

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 5, 2016 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; Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led in prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Martha Hicks turned the meeting over to Tim Greene, County Manager.

Organizational Meeting

Election of Chair

Mr. Greene stated that if there were more than two nominations for chair after the first vote the nominee with the lowest vote would be eliminated. Consensus of the Board to eliminate the nominee with the lowest vote after the first vote.

Mr. Greene opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Faith Lacey nominated Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Martha Hicks.

Mr. Greene asked if there were any more nominations. There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Martha Hicks----Vote: Martha Hicks, Tim Phillips, Blake Vance, Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. ----Vote: Faith Lacey

Martha Hicks elected Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Greene turned the meeting over to Chair Hicks.

Election of Vice Chair

Chair Hicks opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Blake Vance for Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Blake Vance elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Appointment of County Manager

Chair Hicks asked for nominations for County Manager.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Tim Greene. There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Vote: For: Martha Hicks, Tim Phillips, Blake Vance, Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Against: Faith Lacey

Tim Greene appointed County Manager.

Appointment of County Attorney

Chair Hicks asked for nominations for County Attorney.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Michaelle Poore.

Faith Lacey nominated Gerald McKinney.

There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Vote: Michaelle Poore---Martha Hicks; Tim Phillips; Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Gerald McKinney---Faith Lacey

Michaelle Poore appointed County Attorney.

Appointment of Finance Officer

Chair Hicks asked for nominations for Finance Officer.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Nancy Johnson.

There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Nancy Johnson appointed Finance Officer by acclamation.

Appointment of Clerk to the Board

Chair Hicks asked for nominations for Clerk to the Board.

Tim Phillips nominated Cindy Turbyfill for Clerk to the Board. There were no further nominations; nominations ceased.

Cindy Turbyfill appointed Clerk to the Board by acclamation.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to appoint Tim Phillips to Vaya Health County Commissioner Advisory Board. Motion unanimously approved.

Toe River Health District Board

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Wood Hall Young, Jr. to the Toe River Health District Board. Motion unanimously approved.

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to appoint Wood Hall Young, Jr. to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion unanimously approved.

High Country Council of Government Executive Board

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Blake Vance to the High Country Council of Government Executive Board. Motion unanimously approved.

Agricultural Advisory Board

Brandon Townsend (Toe River District) and Jim Phillips (At-Large) are the applicants for the Agricultural Advisory Board. These have been reviewed.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr to appoint Brandon Townsend and Jim Phillips to the Agricultural Advisory Board. Motion unanimously approved.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that the agenda sheet had listed that these were two year terms but that the application said it was a three year term.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to amend the above motion to include that this is a three year term. Motion unanimously approved.

NCACC Voting Delegate

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Blake Vance as the NCACC Voting Delegate for the 2017 Legislative Goals Conference. Motion unanimously approved.

AMY Regional Library – Amber Westall-Briggs

Amber Westall-Briggs, Director of the AMY Regional Library updated the Board on the AMY Regional Library. At the Avery Morrison Library for the past four years the library has stayed the same as far as circulation. The Bookmobile circulation has increased. There are 11,467 active patrons that have library cards at the Avery Morrison Library.

One-To-One Initiative –Avery County Schools- Dr. David Burleson

Dr. David Burleson, Superintendent of Avery County Schools, stated that he was at the meeting to discuss refreshing the technology. For three years we have been looking at how we can update and refresh technology because as you know technology does not last forever and has to be updated and upgraded. Apple is coming up with a new model of a computer and we are getting in on the close out. There is nothing wrong with the computers they are just last year's version. We are able to save some money and that is why we are coming to you. We are thankful we were able to buy about 400 new Macbooks last year because of the Golden Leaf Grant that Mr. Young helped us with when he was Interim County Manager. We were able to get \$750,000 for Avery County. The refresh that you are looking at would include 725 student Macbooks adding that to the 400 gives us the total we need, 200 staff and teacher Macbooks, and 500 Ipad for grades 3-5. This plan that we are proposing would provide new Ipad for grades 3-5 and would allow us to take those that are leftover and the ones that are being used in Kindergarten through second grade and have enough to supply Pre-K through second grade. We have some residual monies in the old Macbooks and Apple will buy those back enough so that we will be able to make the first payment. Apple is willing to do a four year interest free lease. No interest for four years on 1 million dollars. The last time we did this it was 2 million dollars. What we were able to get through Golden Leaf, not buying as many Ipad and the discount we are getting on last year's model, we are basically cutting in half what we had to spend to get started. We are asking the commissioners to allow us to move forward with going into a lease and partner with us again in purchasing these which would be \$125,000 a year for four years that we would ask the commissioners to consider and the school system would pay the other half of that.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution to Fund the Purchase of Apple, Inc. Products for Avery County Schools contingent on the changes that the County Attorney recommends. Motion unanimously approved.

Annual Audit Report- Sharon Gillespie

Sharon Gillespie with Young, Miller and Gillespie Accountant Firm, presented the Annual Audit Report for the period ending June 30, 2016.

Financial Highlights were:

- The assets of Avery County exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$35,153,370.00
- The government's total net position increased for the current year by \$739,086 primarily due to an increase of state sales taxes, increased ad valorem collection percentage and controlled expenditures.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, Avery County's Governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$20,245,420 an increase of \$429,197 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 65 percent of this total amount or \$13,257,049 is available for spending at the government's

discretion. This amount includes the \$2,360,358 that is appropriated to balance the 2016-2017 budget.

- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$10,896,691 or 40 percent of total general fund expenditures and transfer to other funds for the fiscal year.
- Avery County's total long-term debt decreased by \$1,076,777 during the current fiscal year due to repayment of debt proceeds.

Ms. Gillespie also referred to several different pages in the audit.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the annual audit for the period ending June 30, 2016. Motion unanimously approved.

Tax Administrator Report – Phillip Barrier

Tax Collections Report

The Tax Collections for the month of November 2016 is \$2,506,150.36

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to approve the Tax Collections for the month of November 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Regular Releases

The Regular Releases for the month of November 2016 is \$3,349.08.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Regular Releases for the month of November 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Barrier presented the Sales Statistics. Total Sales November 2016 is 69 compared to 38 sales last year.

County Manager Updates- Tim Greene

Cell 3 Construction-Avery County Landfill

Mr. Greene reported that the bids come in over budget. This project is on hold right now. We will be talking with the engineer next week. We have some challenges with this project.

Old Swimming Pool

Mr. Greene stated that he had received a call from the Parks and Recreation representative and she said within two weeks Avery County would receive a letter from the state stating that the current swimming pool is obsolete.

Ad Hoc Committees for Swimming Pool and Ag Building

Mr. Greene recommended that since the swimming pool project and Ag. building project was progressing that he thought that all the commissioners should be involved in the planning and design. He suggested that the ad hoc committees for these two projects be dissolved.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to dissolve the ad hoc committees for the swimming pool project and agricultural building project. Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Workshop

Mr. Greene suggested that the Board hold a board workshop to discuss several items. The consensus of the board was to hold the workshop on December 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson
Budget Amendment

Due to new FSLA regulations, a budget amendment is needed to maintain the overtime exemption status in four positions.

Mr. Vance stated that this regulation had been put on hold by a judge and he felt that this item should be tabled until further information was obtained.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to table this budget amendment until further information was obtained. Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Planning and Inspections Department requests a budget amendment for auto supplies and repairs.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to adopt the budget amendment for the planning and inspections department for auto supplies and repairs with a debit of \$4,558.00 to Auto Supplies (105400.3100) and a credit of \$4,558.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment

The Agricultural Extension Department requests a budget amendment for grant funds received from Carolina Farm Credit for purchasing livestock equipment.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to adopt the budget amendment for the Agricultural Extension Department with a debit of \$5,000.00 to Farm Credit Grant Expense (106050.7470) and a credit of \$5,000.00 to Farm Credit Grant (103811.0000). Motion unanimously approved.

Bonds

Board of Commissioner approval is needed for the bonds listed below:

Sheriff	\$25,000
Coroner	\$ 2,000
Register of Deeds	\$25,000

Tax Collector	\$50,000
Finance Officer	\$50,000
County Manager	\$50,000
Chairman of the Board	\$50,000

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the bonds as listed above. Motion unanimously approved.

County Attorney Report

No report.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the October 3, 2016 Regular Meeting; October 17, 2016 Regular Meeting; November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting; November 7, 2016 Closed Session. Motion unanimously approved.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Hicks stated that the Board would like to resume the quarterly meetings with the Board of Education. The clerk will obtain some dates from the Board of Education and poll the commissioners.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adjourn this meeting at 5:08 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk

