

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 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.
Dennis Aldridge led prayer.
Wood Hall Young, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hicks thanked everyone for their cards, phone calls, and prayers for her son during his illness.

Celebrate County Government

Amanda Lowery with Avery County Emergency Medical Services and Kim Davis with Agricultural Extension Service were recognized for 18 years of service.

Public Comment

Paul Buchanan, Assistant Fire Marshal, spoke to the Board regarding a bell that is being displayed in the Commissioners Board Room. The bell is being entrusted to the Fire Marshal's office to be used when there is a line of duty death or a firefighter death. There is a ceremony that goes along with the ringing of the bell.

Board Appointments

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

There are two appointments for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Karen Brown and Jacqueline Aldridge have agreed to serve. These applications have been reviewed.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Karen Brown and Jacqueline Aldridge to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Child Protection Team

Carrie Shaffer has agreed to serve on the Child Protection Team. Her application has been reviewed.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to appoint Carrie Shaffer to the Child Protection Team. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

ETJ for Village of Sugar Mountain

The Village of Sugar Mountain is requesting that the Board appoint Stanley Norwood to the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction for the Village of Sugar Mountain. This has been reviewed.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to appoint Stanley Norwood to the ETJ for the Village of Sugar Mountain. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Avery Transportation Advisory Board

The NC Department of Transportation is now mandating that the regional planner for transportation and emergency management be members of the Avery County Transportation Advisory Board. Also, the Finance Director for the County is mandated to chair the Finance Committee for the Transportation Advisory Board. These three individuals need to be appointed to the Avery County Transportation Advisory Board.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint David Graham, Regional Transportation Planner; Paul Buchanan, Emergency Management; and Nancy Johnson, Finance Director to the Avery County Transportation Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Review of Applications

The Board reviewed applications for Economic Development Committee; Child Protection Team; Avery County Joint Community Advisory Committee; and the Planning Board. These applications will be considered for appointment at the next regular meeting.

Resolution Regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Avery County Little League, Inc.; Memorandum of Understanding with Avery County Little League, Inc.

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that the Parks and Recreation Department would like to offer Tarheel Softball for the county and offer baseball for an age level that Little League Baseball did not offer. We have met with Shannon Cook who is the President of Little League and Robbie Willis, Avery Parks and Recreation Department, who are open and receptive to us offering this. Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that this Memorandum of Understanding is to allow the county to use the property in conjunction with Little League for six months.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution and approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Avery County Little League, Inc. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Mr. Barrier stated that this was in no way taking anything away from Little League; it is just to offer more opportunities for our children.

Resolution Regarding Funding for Non-Profits; Policy for Funding Non-Profits; Memorandum of Understanding; Non-Profit Funding Grant Application

Blake Vance stated that he would like to clarify for the public that this was something that I spearheaded. We fund in the budget several nonprofits during the year and that is not something that is commonplace throughout the state. What this does is it limits the amount that we fund to nonprofits and helps us vet those nonprofits a little better than just sending us a request which has been done in the past. It allows us to have a little more control and vetting over who we are funding in the nonprofits. When we talked about this initially the intent is not to be miserly and we recognize that there are nonprofits that serve a public purpose. Chair Hicks stated that we will have more insight on what the funds are used for and be able to let the public know where the money is being used. Tim Phillips commented that we see that needs change from year to year budget wise and shouldn't give if the need is not there so we need to monitor that a little closer. Mr. Barrier stated that his office was ready to move on this tomorrow and have the applications be due to his office by March 30th.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution Regarding Funding for Non-Profits. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Chair Hicks recognized two candidates for commissioner in the upcoming election Jonathon Sheppard; Dennis Aldridge.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels
Tax Collections Report

The Tax Collections for the month of February 2018 is \$305,690.48.

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

Mr. Daniels stated that second notices had been sent out.

Sales Report

For February 2018 there were 53 sales at 99% of market value. Last February there were only 30 sales at 99% of value.

Amend the Agenda

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to amend the agenda to include the Releases for the month of February 2018. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Releases

The Releases for the month of February 2018 is \$277.69.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Releases for the month of February 2018. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Review of Applicants for the Special Board of Equalization and Review

Mr. Daniels presented the applications for the Special Board of Equalization and Review for review by the Board. Mr. Daniels asked for the five members plus approve as many of the applicants as possible because there are some time constraints with some of the applicants. I would like to have a deeper pool to call on so if we have a conflict then we can call someone else in.

The names of the applicants are:

Don Baker; Dede Traver; Joe H. Perry; Pat Dale; Chris Byers; Joseph Hawkins; Pat Howard; Patti Tennille; Moses Braswell.

CapDev Contract

Ms. Poore stated that this was the contract that the Board had budgeted for during the budget process. This is the Capital Development group who Jerry Moody has been working with. This is the proposed contract with Capital Developments. This will require a public hearing so if the Board is ready to proceed on this we need to get a hearing scheduled at a meeting.

The Board will schedule a public hearing for March 22, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. This public hearing will be advertised in the newspapers.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Agricultural Building

Mr. Barrier showed some photos of the progression of the Agricultural Building.

Economic Development Update

Mr. Barrier referred the Board to the Agenda Consent Items that contained some information that the Economic Development Committee had requested be placed on the website.

Broadband Grant

A copy of the Grant RFP is in the informational items. Chair Hicks stated that this is not up to the commissioners where the broadband is put that the Chamber is the facilitator of this grant.

Budget Meetings

Department Head budget meetings begin tomorrow.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Parks and Recreation Department requests a budget amendment for purchasing and installing a new handicap lift at the rock gym (\$45,000) and purchasing and installing new to us workout equipment (\$4,240).

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment to install a new handicap lift and new to us workout equipment in the amount of \$49,240.00 with a debit of \$49,240.00 to Capital Outlay (106200.7400) and a credit of \$4,240.00 to Repairs & Maintenance—Building (106200.1510); a credit of \$41,800.00 to Wages—Seasonal Workers (106200.0230); and a credit of \$3,200.00 to Fica (106200.0500). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery Public Buildings & Grounds requests a budget amendment for repairs and maintenance. An insurance check has been received for water damages to the Sheriff's Evidence Room at the courthouse. Ms. Johnson stated that the amount needed to be rounded to \$32,377.00.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the amended Budget Amendment for the repair of the Sheriff's Evidence Room at the Courthouse in the amount of \$32,377.00 with a debit of \$32,377.00 to Repairs and Maintenance (10.5000.1510) and a credit of \$32,377.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (10.3340.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Sheriff's Office requests a budget amendment to recognize funds received from the insurance company for auto repairs. Ms. Johnson stated that the amount needed to be rounded to \$2,512.00.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt the amended budget amendment for auto repairs in the amount of \$2,512.00 with a debit of \$2,512.00 to Auto Supplies (105100.3100) and a credit of \$2,512.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Inspections Department requests a budget amendment for funds received from our insurance company for auto repairs.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt a budget amendment for auto repairs in the amount of \$1,360.00 with a debit of \$1,360.00 to Auto Supplies (105400.3100) and a credit of \$1,360.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed for additional repairs at the Museum. These funds will be used to repair the roof and add guttering, repair the planter and patch paving.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment for repairs to the roof and patch paving at the Museum in the amount of \$3,500.00 with a debit of \$3,500.00 to Museum (108000.6355) and a credit of \$3,500.00 to Available for Appropriation (107000.6000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment to recognize additional revenue received through the State of NC for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$4,370.00 to recognize LIEAP money with a debit of \$4,370.00 to LIEAP (10.6800.6095) and a credit of \$4,370.00 to County Welfare (10.3634.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Nothing to report that requires action by the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the minutes for February 5, 2018 Regular Session. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

March 9, 2018 Special Meeting to discuss the Swimming Pool Project.

April 2, 2018 Regular Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 4:18 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

