

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and take any action necessary on the following items:

1. Budget Amendment for \$28,500 for the purchase of the Lacey Property consisting of two tracts located adjacent to the Kelly Johnson property.
2. New Swimming Pool Project.
3. Demolition of the Old Swimming Pool; budget amendment for demolition and future plan for that site.
4. Demolition of the Building beside the Courthouse (Kelly Johnson property) and future plan for that site.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Blake Vance, Vice-Chair; Faith Lacey; Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
Phillip Barrier led prayer.

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed for the purchase of the Lacey Property consisting of two tracts located adjacent to the Kelly Johnson Property and closing costs for the Johnson and Lacey property.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve a Budget amendment in the amount of \$28,500 for purchase of the Lacey Property ad closing costs for the Johnson and Lacey properties with a debit of \$28,500.00 to Capital Outlay—Kelly Johnson (Lacey) Property (105000.7425) and a credit of \$28,500.00 to Appropriated Fund Balance (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

New Swimming Pool

Tim Phillips stated that it was his opinion instead of looking at an indoor pool that we should build a nice outdoor pool with all the amenities, nice features and get that underway. I don't feel like people are going to use the pool in the winter as much as they think they are going to. Then, after that, aggressively pursue a recreation center that can be used for a lot of things.

Wood Young Hall, Jr. stated that he agreed with Tim 100%. Because of budget restraints and because of the use, I think we should build a pool comparable to what we had with zero entry. The previous board did set aside a million dollars to do this. I know we cannot do it for that but I think we can get closer than what was presented to us.

Blake Vance said that the he did not feel like he could make an informed decision at this point. He said that he felt like the architect had led us all over the place with this pool. We started out at 2.6 million dollars for a pool with a retractable cover and now we are at 2.2 million for an outdoor pool. We are \$225 dollars a square foot and I have talked to multiple architects and I can find no justifications for that. I have lost confidence in the architect. I think we need a new architect. I think that simply because we don't have good information at this point we need a new architect.

Faith Lacey stated that she agreed that if we do a swimming pool it should be outdoor similar to what we have. We can always work with the YMCA to pay them so much and let our kids use the YMCA. I agree with Tim and Woodie.

Martha Hicks stated that back when we started this project we put away 1 million dollars to build a pool. We knew that 1 million dollars would not build it. This pool our here has lasted for nearly 40 years. My opinion is that we need to go ahead and decide if we want an indoor pool or outdoor pool.

There was considerable discussion about the new swimming pool project.

Consensus by a majority of the board to do an outdoor pool similar to what we have now with zero entry, nice amenities, diving board, etc.

Blake Vance stated that his decision against was purely because he didn't feel he had enough information.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

Demolition of the Old Swimming Pool; Budget Amendment for Demolition and Future Plan for that Site

Phillip Barrier, Interim County Manager, stated that at this time he did not have the estimate for the demolition of the swimming pool so we could not do a budget amendment yet. He also stated that he was going to look at bidding the old Kelly Johnson Building demolition and the old Swimming Pool demolition as one project.

There was discussion regarding future plans for the old swimming pool site. There was discussion about placing playground equipment at the old swimming pool site. Robbie Willis shared pictures of the playground equipment with the Board.

Consensus by a majority of the Board not to have playground equipment at the old swimming pool site; the plan would be for a picnic shelter, grills and bathrooms.

Adjourn

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 10:45 a.m.
Motion unanimously approved.**

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk