

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 1, 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; Reo Griffith; Faith Lacey; Blake Vance

Members Absent: None

**Call To Order**

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

Tim Greene led prayer.

Reo Griffith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hicks read a written 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.*

Chair Hicks stated that she thought there were several people at the meeting about the Resolution regarding Wilderness Designation of US Forest Service Lands and if anyone would like to speak to that agenda item they would need to sign up on the sheet with the clerk.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Chair Hicks stated that the agenda would be rearranged until Jerry Turbyfill from EMS could get here.

**Toe River Health District Presentation– Lynda Kinnane**

Lynda Kinnane stated she was here to update the Board on Toe River Health District's financial picture now that they are no longer in the home health business and to let you know what that means in the future. Ms. Kinnane explained that in 1980 the county commissioners in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties made the decision to form Toe River Health District. Even though you put your health department in a district, we are still your health department and one third of the district belongs to you. Toe River Health District was doing Home Health and even before the district Home Health was

available. In 1993-2014, Home Health provided a significant revenue that was used to support mandated and traditional public health services as state and federal revenues decreased. In 2012, we started seeing some problems with Home Health with competition from companies in neighboring counties. In 2014 the Board of Health decided to sell the agencies. On May 1, 2015 we sold the three agencies to Pruitt Health for \$2.9 million. This cut our budget in half. We are budgeting 9% out of fund balance. That is the amount that we anticipate that we will be spending every year. Available in our fund balance is \$4,248,000. We have to maintain an 8% fund balance but we try to maintain a 15% fund balance. Our annual deficit from the loss of home health revenue is \$380,000. Basically, the fund balance divided by the annual deficit is 11 years. Of course, this depends on several factors. So the money will probably last between 8-10 years. Basically, if we did not have the reserves I would be asking for \$130,000 from the loss of funding but because we have the reserves we can use that. This is an update and I plan on doing it every year so you will know where we are with respect to our funding.

Each board member thanked Ms. Kinnane for her presentation and keeping the board informed.

#### **EMS Billing/Collection Service—Dave Pickren; Jerry Turbyfill**

Tim Greene, County Manager, advised that Jerry Turbyfill had requested some charting software in the last two budgets but that had been taken out. This is something that we have seen the importance of because the EMS department has to enter information about three different times and we are looking at a solution to eliminate that. We currently have a billing company but we have a billing and collection company with us tonight that we are recommending that the Board consider approving tonight. Jerry and I had talked over the past few months about the importance of this. Jerry and Joielle lined up several different companies and we had sat down and interviewed those. We selected Colleton Software. We think this is going to be a good solution. This is a one year contract.

Jerry Turbyfill, EMS Director, explained that currently the EMS Department is outsourcing their billing. We currently have another billing system which we pay \$400 per month to send the billing out when they get it. Joielle Calhoun has to manually enter that and send it to them. We are also paying a collection company \$1300 a year to do the collections. We are the only county left in the State of North Carolina that is entering the patient care report manually. The paramedic runs a call and makes a paper copy of that call. The paramedic has to log on to a state website and enter the data within 24 hours. This is mandated by the state EMS of North Carolina. Then Joielle gets the call reports and enters it again. We are entering call reports three times. With a vending service such as Colleton, we would enter one time and be uploaded to the state and to Joielle. This is going to save approximately \$6100 a year on our budget with the maintenance contracts. It has a projected potential of doubling the county income. We would like to contract with Colleton for a year.

Dave Pickren, Colleton Software Representative, reported that his company was dedicated solely to EMS Billing as well as EMS software solutions for counties in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. As Jerry mentioned, you are the only county in North Carolina that I am aware of still using a paper process for carrying this out. My company is proposing a software solution tied in with our billing services that will allow it to streamline, cut down on the amount of work, cut down on potential overtime that you are paying your employees currently to enter that information after they finish their calls as well as increase revenues. We think somewhere between 75 and 100% increase in your revenues. My company only is compensated on what we collect. My number one job is to keep Avery County compliant with state and federal regulations and our second job is to maintain the highest level of revenue return that is allowed under the law.

Reo Griffith questioned what the average EMS bill was. Jerry Turbyfill stated approximately \$300.00. Mr. Griffith questioned "assuming a \$300.00 EMS bill what would be the percentage that you would collect?" Mr. Pickrens answered "we collect 6% of what we collect. Across the board this year we collected 86.3% of what we billed out. We have a very good return rate of what we bill out. The average EMS bill in North Carolina should be about \$515.00 per bill depending on who the payer is as well as how far the transport is. If we don't collect, we don't get paid."

Faith Lacey said "that was the question I was going to ask."

Maxine Laws questioned "so the rate to transport would still be the same?" Mr. Pickren said the county will set all the rates and the criteria of how aggressive we are in our collection efforts.

Blake Vance questioned "What is the approximate amount of man hours in a week that is spent on collections?" Joielle Calhoun said "I am a 30 hour a week employee." Mr. Vance said he didn't see a downside to this, it is not going to cost anything out of pocket. We are operating about a 1.3 million dollar loss. Every penny that you collect is a penny that these folks sitting here do not have to pay.

Chair Hicks questioned "Do you supply the Ipads?" Mr. Pickren answered that we provide the county with software and are providing the county with Ipads to make it simpler to do this.

Chair Hicks questioned Gerald McKinney, County Attorney if he had looked into this and if he had any comment. Mr. McKinney commented that he did not know of any reason that this should not be done.

Mr. Pickren advised that each month his company would report back to the Finance Department what is collected.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Colleton EMS Billing/Collection Service for Avery County Emergency Medical Services.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Pickren also stated that his company has made a commitment to come back periodically to the Board to give a report.

**Mayland Community College 2015/2016 Budget—Dr. John Boyd**

Dr. John Boyd stated that this is the standard 2-1 Budget that we bring before the Board every year. Basically, our budget year is July through June and it is already February. The problem this year was that the legislature did not pass a budget until late and once they passed the budget it goes to the State Board of Community Colleges and they pass it and then it gets down here. We were originally scheduled to be here in January but there was some mix up on that. Basically, this is saying what your commitment is that you made to the college. It is signed off by the chair of the Mayland Board of Trustees. It shows what the three counties committed. Yancey Counties commitment is \$10,000 more. They did have a five year commitment. The county funds are used for facilities and facility maintenance and operation. The original agreement was the three counties share the funding.

There were no questions by the commissioners.

**Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the 2-1 Budget for Mayland Community College and give authority for the Chair to sign. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Resolution Regarding Wilderness Designation of US Forest Service Lands – Greg Gardner**

Greg Gardner stated that in the packet is a colored map of the US Forest Service Lands in Avery County. There are 28,639 acres that are US Forest Service Lands in Avery County. 21,573 acres is designated Wilderness Inventory and that leaves a difference of 7,066 acres which would be Non-Inventory Wilderness. In 2002, the Avery County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in opposition to Wilderness Designation of 13,000 acres in the areas of Lost Cove Creek and Harper's Creek. You should have the proposed Resolution before you. This Resolution would cover the total acreage in Avery County. Mr. Gardner read aloud the resolution as follows:

***WHEREAS,** we the members of the Board of County Commissioners of the county of Avery, North Carolina, having been urged by a significant number of residents of this county to register opposition to the imposition of wilderness designation upon any of the 28,639 acres of the U.S. Forest Service Lands in Avery County, and having considered the adverse effect that such designation would have upon numerous species of wildlife which benefit from management practices which would no longer be possible, and believing that the resulting loss of wildlife habitat and game and non-game species dependent on it would diminish the use and enjoyment of said vast area by citizens within and outside our county, and,*

***FURTHER***, believing that the U.S. Forest Service Lands should be managed consistently with the forests serving a diversity of interests:

***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED***, that we do respectfully request North Carolina's Senators and Representatives to oppose any effort in the United States Congress to impose wilderness restrictions upon any portion of the U.S. Forest Service Lands in Avery County.

***FURTHERMORE***, we call upon the U.S. Forest Service to significantly increase those management activities which will enhance social, biological and economical local values of our forests for the benefit of our communities and/or visitors; and,

***FURTHERMORE***, we request the release of all "wilderness study areas" "roadless areas", "National Recreation Areas" and other severely restricted National Forest Lands into land management classifications allowing a broad range of management strategies that may enhance forest health, forest regeneration, timber stand improvements, fish & wildlife habitat and recreation according to the best available scientific information.

Mr. Gardner stated that Yancey County passed their resolution January 11, 2016 and possibly tonight or tomorrow night Mitchell County is poised to pass a similar resolution. Transylvania County is expected to pass their resolution at their next meeting. I have a couple of letters from North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis speaking about the HR2467 Resilient Federal Forest Act. I also have a letter from Mark Meadows but in this he is strongly urging the US Forest Supervisor regarding the Pisgah National Forest Revision Plans, mentions timber cutting and mentions hunting and fishing and he is pretty much on board with it. 9 out of 11 counties in District 11 have already passed several resolutions. Hopefully, Avery County will be #10 tonight.

Mr. Gardner gave examples of arguments against restrictions of National Forest Lands such as first and foremost the Bible teaches that the earth was made for man not man for the earth, for us to use not abuse. Secondly, these restrictions hurt small town economies. Thirdly, it is just more big government restrictions; further erosion of our rights and freedoms. Fourth, poor management by the Forest Services. Fifth, more Federal land grabs. Most recently January of this year, Obama is considering designating 1.7 million more acres in Northern Arizona as a national monument. Last but not least is sovereignty of the state; the power to govern without external control; state's rights; local control. I am of the persuasion that Avery County knows what is best for Avery County not Washington, D.C. We are asking this Board to finish what was started in 2002 with this complete resolution that will do everything possible on the county level to protect Avery County's Forest Service land from Federal overreach.

Chair Hicks requested that the public raise their hands that want the resolution sent in to protect the Wilderness land. There were approximately 58 people who were in favor of the resolution. No one raised their hand in opposition of the resolution.

Chair Hicks announced that she and Blake Vance had attended Mark Meadows Town Hall meeting in Newland and he assured us that any resolution that was sent in that the senators and the representatives took that and really looked into it.

**Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Reo Griffith to approve the Resolution regarding Wilderness Designation of US Forest Service Lands. Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Recess**

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

### **Recreation Property**

Tim Greene, County Manager, stated at a previous board workshop, the Board was presented by Robbie Willis, Recreation Department Director, with several different options that would fulfill the requirements for the recreation grant for the property located on Shady Street. At that time we talked about selecting one of those options at this board meeting. What we put in the board packet was all the different options as a reminder of what we discussed at the previous board meeting. Also, in the packet is an email that I sent Mr. Pete Armstrong with Recreation Resources in Raleigh just to clarify that the option of the walking trail and tearing down the house would fulfill the needs of the grant. As you can see we have in writing that this does fulfill the needs of the grant if you choose that option. Certainly, you can choose any one of those options that you would like. We present that for your consideration.

Chair Hicks stated that all of the options had been discussed in the workshop. I am going to ask each commissioner what their opinion is. Faith Lacey stated I decided that the walkway and area cleanup is what I would like for a starter. Reo Griffith stated it was the consensus of the board that we would fulfill the grant with the state and coming in compliance with something that should have been done years ago. Mr. Griffith questioned "\$25,000 would get us in compliance with the state and save us from possibly spending \$350,000?" Mr. Greene said "yes and I would remind the board that we have an account set up from when we got the recreation grant; at that time there were two houses being rented and they allowed us to keep renting those houses but it has to be in an account earmarked for recreation purposes so having said that the account has a little over \$56,000 in it which if you choose to do this it would come out of that account and not out of fund balance." Reo Griffith said his vote was the \$25,000. Maxine Laws stated that she agreed with the walking path and the cleanup because that would get us from underneath the grant and that does not tie up the property from further development. Blake Vance stated that he thought the grant needed to be satisfied immediately so we can start writing grants to further develop the property. One piece of information that we spoke about at the workshop, I had a

chance to talk to Congressman Meadows in the interval since then regarding the pool property down here with the land and water trust fund and being the fact that it was bought with those funds it was locked in recreation perpetuity. Congressman Meadows assured me that it would be very simple to get that restriction removed. At some point in the near future I would like to see us start developing a pool on this property because this one out here is a money pit. The folks in the county deserve to have somewhere to go like that. I say let's get the grant satisfied.

Chair Hicks said that Mr. Willis had suggested that if we didn't do something about a pool that this old pool would have to be shut down in a year or so because the walls are deteriorating. About everyone I talked to was interested in a pool.

**Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to go with the option of the walking path and removal of the house on the recreation property located on Shady Street. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **2015/2016 DPI Facilities Needs Survey for Avery County Schools**

Mr. Greene stated that in the packet is the 2015/2016 DPI Facilities Needs Survey for Avery County Schools. This lists all of the improvements and additional facilities needed to accommodate projected enrollments through the 2020-2021 school year and improvements to existing facilities to provide safe, comfortable environments that support the educational programs. This will be submitted to the State Board of Education. This does not constitute endorsement of or commitment to fund the Facility Needs Survey. This is a five year survey that the school has to fill out and send to the state. In fact, the last one that was done was presented to the Board December 2010 and signed January 2011. This is just the next five year cycle. This was presented to us at the joint meeting of the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners on January 26, 2016. We just need a motion for the chairman and the manager to sign or either consensus of the board. We will lean on the county attorney to decide if a consensus is fine to authorize the chairman and the manager to sign. Gerald McKinney, County Attorney stated that a consensus is fine if that is the way you choose to do it.

