

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Tim Phillips, Vice-Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting was broadcast live and recorded on the Avery County Youtube Channel.*

**Call to Order**

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.  
Chair Hicks called the roll with all members present.

Blake Vance led prayer.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Board Appointments**

**Workforce Development Board**

Stephanie Pate Greer has applied for the Workforce Development Board. This application has been reviewed.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Stephanie Greer to the Workforce Development Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

Todd Griffin has applied for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. This application has been reviewed.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Todd Griffin to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

### **Avery County Agriculture Advisory Board**

Jack Wiseman, Jr. has applied for the Avery County Agriculture Advisory Board. This application has been reviewed.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Jack Wiseman, Jr. to the Avery County Agriculture Advisory Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

### **Review of Applicants**

Review of Applicants for the Fire Commission and DSS Board. These applications will be considered at the next monthly meeting.

### **Eagles Nest Holding LLC, Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision Approval**

Tommy Burlson, Director of Planning and Inspections, reported that the Avery County Planning Board had approved the final plat for the Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision on July 27, 2020. The planning department has inspected the site and all sedimentation and erosion practices have been followed. The number of lots to be approved is 12 lots. Road widths and emergency turn arounds are approved and meet the Avery County Subdivision Ordinance. The surveyor verifies that there is no road grade greater than 18% slope. Mr. Burlson stated that all Avery County Subdivision Ordinance requirements have been met or exceeded by the developer. Mr. Burlson spoke about water points and about placing dry hydrants on the Fall Creek side of the subdivision. He also spoke about the watershed on the subdivision that will not allow for any ponds.

Dennis Aldridge questioned how many phases are there for the Vineyard Village Subdivision.

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that the Subdivision ordinance requires that if a subdivider proposes that a subdivision be constructed in phases that the following procedures should apply:

1. A master plan showing the entire proposed subdivision and the phases of development shall be submitted to the planning board for approval.

Ms. Poore stated that she did not think that this had been done. The ordinance requires that the board would need to consider the matter for approval 45 days after it was first concerned so the Board does not have to take action at this meeting.

Mr. Aldridge stated that the fire that happened last week certainly got my attention when I was told it was 3 ½ to 4 miles to get to a water point. I am concerned about the fact that we are developing into areas where we don't have the capacity to provide service for and we are endangering the lives of people there and firefighters. Is there at any point discussion about water access point? Mr. Burlson said he had been discussing this with them for about the past year. There is a place for a water access point in the

middle of this development that would be sufficient for this subdivision. Mr. Aldridge said why has there not been some definite plans to get this done?

Mr. Aldridge proposed that this approval be tabled until the next meeting to allow the county attorney to get some more information on this.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to table the Vineyard Village Phase II Subdivision until the next meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Resolution Regarding Mayland Community Colleges Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School**

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School is a state of the art facility with a technology rich Rapid Prototype Center: and,*

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School's 3 –D metal printing has been used extensively by business and industry within and beyond our three counties: and,*

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School is the primary source of two-year engineers by businesses and industries within our three counties: and,*

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School's Rapid Prototyping Center is critical to our county for attracting and recruiting industry, the expansion of our existing industries, and the development of new startup businesses and industries: and,*

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School has been used extensively within and outside of the Mayland service Area; and,*

*Whereas, The Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School has been receiving non-reoccurring multi-campus funds for the last four years: and,*

*Whereas, the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees has passed a resolution requesting recurring funding as a designated Multi-campus;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the Avery County Commission whole heartedly supports the Mayland Community College Board of Trustees request and respectfully request that our legislative delegation designate and fund the Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School as a multi-campus of Mayland Community College with reoccurring funds.*

*This resolution will be spread upon the minutes of the Avery County Commission.*

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution Regarding Mayland Community College's Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels**

**Tax Collections Report**

The Total Tax Collections for the month of July 2020 is \$88,388.25.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Tax Collections for the month of July 2020. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Releases**

There were no releases for the month of July 2020.

**Sales**

There were 155 sales for the month of July 2020; there were 73 sales for the same time last year.

**Contract for Specialized Consulting Services, LLC**

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, explained that with the Covid there is FEMA and Cares Act money available. It has come to our attention that we need a consulting service to help with these funds and to keep with the federal and state regulations. Our consultant is very familiar with Avery County because she was the district emergency management coordinator for 34 years. I am asking that the Board approve this contract for the consulting services.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the contract for Specialized Consulting Services, LLC. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Memorandum of Understanding Between Avery County and the Town of Beech Mountain**

Mr. Barrier stated that he had met with Communications, Fire Department, Sheriff and Mapping regarding the Town of Beech Mountain. Part of Beech Mountain is not in the city limits so that requires the Sheriff's Office to respond to that part. This MOU will allow the Town of Beech Mountain police to serve the citizens of Beech Mountain first when there is an emergency.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between Avery County and the Town of Beech Mountain. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

## **County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.**

### **Covid-19 Update**

The Cares Act has done a second round of allotment and Avery County received another \$340,000. With the second round, the municipalities will receive 25% which will be approximately \$219,101. Each town will need to submit a plan by September 1, 2020.

Mr. Barrier commented that at the Covid meeting this morning it was reiterated that Avery County is one of the only counties having meetings with the health department.

### **Economic Development Update**

Mr. Barrier reported that the old Lowes Building was still vacant. We have talked with Aldi, Piggly Wiggly, SaveMor and several other stores trying to recruit someone for that building.

## **Finance Officer Report – Ashley Ingwersen**

### **Budget Amendment**

A budget amendment was done for \$70,000 at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for fire taxes in excess of budgeted figures. We collected more taxes and I did not estimate high enough. We need to do a budget amendment for an additional \$20,000.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the budget amendment in the amount of \$20,000 for fire taxes with a debit of \$20,000 to Fire Commission (206600.4012) and a credit of \$20,000 to Tax Collections—Fire (203100.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

### **Budget Amendment**

The Senior Center has requested an increase in hours from 20 hours per week to 28 hours per week for the position of Volunteer Avery.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$7,417.00 for Volunteer Avery with a debit in the amount of \$6213.00 to Salaries—Other (105960.0210); debit of \$477.00 to FICA (105960.0500); debit of \$727.00 to Retirement (105960.0600) and a credit of \$7,417.00 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

### **Budget Amendment**

Avery County Sheriff's Office ordered equipment and they were sent the wrong items. They have been working to get the items replaced and have not been able to get the correct items. Since the correct items will be received after June 30, 2020, we need to do a budget amendment to move the money from last fiscal year out of general fund to their line item this year in order to pay for the items.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$7,131.71 for the Sheriff's Office with a debit of \$7,131.71 to Crime Control Grant (105100.7420) and a credit of \$7,131.71 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**

Avery County EMS ordered their new ambulance for FY 19/20 and due to COVID the ambulance was delayed. Since the ambulance will be received after June 30, 2020, we need to do a budget amendment to move the money from last fiscal year out of general fund to their line item this year in order to pay for the ambulance.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$143,988.50 for Avery County EMS with a debit of \$143,988.50 to Capital Outlay-Vehicles (105300.7400) and a credit of \$143,988.50 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Sheriff's Office has received a grant for COVID Relief Funds.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$14,840.00 for a grant for the Sheriff's Office with a debit of \$14,840.00 to COVID Relief Funds (105100.3700) and a credit of \$14,840.00 to Grants (103617.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Sheriff's Office has received a grant for school safety.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$34,980.00 for a school safety grant with a debit of \$34,980.00 to School Safety Grant (105100.7430) and a credit of \$34,980.00 to Grants (103617.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**

EMS received Cares Act Relief money in the 2019/2020 budget. This needs to be moved forward to the 2020/2021 budget.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$37,486.46 for the EMS Cares Act Relief money with a debit of \$37,486.46 to DHHS Stimulus (105300.3700) and a credit of \$37,486.46 to Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously**

approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

**County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore**

No items to discuss at this time.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the April 30, 2020 Budget Workshop; May 14, 2020 Budget Workshop; July 6, 2020 Regular Session. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

**Agenda Consent Items**

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next Regular Meeting will be August 17, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 4:47 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.**

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk