

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 6, 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; Faith Lacey; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.
Members Absent: Blake Vance (vacation)

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.
Phillip Barrier led prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Proclamations and Awards
Celebrate County Government

John Franklin was recognized for 17 years of service in the EMS Department.

David Hughes was recognized for 17 years of service in the Solid Waste Department.

Public Comment

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.*

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

Two applications were presented for review; Clayton Harpold for the WAMY Board and Barbara Jones for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Avery County Ranger's Report—Joe Shoupe

Joe Shoupe, Avery County Ranger, presented the Avery County Ranger's Office annual report for fiscal year 2017/2018. The county staff still consists of the Smoke Chaser position which is a temporary 8 month employee and the county ranger. We continue to maintain a Strike Team of local firefighters who have the training and availability to assist with fires and natural disasters in the county. There are currently 25 active members.

The BRIDGE Program is still an active program that utilizes non-violent youthful offenders to perform fire control and forestry related work and community service projects throughout western North Carolina.

The NC Forest Service also continues to operate the Linville River Nursery which provides seedlings for the Christmas tree industry and many groups utilize the Mountain Training Facility.

Avery County experienced mild fire seasons in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018. This was attributed to the above average rainfall.

All but one of the county's volunteer fire departments received 50/50 matching grant funding through the NC Forest Service Awards Program which enabled them to purchase firefighting gear such as personal protective equipment, hand tools or water handling equipment with the funding being \$10,000 each.

The NC Forest Service assisted private landowners with management with their forests. Approximately 65 landowners or communities received on the ground assistance directly related to forest management.

Maintaining a strong information program is important for public relations. Some of the accomplishments from last year included forestry talks to all 5th grades; environmental talks to all 8th grades; Forestry Day presentations to all 2nd grades; Career Day talks to classes at Avery High School and other activities throughout the year.

Mr. Shoupe thanked the Board for their continued support of the Avery County Ranger's Office.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. entered the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels **Tax Collection Report**

The Tax Collection Report for the month of July 2018 is \$94,483.10.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Tax Collection Report for the month of July 2018 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Releases

The Releases for the month of July 2018 is \$767.60.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the releases for the month of July 2018 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Sales Statistics

There were 72 sales for July 2018; last year there were 53 sales.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Agricultural Building

There is one inspection remaining for the new agricultural building. The ribbon cutting will be held on August 17th at 12 noon.

Swimming Pool Update

Garanco was awarded the bid. We have had the preconstruction meeting. The commissioners will need to meet about the alternates on the project.

USDA Loan Application—Avery High School

McGill Environmental is ready to do their review on the environmental impact that the new school building will need. That is part of the application process. Nancy is working on the application very hard. I do need consensus by the Board that when she gets that ready that I have permission to sign it.

Consensus by the Board that when the USDA Loan application is ready that the County Manager has permission to sign it.

Sales Tax Referendum

The sales tax referendum will be on the November ballot. Ashe County has this tax and last quarter they got \$59,000 for the ¼ cent sales tax.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned if it was permissible to promote the sales tax. Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that the board could provide information to the public.

Broadband

Mr. Barrier stated that the committee for the Broadband grant was in the contract phase. The announcement should be coming soon for the \$100,000 grant. Telecom has pulled a permit in the Green Valley area and hopefully this will help them with internet speed.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment for additional funding received for Crisis Intervention.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$14,218.00 for Crisis Intervention with a debit of \$14,218.00 to Crisis Intervention (10.6800.6090) and a Credit of \$14,218.00 to County Welfare (10.3634.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed for the construction of the restrooms at the new playground. Funding was included in the 2017/2018 budget, but construction was not complete before June 30, 2018. This invoice needs to be paid in the current year.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$19,200.00 with a debit of \$19,200.00 to Capital Outlay (10.6200.7400) and a credit of \$19,200.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A final budget amendment is needed for the new Ag. Building. The revised Ag. Building Capital Project Ordinance needs to be approved also.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$156,140.00 with a debit of \$109,975.00 to General Construction (50.6600.4004); a debit of \$3,600.00 to Permits, Insurance, Surveys, Other (50.6600.4006); a debit of \$42,565.00 to Site Prep (50.6600.4008) and a credit of \$2,140.00 to Furniture (50.6600.4007); a credit of \$154,000.00 to Transfer from General Fund (50.3101.0000).

A debit of \$154,000 to Transfer to Ag. Building Project Fund (10.7000.6248) and a credit of \$154,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). **Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).**

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the revised Ag. Building Capital Project Ordinance. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed to recognize unspent reimbursement grant funds. This grant is from the Department of Public Safety for the Domestic Violence Officer.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$8,036.00 with a debit of \$3,451.00 to Capital-Equipment (10.5100.7410); a debit of \$660.00 to Cell Phone (10.5100.1360); a debit of \$3,925.00 to Travel (10.5100.1400) and a credit of \$8,036.00 to Governors Crime Control Grant (10.3615.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Ms. Poore stated that she had nothing that required the board's attention at this time.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to approve the June 18, 2018 Regular Meeting; July 2, 2018 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

We will need to schedule a special meeting to discuss the Swimming Pool Project. The clerk will poll the commissioners to schedule a special meeting.

Adjourn

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 4:07 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk