonds are not available at this time. The needs based public school capital fund may be available for 2018/2019. There is a school bond that may bring in revenue for Avery County. We have contacted some people to speak with.

Blake Vance stated that he had met with Dr. Taylor and he had personally spoken to Virginia Foxx and a person in Senator Burr's office to help work on some grants or loans for this project.

Faith Lacey questioned if a public hearing would need to be done if the County were to get a bond. Ms. Poore stated that nothing is confirmed at this time and that type of bond is really a way of financing for banks and does not require a public hearing until the Board is ready to approve the financing and then there could be a couple of public hearings.

Mr. Vance stated that there was 3 million dollars going into a pool right now and he felt that Avery High School took precedence over that and that he would like the Board to consider putting the pool on hold and maybe including it as a larger complex at some point in the near future and utilizing the funds for Avery High School. That would be a Board decision. I think the school board knows we are committed to Avery High and I think it is time to get the ball rolling.

Tim Phillips stated that he was all for getting the high school started as soon as we can but I don't think we should sacrifice something that we have in motion. We really don't have any confirmation on any funding on bonds.

Mr. Vance stated that he did not disagree with Mr. Phillips but that was just something that he had offered for the Board to consider.

Mr. Young questioned where are we with funding? Dr. Taylor stated that based on the information that the Board of Commissioners shared with him that there was enough here to get the project started and as we get the project started and get the blessing today and then work with the architect and then we would work with the USDA loans. I am personally confident we can find a way or multiple ways of financing this moving forward. My concern if we continue to delay is the cost going up.

Tim Phillips questioned if the Board was to say go ahead now and get started today when would we have to have funds available. Dr. Taylor said the lottery money would get us up to December or January 2019. Mr. Young questioned if by January 2019 we have found nothing for loans are we stuck with 19 million dollars we can't come up with. Dr. Taylor said what we are doing between now and January is finalizing design, preparing bid documents and getting ready to go out to bid. With your approval today we would like to get that process started so when we come back in January 2019 or February 2019 we can advertise to solicit bids and at that time we are not into a contract. Mr. Young stated that all we are doing is getting ahead of the game with funds available to go out to bid. Dr. Taylor stated that we are committed now to getting the design, bid documents and logistical items in place and between now and January getting funding so we don't push everything down the road.

Chair Hicks questioned that in a previous meeting we voted to take 1 million dollars out of the lottery funds so is that the balance or is that including the 1 million dollars. Mr. Barrier stated that 1.78 million dollars was the balance in the lottery fund.

Chair Hicks also stated that she was not in agreement with doing away with the pool project. We have promised that we are going to build a pool and that has been in the making for a long time. I am not against construction and renovation of the school. The school is not safe; there are too many entrances and exits. We have to look out for the children's safety. It is time to do something about this.

Mr. Young stated that he wanted to proceed with the pool. The money is already

appropriated. The agricultural building is paid for. I want to see this happen.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to proceed as the Board of Education sees fit working with the County Manager. Seconded by Tim Phillips.

Mr. Vance stated that he is in full support of Avery High School. This has been beat around for a long time. I want to remind everyone that this could have been done for 5 million dollars cheaper. This has come to the floor tonight. I would like for more people to be here to speak on this and I intend to support it.

Faith Lacey stated that she didn't think it was fair to the taxpayers not to come out to the meeting to speak and let us know what their feeling is about this because they are going to foot the bill. I feel like the taxpayers should have their say.

Ms. Poore questioned if Mr. Young planned on amending his motion to include a dollar limit.

Mr. Vance stated that it would be wise to call a special meeting Thursday night and answer the questions that are coming up and let the public speak.

Chair Hicks suggested that we wait until the 21st of May meeting.

Mr. Young amended his motion to allow the Board of Education to proceed and not to exceed the amount of 19.5 million dollars working with the county manager with the Board making the final decision. Seconded by Tim Phillips.

VOTE: Vote passes 4 to 1.

For—Martha Hicks; Blake Vance; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Against---Faith Lacey

Closed Session

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to go into closed session at 5:06 p.m. regarding Attorney/Client Privilege G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3). Invitees are the Board, County Manager, Clerk, County Attorney, and visiting Attorney. Motion unanimously approved.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session. During Closed Session, no vote was taken.

Avery County Solid Waste Request for Proposals

Eric Foster, Director of Solid Waste, explained that he wanted to get a consensus from the Board whether they wanted to contract out the municipal waste or leave it in house.

There was discussion regarding the request for proposals.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to not contract with a service

for hauling of the municipal waste but reexamine this before the 2020 contract with Bristol expires. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the April 2, 2018 Regular Session Minutes. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

May 10, 2018 Budget Workshop; May 17, 2018 Budget Workshop; May 24, 2018 Budget Workshop.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 6:09 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk