

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing regarding a proposed agreement with Capital Development Services to provide services to Avery County and the Avery County Co-Operative Extension Service in regard to the property known as the Heritage Park property, at the address of 661 Vale Road, Newland, North Carolina 28657, and located on that real property described in Deed Book 341 Page 1673 of the Avery County Register of Deeds. Specifically, the agreement includes the following services: Implementation of the assessment recommendations and building fund raising infrastructure; support, guidance and training of leadership staff; major donor prospect identification, evaluation, assignment, cultivation and solicitation strategies; and overall guidance and direction. The proposed contract is to be in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

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 4:31 p.m.
Phillip Barrier led prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Hicks read aloud the notice of the meeting.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go into a time of Public Hearing at 4:35 p.m. regarding the proposed agreement with Capital Development Services. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Jerry Moody, Director of Agricultural Extensive Services, explained that last year agricultural extension was able to get a grant to pay for the initial phase to identify if the county had the capability for the fund. Michelle Schneider with CapDev helped to go about identifying and trying to figure out if the potential was here to raise funds for the second phase of the project. We talked about the vision plan which we now have the final mock up. The feasibility study came out that we have enough people that could fund the entire project including community center, trails, equine center, etc. CapDev is going to help us raise the money but there is no guarantee. CapDev will be helping us train.

Michelle Schneider with Capital Development Services reported that the first phase was to look at the feasibility of the project. This is a great project and a piece of land which

could be used well for the community. One of the unique pieces of this campaign is there is a high capacity of seasonal residents and wonderful community support and we need to bring those two things together but there is a limited timeline to do that or you risk losing contact with them. During the first phase, we identified seventeen recommendations. We now need to take all of this, add to it and get a strategy in place. The vision plan explains what you are doing and so we need to work on explaining why you are doing it and the impact so people will understand how their gift will make a difference. The next phase is to do the training. Jerry will be very involved in this. We are beginning to do some research on the things that the seasonal residents are involved in. We are hoping to do the training this month. We have a writer on standby so that we will be ready when the seasonal residents are here. The first few gifts really matter. We would anticipate that most of the money would come from less than 30 people. What is great about the project is that you can make the case for serving children for this, serving the community, environmental things that would be of interest, etc. Our goal is to be in and out of here by the end of the season.

Benny Vance spoke about how it would be very beneficial to the county to have a place to have reunions, banquets, family gatherings, etc.

Casey Hollifield commented that he would like to see a place also for large gatherings and a place for children to learn about agriculture.

David Webb stated that he felt this was a very important project for the county and that it was wise to bring in a professional to help with the fundraising.

Bill Runyon said that he as a participant in the community garden. He stated that on behalf of the community garden he felt that this was a very worthwhile project.

Commissioner Blake Vance stepped down from the Commissioner chair to speak. He stated that four or five years ago he had been on a cruise and when they pulled into Jacksonville he broke a tooth. He said he went to the dentist and they told him it would be \$450.00. I decided that I would go to Big Lots and get me a pair of needle nose pliers and a bottle of water and walked out in the parking lot and I pulled what I could of that tooth and got some Amoxicillin from the dentist and thought I was ok. About two or three years later I ended up at an oral surgeon getting what I had not gotten out taken out. I said that to say this, it is our job as commissioners to be stewards of the people's money and to do this the best we can. We can do this haphazardly with a pair of needle nose pliers or we can put out a little bit of money and get it done right the first time. Our job as stewards is to make the best investments that we can and we can invest up to \$30,000 here and see yields ten times that without a lot of problem. Anything we can get from non-taxpayer coffers I am in support of and I encourage my fellow commissioners to support this also.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to close the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Chair Hicks stated that the \$30,000 is already included in this year's budget. We did a budget amendment earlier.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that over two years ago he had a vision for Avery County for something like a civic center. I have talked to several people about it and I think this is what a lot of citizens would like. I want to thank Jerry for his hard work. He has worked tirelessly on this.

Tim Phillips stated that he felt that this was money well spent for a good project.

Faith Lacy stated that it is not that I don't agree it is money well spent but we only have so much money.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Cap/Dev contract contingent upon agreeance by the county attorney and county manager.

VOTE: 4 to 1.

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

Against---Faith Lacey

Adjourn

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 5:08 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk