

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary regarding the Fiscal Year Budget 2017/2018.

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.

Tim Greene, County Manager, stated that at the last budget workshop the budget notebooks were passed out. There were some highlights that I pointed out to you because you might not have realized that these were included in the budget. There were some new positions that I added to the budget. There was an increase in the tipping fee at the landfill. The overall increase in our insurance was 6.5% increase; dental was 3.4% increase.

Mr. Greene stated that the budget is balanced right now with a 2.4 million dollar fund balance appropriation.

Mr. Vance stated that he advocated last year that it was not wise to budget from the fund balance. I said the taxes should not have been cut. I say this year we should put them back where they were. If they had not been cut we would not have to worry about the pool, ag building or high school. It is not over taxation; it is wise financial planning. I think we need to undo the 2015 tax rate.

Mr. Greene stated that in going through the revenue part of the budget that a tipping fee increase had been built in to this budget.

Mr. Greene went over each department's budget. There was discussion about a salary classification study. The last one was done in 2010. This was included in the budget.

Consensus of the Board to purchase a minivan for Administration.

There was discussion about the Tax Mapping Department being combined back under the Tax Administration Department. It was decided to talk about this in a regular meeting instead of in a budget meeting.

**Recess**

Recess for two minutes.

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

Blake Vance suggested that since there is a new economic development board that there needed to be at least \$10,000 in the economic development budget for travel, advertising, etc. to be directly under the county manager.

**Consensus by the Board to add \$10,000 to the economic development budget; \$5,000 for advertising, \$3,000 for travel; and \$2,000 for printing.**

Discussion regarding the Veterans Officer position.

**Consensus by a majority of the Board to leave the Veteran's Officer position at part-time.**

Discussion regarding the new DSS position.

**Consensus by the Board to leave the extra position in the budget for DSS.**

Discussion regarding the Forest Fire Control position.

**Consensus to leave the Forest Fire Control position in the budget.**

Discussion regarding Special Appropriations.

Yellow Mountain will be left at last year's appropriation at \$24,000.

Morrison Library will be increased to the request at \$112,858.00.

Humane Society will be given \$20,000 and earmark for spay, neuter and rabies to be used only in Avery County.

Museum will be increased to \$24,025.00 for renovations of the steps and bathrooms.

Blue Ridge Partnership for Children will be increased to \$7500.00.

YMCA will be increased to \$30,000.

Drug Court will stay the same at \$12,000.

Avery County Chamber of Commerce will stay the same at \$5,000.

**Recess**

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

Discussion regarding the health department budget. The interim county manager will talk with the director of the health department regarding the new position that is requested for a health inspector.

Discussion regarding Oasis. Blake Vance suggested that Oasis not be funded this year. **Consensus of a majority of the Board to not fund Oasis.**

Discussion regarding Hospitality House. This current year we funded them at \$3,000. They have asked for \$12,045. Ms. Lacey stated that she was for fully funding Hospitality House at \$12,045. Mr. Vance suggested that they get a lot of donations of food and he was ok with leaving it at last year's funding.

**Consensus of a majority of the Board to fund Hospitality House at \$3,000.**

The next budget meeting will be May 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Chair Hicks adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk