

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Maxine Laws, Vice-Chair; Faith Lacey; Blake Vance

Members Absent: Reo Griffith

Call To Order

Chair Martha Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Hicks read the following statement: *The time limit for any comment to the Board is three minutes. Board members are not expected to comment or take any action on matters during public comment. Any individual speaking during public comment shall address the entire Board. Any person who willfully interrupts, disturbs, or disrupts the session will be asked to leave the meeting. If you would like to speak to an agenda item, you must sign up on the sheet with the clerk. Time limit to speak to an agenda item is also three minutes. Please silence all cell phones or electronic devices.*

Blake Vance led prayer.

Kevin Holden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim Greene, County Manager, announced that the Public Hearing regarding the Commerce Fellow Grant would be held at 6:30 p.m.

Board Appointments

Avery County Joint Community Advisory Committee

Ms. Shirley Lowe had indicated her willingness in being appointed to the Avery County Joint Community Advisory Committee. This application was presented to the Board last month for review.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Maxine Laws to appoint Shirley Lowe to the Avery County Joint Community Advisory Committee. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Applications for Review – Avery County Planning Board

There are two applications for review for the Avery County Planning Board. One is for Mr. Daryl Smith and the other one is for Ms. Amy Vaughn. These will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Chair Hicks said that she was going to move a couple of the agenda items 3.3F and 3.3G Agricultural Extension Building and Recreation Property/Swimming Pool up on the list. The public hearing is set at 6:30 p.m. and it has to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Property/Swimming Pool

Mr. Greene explained that the Board had a board workshop on March 24, 2016 and had discussed the Agricultural Building and Swimming Pool. It was the consensus at that meeting to put this on the agenda and decide on a course of action for the swimming pool. We were requested to have a project ordinance, if the decision of the board at this time was to renovate or to build, ready to be voted on. There are minutes of the meeting that discusses the pool and discusses the option we had talked about. We also talked about renovation and a new pool at the Recreation property or Wright property.

Faith Lacey commented "I am for fixing up the old pool. I feel like the price of the new pool is too expensive to burden the taxpayers with and we are a county that 60% of our children are on food stamps. I am all for fixing up the pool here but I am not for spending big money on a new swimming pool. The area over there has a lot of water fall that comes off of the hill. You would have to live there to realize how much water fall comes in on that land. That is what I have to say."

Blake Vance stated "I am absolutely in favor of utilizing the property that was purchased with taxpayer funds and with PARTF money (the Wright Property as it has come to be known) to build a new facility. The one out here has long since past its prime. It is a money pit. We are putting \$7500.00 additional taxpayer dollars just to get it open for the season this year. Last year we went through around \$6,000 worth of water because of leakage. It is not up to standard and our citizens deserve better. There is heavy public support for a new pool facility and I met with Trey Oakley today with the YMCA and he is in full support of a new pool facility. I have talked to multiple people over the past several days since we have been entertaining this idea. It has heavy public support. We may be able to get grant money. We are able to take what is now a 2 to 2 ½ month facility, longest season we have had is 82 days and that does not include days we were closed for weather; we are able to take our taxpayer dollars and use it to build a 12 month facility where kids can go in the wintertime. I still hold that with taxpayer dollars it is still very much like the parable of the talents. We are entrusted with this money, we are entrusted to use it wisely and people expect to see a return on it. If we stick it in the ground, we are going to be foolish and that is what the master said when he left the servants in charge of the talents. We are foolish to stick it in the ground, we are supposed to invest the taxpayer's dollars and do it wisely. If we can build this at a reduced cost because of grants there is no reason that we shouldn't do it because it will be heavily utilized by our constituents and our citizens and I am absolutely in support of proceeding forward with a new pool."

Faith Lacey stated "Right now we do not have a penny of grant money." Blake Vance said "we don't have any money set aside to write money against." Faith Lacey said "\$700,000 will make this a new pool and that is a lot less than \$3,000,000." Blake Vance said "\$3,000,000 is not the cost that was given to us. You just made that up, that is not true." Faith Lacey answered "I did not make that up." Blake Vance said "we have numbers in front of us, there is no figure that says \$3,000,000." Ms. Lacey said "there is no assurance of a grant." Mr. Vance said "where did you get the figure of \$3,000,000."

Ms. Lacey said “because it is going to take almost \$2,000,000.” Mr. Vance said “where did the figure of \$3,000,000 come from.” Ms. Lacey said “my head. Are you going to hire someone to keep that building open?” Mr. Vance said “1.6 million dollars is what our budget amendment says and that includes money to write the grants against. Of course we don’t have grant money because there is no money to write grants against so there is not grant money there yet; we have to appropriate money so Robbie can write grants.” Ms. Lacey said “we have 17,000 people in the county, 45% of that number are retired. Are we going to break our families that are trying to put children through school?” Mr. Vance said “there is no breaking of families here. We have this money set aside to do projects.” Ms. Lacey said “this pool out here could be fixed for \$700,000. You are dreaming if you think that you can put a pool in there for a million and a half.” Mr. Vance said “I am listening to an engineer and architect numbers, I take those as pretty solid.” Ms. Lacey said “it is to me like throwing money away because you have to find some way to fix that water from going in down there. If you are going to make it a year around pool you are going to have to have employees and where is that going to come from.” Mr. Vance said “you are also going to have year around income and according to the department head you come closer to breaking even with a year around pool than a two month pool.” Ms. Lacey said “respectively, I disagree.” Mr. Vance said “we have solid numbers from an engineer.” Ms. Lacey said “it always costs more than what you think.”

Maxine Laws stated “I would like to thank Robbie for the presentation that he gave us. I thought it was a really good presentation. He pointed out a lot of things that a new pool can bring to the county that there is no way that this one can. As Blake just pointed out, this pool costs a ton of money and because of the backfill the walls are very weak. At this time, **I make a motion to take \$1,000,000 out of our general fund, moving that million dollars to a capital project fund being earmarked to be spent on building a new pool as discussed at our previous meeting on the Wright property or Recreation Property.**”

Blake Vance questioned “In a capital project fund, if it is not utilized for that particular project will it remain in capital reserve or will it be able to be rolled back into the general fund.?” Gerald McKinney, County Attorney, answered “it will be rolled back into the fund balance.”

Blake Vance seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion carried 3 to 1.

**FOR----Martha Hicks, Maxine Laws, Blake Vance
AGAINST----Faith Lacey**

Tim Greene, County Manager, questioned if there needed to be a motion to approve the capital project ordinance. Mr. McKinney said there needed to be a motion but a change in the figures needed to be done. Mr. Greene said a budget amendment would be voted on in the Finance Director’s Report.

Mr. Greene said I will remind the board that the \$620,000 is for grant proceeds but at this point we would not know if we will get grants and we would have to amend the project ordinance to reflect it. Keep in mind that grants can or cannot materialize. Mr. Greene said this is without the covering of the pool because there needs to be more research on that. Mr. Vance said he felt comfortable appropriating the money so that grants can be written.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Capital Project Ordinance for the Swimming Pool Project as written with \$1,000,000 transferred from General Fund and \$620,000 anticipated Grant Proceeds.

**VOTE: Motion passes 3 to 1.
FOR—Martha Hicks, Maxine Laws, Blake Vance
AGAINST—Faith Lacey**

Chair Hicks stated “the pool has lasted us about 40 some years. It was built in the 70’s and we did get a grant to build the old pool.”

Agricultural Extension Building

Mr. Greene stated that the second thing that was discussed at the board workshop was the Agricultural Extension Building. At that meeting we discussed the pros and cons of fixing the building and some of the issues that the building had. The engineer Glen Walker had given his opinion of fixing the building or building new. The options are to renovate, do new construction or do nothing.

Blake Vance stated “ we have an agricultural building with a tax value of \$372,000. It is estimated that it is going to cost \$450,000 to \$500,000 to get it up to where it is going to be. It is dangerous. The flooring structure is not sufficient for the structure itself. There would be liability if there was an accident according to the engineer Mr. Walker. Why in the world would we put half million dollars into a building that is worth \$372,000 especially if at the end of that the building is still going to be worth only a fraction of what we put into it? To me it would be foolhardy of us to put \$500,000 into this building. It is common sense to me that we have to do something and was very clear from our meeting with Mr. Walker that it is inadequate for our needs and is a very unsafe building at this point. It would be foolish to take ½ million dollars and put in that building and have a building worth less than ½ million dollars and have a brand new larger more useful facility at Heritage Park. I think this is good common sense.”

Faith Lacey had no comment.

Maxine Laws said “after hearing what Mr. Walker had to say and with the liabilities that we could be faced with even if you redo the building you still are faced with no parking, have to have an elevator, etc. He also told us if we did renovate that the staff would have to totally be moved in order for them to continue to work during renovation. You are going to disrupt everyone in there to try to fix this. If we renovate you might as well get ready to spend \$200,000 a year to keep up the pavement. After hearing everything

that has been said, I move that we take \$1,000,000 out of general fund and put this into a capital project fund earmarked to build a new Agricultural Building out at Heritage Park.”

Blake Vance said “Should we approve the ordinance that we have in the packet?”

Maxine Laws amended the motion to adopt the Capital Project Ordinance for the Agricultural Extension Building. Seconded by Blake Vance.

VOTE: Motion passes 3 to 1.

FOR---Martha Hicks, Maxine Laws, Blake Vance

AGAINST---Faith Lacey

Recess

Chair Hicks asked for a brief recess.

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

Public Hearing- Commerce Fellows Grant- Michelle Ball

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding the Commerce Fellows Grant at 6:30 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Michelle Ball, High Country Council of Government, explained that the Department of Commerce has made available some grant money \$50,000 per entity per county to enable local administrators to participate in professional development classes at the NC School of Government. The county is required to reach out to the municipalities which they have and Beech Mountain, Banner Elk and Newland are all going to send some participants to go to these classes if the grant is funded. There is also some on demand webinars that is going to be available to show at will that has to do with planning and development regulations, human capital matters, open meetings law and public records law. This is a grant up to \$50,000; \$25,000 of that is for classes and accommodations, the other \$25,000 can be used for meals, travel and personnel costs. The application is due by May 13th.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to go out of the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. and back into Regular Session. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the Citizen Participation Plan and authorize the chair to sign the grant application. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

AMY Regional Library and Avery Morrison Library Presentation – Amber Westall Briggs

Amber Westall Briggs, Director of the AMY Regional Library, thanked the Board for their support of the library system. Avery Morrison Library is doing well. Avery County Library actually has seen consistent statistics. In understanding National and State trends, it is imperative that we look at Avery County itself. We have to look at what our people want and what I have seen predominantly is that they want more programming, more E book resources which is a focus right now and over the next two years we will look at community assessments to gauge what the community wants and needs. I am going to be focusing on increasing programming opportunities. The Avery Morrison Trust has been so beneficial in providing programming like we have at the senior center now. We do have mini Ipads in Avery Library. That has been a great success. The biggest thing is expanding our relationship with education. We will be adding over the next month an E book consortium. The state matches funding dollar for dollar for the libraries. For the first time since 2008, the NC General Assembly increased funding for public libraries in its 2015-2016 budget. It means in the next two years we have had a one million dollar boost across the board for public libraries. What that means for the regional system is if you are a county library and you live in a county that is economically challenged, when you apply for state aid, the AMY Regional Library received over 60% from the state and that funding is available because of local support matching it dollar for dollar. I am here to thank you and tell you that your continued support is paramount for all of our citizens in Avery County and the region.

Blue Ridge Partnership for Children – Jennifer Simpson

Jennifer Simpson, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children, explained that Smart Start was the main funding source for Blue Ridge Partnership for Children. Smart Start is a NC statewide initiative that supports young children from birth through their fifth birthday. The Blue Ridge Partnership for Children was created in 2015 when the Mitchell-Yancey Partnership for Children and the Avery County Smart Start merged. Since the merger, we have a Board that has 21 members with equal representation from all three counties. We have moved into an office on Pineola Street in Newland and we have three staff members that work out of that office.

Faith Lacey stated that Ms. Simpson did a super job with the Blue Ridge Partnership for Children.

Chair Hicks stated that she was on the board at the time of the merger and Ms. Simpson has proven to us that it was a good merger for Avery County.

Ruthie Styles, staff member with Blue Ridge Partnership for Children, explained the Imagination Library and other programs including the Scottie Bus that Blue Ridge Partnership for Children is involved in.

Hospitality House of Boone – Rev. Ted Henry

Rev. Ted Henry, Pastor of two churches in Avery County and Director of Avery County Missional Network and also Campus Minister at Lees McRae and an active board

member of the Hospitality House of Boone, stated that he was here on behalf of the Hospitality House of Boone. The Hospitality House is requesting funding from Avery County for \$13,140 for shelter, food and supportive services to residents of Avery County. During calendar year 2015, Hospitality House provided a total of 1,726 nights of shelter services to 19 individuals from Avery County. The cost of providing shelter, food, and supportive services is \$36 per person per night, The cost of those services for Avery County residents equates to \$62,136. Hospitality House works closely with Avery County Schools, Department of Social Services and WAMY to provide housing referrals, shelter and/or support services for individuals and families, and even homeless prevention activities with at-risk youth. Hospitality House is mandated to serve seven counties in the High Country; Alleghany, Ashe, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Avery County. Support from the county will contribute significantly to leveraging state and federal grants that come to Avery County through the leadership of Hospitality House and the Northwest Continuum of Care. A short video from the Hospitality House was shown to the commissioners and audience.

Faith Lacey stated that she was definitely in favor of giving even more than the \$13,000 requested. Maxine Laws thanked Rev. Henry for the presentation. Chair Hicks commented that this would be considered in the budget process along with all the other organizations.

Community Needs Assessment Survey Results- WAMY- Suzanne Snyder

Suzanne Snyder, Community Development Intern at WAMY, explained that WAMY stands for Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey. Those are the four counties that we serve. We have been around since 1964. Our main focus has been around self-sufficiency with low income population in these four counties that we serve. Every three to five years we conduct a Community Needs Assessment. This is very important for our organization because we change our programs and services depending on whatever the needs are at that particular time. It is our chance to learn about the needs of our counties. Beginning in September 2015 we began distributing surveys in the county, these surveys took a look at housing, education, transportation, trauma care, employment, etc. We distributed these through Habitat for Humanity, DSS, HUD, Health Department, Children's Council, Hunger and Health Coalition, Hospitality House, Avery YO, WAMY, libraries, etc. When it comes to basic needs, there are people in our communities having a difficult time finding sufficient food sources, basic toiletry items. With housing, a majority of the people we spoke with are living in permanently owned housing and 95% of the people feel safe in their homes and communities. 86% reported currently have reliable transportation. 42% of people reported that in the last 12 months there has been times that they did not seek medical attention because of too much costs or no insurance. Members of all counties reported high levels of support from churches for individual community members. Also community members reported that law enforcement was very helpful to the county.

Each Board member thanked Ms. Snyder for her presentation to the Board.

Tax Administrator Report – Phillip Barrier

The Tax Collections Report for the month of March 2016 is \$580,070.28.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of March 2016 as presented. Motion unanimous with those in attendance. (4-0).

Total Releases

The Total Releases for the month of March 2016 is \$480.13.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the total releases for the month of March 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Mr. Barrier gave the sales report for March 2016.

Mr. Barrier announced that the Board of Equalization and Review will convene for the first meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016. The request for hearing must be received no later than final adjournment which is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

County Manager Updates – Tim Greene

Avery Square/Veterans Monument

Mr. Greene stated that some months back the Board had appropriated \$400,000 for the Veteran's Monument and with what has been done up there we have spent about \$200,000. Our Veteran's committee met recently and we talked about some other things that the committee would like to recommend to the Board to consider. This is not part of the monument per se but it is to do with sidewalks and other things that would tie into the monument. What we ultimately want to do is ask the Board to consider allowing the committee to move forward to use those funds to do additional things at the square. There is a drawing that shows sidewalks going around the monument. This was not part of the original bid with Gauldin Monuments and in fact they drew this up for our benefit and didn't charge us anything for it and said that we could do this. The committee really liked the looks of this. This would be a 5 foot sidewalk going all around the monument going to the street to the church and a 5 foot walk which is handicapped accessible going to the flagpoles and circling the flagpoles and going all the way down to the square near the courthouse. We have talked about replacing everything in the center of the square with a gazebo. We would do some landscaping around that and around the monument itself. We also talked about putting on the back side of the flagpole monument the same thing that was on the front. This would also include foundations for the benches. The emblems and the foundations for the benches would be around \$3100. The gazebo would be around \$15,000 and that would be a cedar gazebo with cedar shingles with composite floor deck. The sidewalks would be around \$75,000 to redo everything. We do not have pricing on fencing and that is something else that could be done to replace the fence that is presently there. The committee is recommending this for your consideration. There is around \$200,000 left.

Faith Lacey said she thought if the committee agreed on this to go ahead and do it.

Blake Vance stated that we established this committee and that the committee should take care of this.

Maxine Laws commented that the money had been appropriated so she was ok with going ahead.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to allow the committee to use the money for the Avery Square/Veterans Monument at their discretion. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Sheriff's Office requests a budget amendment for purchasing a K-9 that is trained in drug interdiction. Donations have been received.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$3,000 regarding purchasing a K-9 for the Sheriff's Office with a debit of \$3,000 to Drug Fund Expense (10.5100.5701) and a credit of \$3,000 to Donations (10.3345.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment for additional funding from the State Crisis Intervention Program in the amount of \$8,771.00.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the Budget Amendment for additional funding from the State Crisis Intervention Program in the amount of \$8,771.00 with a debit of \$8,771.00 to Crisis Intervention (10.6800.6090) and a credit of \$8,771.00 to County Welfare (10.3634.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Communications Department requests a budget amendment for repairs to Grandmother Tower. The tower was damaged in an ice storm and we have received a check from our insurance company in the amount of \$5,354.00.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Budget Amendment for the Communications Department in the amount of \$5,354.00 with a debit of \$5,354.00 to Repair/Maintenance DCI Terminal (10.8200.1510) and a credit of \$5,354.00 to Miscellaneous Revenue (10.3350.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Recreation Department requests a budget amendment for repairs and maintenance to the pool. Repairs must be completed in order to pass inspection from the Health Department before opening this summer. Repairs are in the amount of \$7,500.00

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Budget Amendment to repair and maintain the pool in the amount of \$7,500.00 with a debit of \$7,500.00 to Repairs/Maintenance-Building (10.6200.1510) and a credit of \$7,500.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A Budget Amendment is needed for the Agricultural Building Project Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the Budget Amendment for the Agricultural Building Project Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 with a debit of \$920,000 to General Construction; debit of \$70,000 to Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees; \$10,000 Permits, Insurance, Surveys Other and credit of \$1,000,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000) Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0). (Faith Lacey did not vote on this motion so her vote was counted in the affirmative per board policy.)

Budget Amendment

A Budget Amendment is needed for the Pool Project Fund.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Budget Amendment for the Pool Project Fund with a debit of \$1,500,000 to General Construction; debit of \$105,000.00 to Architect/Engineering/Consulting Fees; debit of \$15,000 to Permits, Insurance, Surveys, Other and a credit of \$1,620,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000) and a credit of \$800,000 to Grant Proceeds.

VOTE: Motion passes 3 to 1.

FOR—Martha Hicks; Maxine Laws; Blake Vance

AGAINST---Faith Lacey

County Attorney Report – Gerald McKinney

Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan

Gerald McKinney, County Attorney, stated that the first thing on his report was the Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan. Debbie Smith, Director of Avery County Transportation, explained that Avery Transportation is required annually to have the System Safety Plan adopted by the Governing Board which is the county commissioners. The revisions that we have made are very minor revisions. There are some name changes and some forms have changed. We are asking that the Board adopts the revised plan. Mr. McKinney said that he had looked over the plan and didn't see any problems with it.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Faith Lacey to adopt the Avery County Transportation System Safety Plan Revision. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Avery County Board of Commissioners Board Policy

Mr. McKinney stated that there were some things that had become outdated and obsolete in the Board Policy. This is your board policy and as the board changes and you make changes the policy needs to change. There are a couple of things, one is the public records policy; there has been some development with the law and I would like to bring a new Section 15 by the next meeting to look at. Another one is the Code of Ethics which is a mixture of things. We had an existing code of ethics. That Code of Ethics is a lot of do's and don'ts. Later on, the state said we needed a Code of Ethics and we followed a template that the state had. When we adopted that, we did not say that we rescinded the old Code of Ethics. We have two basic different things to deal with. I have some issues with the older Code of Ethics. The old Code of Ethics I am not that happy about what is in there. We might need to revisit the Code of Ethics section.

Tim Greene stated that a couple of changes that we made but did not actually have it changed in the draft of the policy was Section 2.6. In order for an agenda item to be added to a meeting all commissioners in attendance must vote in the affirmative. The current policy said that all commissioners must be in attendance and all must vote in the affirmative. Blake Vance stated that he preferred that a majority of the board could change the agenda as we see the need. Faith Lacey asked for the County Attorney's legal opinion. Mr. McKinney said it is really what the Board chooses the policy to be. There is nothing illegal about it. It is a policy decision that the Board can make.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to amend Section 2.6 to read that in order for an agenda item to be added that a majority of the board at any time can change the agenda.

VOTE: Motion passes 3 to 1.

FOR—Martha Hicks; Maxine Laws; Blake Vance

AGAINST---Faith Lacey

Mr. Greene said that Section 2.7 reflects where we changed to sign up for an agenda item. Section 2.9 has been changed to reflect that the appointments to the advisory committees will be reviewed at a regular business meeting and then appointments will be made at the next regular business meeting.

Mr. Greene referred to Section 7.12 which Mr. McKinney had suggested to change. Mr. McKinney said he changed that section to say it is not our policy but our strong preference that the terms are six years. I suggested this change to the policy.

Faith Lacey stated "I have misgivings because the NC Constitution tells us to pass it around and let different people be on the boards. I think definitely six years is long

enough and if you can't find someone let them go off the board for a year. There is no effort put forth if people think they can stay on. ”

Mr. Vance stated that he did not remember the board coming to a consensus to change Section 7.12. I would like to strike 7.12A. There was discussion regarding this.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the Avery County Board of Commissioner's Board Policy leaving 7.12 as it is written in the current board policy and changing Section 2.6 along with the other changes presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Closed Session

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to go out of the Regular Meeting and into a time of Closed Session at 8:16 p.m. regarding N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege. Invitees are the County Manager, Clerk, County Attorney and the Board. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after Closed Session at 8:31 p.m. During closed session, no action was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the January 5, 2016 Board Workshop and March 24, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Greene announced that Dr. Burleson had called and said that the Board of Education had a conflict for the meeting on April 7th and would like to reschedule that. April 25, 2016 Budget Workshop at 3:00p.m. Regular Meeting is May 2, 2016.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adjourn this meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

