

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: Phyllis Forbes

Call To Order

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Glenn Johnson led prayer.

Chairman Poteat stated that if anyone would like to speak to an agenda item they must sign up on the sheet with the clerk otherwise there would be a time of public comment.

Public Comments

Rachel Deal reported that Glenn Johnson had been at the Crossnore Enhancement Committee meeting. Sam Ray also reported that Glenn Johnson had been at the Newland Town Council meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that he was trying to champion economic development throughout the county.

**County Manager Updates – Robert Wiseman
Emergency Medical Director Contract**

Mr. Wiseman reported that the contract for the new Emergency Medical Director has been executed. Dr. Curry will sign as soon as the preaudit is complete. She has been doing training classes with our EMS employees. Dr. Curry has identified a need for computer technology so in the near future there may be the need for a budget amendment.

Small Courtroom Carpet

The Safety Committee has made some recommendations for the carpet in the small courtroom. The construction management firm and architectural firm are looking at this.

Revision of Personnel Policy

Mr. Wiseman stated "We are still working on the personnel policy revisions. As soon as we get the revisions complete, we will present to the commissioners for review."

Finance Officer Report

Scott Heath stated that during the last joint meeting with the Avery County Board of Education there was a projection for the new high school of \$25,000,000. He said that he thought that was way too low and that \$40,000,000 would be a more appropriate projection.

By consensus of the Board, advise the New High School committee to make sure they understand this project may require more funding than \$25,000,000 possibly up to \$40,000,000.

Public Hearing – 2012 Community Development Block Grant Application – NC Catalyst Program – Michelle Ball

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Glenn Johnson to go out of Regular Session and into a time of Public Hearing regarding the 2012 CDBG Application – NC Catalyst Program at 3:50 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Michelle Ball, High Country Council of Government, stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to give the opportunity for citizen input concerning the upcoming application submission for CDBG funds in the NC Catalyst category. The County's application will ask for funds to provide housing repairs for low-income, owner-occupied homes within the County. Avery County will be requesting \$175,000 from the NC Department of Commerce. This is a competitive grant. The Advisory/Selection Committee met on September 6, 2012. Program planning was discussed. Applications have been sent to more than 40 homeowners.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Poteat declared the Public Hearing to be closed at 4:00 p.m. and the Board to be back in Regular Session.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to approve the 2012 Community Development Block Grant Application – NC Catalyst Program. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

2012 Joint Resolution – Mayland Community College – Dr. John Boyd

Dr. John Boyd, President of Mayland Community College, advised that when there is a difference in funding, there is the need for a joint resolution. Avery has generally been the highest in regards to funding but this year the other two counties have come up significantly. There is no transfer of funds in this resolution. We have tried to plan the budget to keep from transferring capital funds. Chairman Poteat stated that Avery County is slightly less than the other two counties in funding but this did incorporate a 3% across the Board cut which was to every department and nonprofit.

Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Scott Heath to approve the 2012 Joint Resolution among the Avery County Board of Commissioners and Mayland Community College. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Tax Collectors Report – Phillip Barrier

The Total Tax Collections for the month of September 2012 is \$1,643,130.61.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of September 2012 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Real and Personal Releases

The total Real and Personal Releases for the month of September 2012 is \$611.72.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to approve the Real and Personal Releases for September 2012 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Motor Vehicle Releases

There are four motor vehicle releases totaling \$14.83.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Glenn Johnson to approve the Motor Vehicle Releases for the month of September 2012 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Motor Vehicle Refunds

There was one motor vehicle refund; County Tax Refund of \$13.20; Fire Tax \$1.60; Banner Elk \$15.20. The Total to be refunded is \$30.00.

Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Scott Heath to approve the Motor Vehicle Refunds for the month of September 2012 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Application for Property Tax Relief

Mr. Barrier stated that this particular individual's son filled out the application for their father. The father dated it April 5, 2012. The family had made a copy of the paperwork and said they had mailed it in before the deadline but the Tax Assessor's Office did not receive it. The General Statutes allows the Tax Assessor to come before the Board for approval to accept the application. Mr. Barrier said he was requesting approval of this particular application and to do the release for the taxes that the individual did not need to pay.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Glenn Johnson to approve the application for the Property Tax Relief as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Property Sales Statistics

For the week of September 17-21 the property sales amount were higher than the tax value amount. There were 0 foreclosures.

Avery County is averaging 10 sales per week and foreclosures have slowed down.

Mr. Barrier gave examples of sales that occurred in different parts of the county.

Avery Senior Services Long Term Plan – R.D. Daniels

R.D. Daniels presented the Avery Senior Services Long Term Plan. Mr. Daniels explained that the agency is currently serving more clients than ever before. The In-Home Aide program currently provides Level I, Home Maintenance and Level II Personal Care services to 80 households. The Home-Delivered meals program serves 80 clients each day Monday through Friday on seven routes throughout the county. A planning committee met several times to establish the long term plan. The planning committee made the following recommendations: (1) Reduce the unit of cost of In-Home Aide Services in order to reduce the waiting list and serve more clients; (2) Address the increased demand for Congregate Nutrition.; (3) Develop a structure for senior center operation which involves participants in planning of programs and services, allows for facility planning and improvement, and assists in meeting the requirements of the SCOPE.

Final Plat Approval – Linville Riverbend Recreational Vehicle Park – Tommy Burlson

Tommy Burlson, Avery County Inspections and Planning Director, stated that the Linville Riverbend Recreational Vehicle Park is requesting "Final Plat Approval" for the development directly off Hwy 221 in the Altamont community. Mr. Shane Ollis has been working on the development since 2007 and has maintained the annual planning board extension approval to keep the development current. The road infrastructure is in place and meets all subdivision standards. Mike Lacey, surveyor, has found that no road exceeds 16% grade on the property. Jack Wiseman, Fire Chief of the Crossnore Fire Department acknowledged that the roads are of adequate width.

Scott Heath questioned how the water and sewer was going to be handled. Mr. Burlson said that one well would serve up to 25 people and there is approval for septic tanks. If he goes over a certain amount on the sewer he will have to put in a wastewater treatment plant and this has been approved by the state. The total acres with actual development of campground are 15 acres.

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to approve the final plat approval for the Linville Riverbend Recreational Vehicle Park. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Recess

There was a brief recess to sign papers.

Chairman Poteat declared the meeting to be back in session after a brief recess.

Continuation of Discussion on new high school

Glenn Johnson stated that he agreed that \$25,000,000 was too low for the new high school but serious consideration should be given to see if in fact that some of it can be remodeled. Mr. Wiseman stated that since the New High School Committee had met, the Department of Public Instruction had inspected the high school and sent their recommendations and that would be disclosed to the committee at the next meeting.

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Ms. Poore stated she had nothing to report at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to approve the August 20, 2012 Regular Session Minutes. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting is October 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Scott Heath and second by Glenn Johnson to adjourn this meeting at 5:14 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

**Kenny Poteat, Chairman
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