**Consensus of the Board for the Chair and the County Manager to sign the DPI Facilities Needs Survey for Avery County Schools.**

#### **Tax Administrator Report – Phillip Barrier**

##### **Tax Collection Report**

The Total Tax Collection for the month of January 2016 is \$2,069,454.54.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Total Tax Collection for the month of January 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **Tax Liens**

Mr. Barrier stated that as Tax Administrator it is time for him to report the monies that are not paid for the fiscal year of taxes for 2015. The amount still left due is \$1,318,579.38. By telling the Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2016, this now becomes a lien on the property and that gives the tax office the right to advertise the lien and to further collect the taxes that are not paid.

## **Regular Releases**

The Regular Releases for the month of January 2016 is \$715.52. Both of these were billed to the wrong owner. These amounts have been rebilled.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to approve the Regular Releases for the month of January 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Barrier reported the Sales through January 2016.

## **Special Board of Equalization and Review**

Mr. Barrier read aloud the resolution regarding the Special Board of Equalization and Review as follows:

***WHEREAS**, the Avery County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §105-322, have determined to appoint a special Board of Equalization and Review for 2016;and*

***WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners have determined that the qualifications for membership of the Board of Equalization and Review shall be that such individuals shall be owners of property located within Avery County, shall be eighteen years of age or more, shall be citizens and residents of Avery County, and that all shall take the oath of office as prescribed by N.C.G.S. § 105-322 and shall otherwise qualify as required by Article 21 of Chapter 105 of the North Carolina General Statutes.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that membership of said special Board of Equalization and Review shall be determined by the solicitation of applications from qualified applicants for said Board of Equalization and Review, and that their term of office shall continue throughout the calendar year of 2016 as prescribed by N.C.G.S. §105-322, and for such extended times as therein provided, at the rate of eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour.*

***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that any vacancies which shall exist in the Board of Equalization and Review shall be filled by the then remaining members of the Board by simple majority vote from a list of three names from the list of qualified applicants who are not selected for primary membership in the Board of Equalization and Review, said names to be provided to the remaining members of the Board of Equalization and Review by the County Tax Assessor.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that any appeals any taxpayer may file before the Board of Equalization and Review shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Board of Equalization and Review to the Property Tax Commission of the Department of Revenue for the State of North Carolina.

**Motion by Reo Griffith and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Special Board of Equalization and Review Resolution. Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Barrier stated that he had advertised regarding the Special Board of Equalization and Review in the local papers and that he had received five applicants. The weather was bad and there was someone that brought an application today. The deadline was on the 29<sup>th</sup>. I do have a sixth application.

**Consensus of the Board to accept the sixth application for the Special Board of Equalization and Review that was submitted after the deadline.**

The applications will be reviewed for a month and appointed at the March meeting.

### **County Manager Updates – Tim Greene**

#### **Bathroom Renovations**

The bathroom renovations are going well. This project should be completed by the middle of the month.

#### **Broadband Update**

Mr. Greene stated that he and Commissioner Laws went to Yancey County along with Keith Conover and talked with Nathan Bennett, Yancey County Manager and Wanda Proffitt, EDC Director regarding their experiences with getting Broadband.

We have a letter of support in the packet regarding inviting Country Cablevision into as many residents as possible. I would like to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve this. That is with no financial obligation on the part of Avery County. Country Cablevision is basically at the door. When they did the wiring in Mitchell County they have it wired up to the border of Avery County. I think they can hook up a few people where they have the fiber laid and then they are going to be looking to get grant money through the USDA to help in laying fiber. That is what the Broadband committee has been working towards.

Mr. Greene read aloud the following letter of support:

*It has been brought to the attention of the Avery County Board of Commissioners that Country Cable has fiber based Internet, Phone, and TV services available at the Mitchell County / Avery County line. The Board would like to bring High Speed Internet to our residents, and we hope that Country Cable is able to service some of Avery County's homes and businesses from the fiber system.*

*We, the Avery County Board of Commissioners, would like to extend an open invitation to Country Cablevision to bring the High Speed Internet, Phone, and TV services to as many of our residences as possible.*

*Furthermore, while the County cannot contribute to any funding directly, the Avery County Board of Commissioners would also like to make it formally known that Country Cablevision has the backing of the full Commission to seek funding to serve as many homes and businesses as possible.*

*This letter should be considered as an acknowledgement to proceed with construction to bring this much needed broadband infrastructure to Avery County, North Carolina.*

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Faith Lacey to approve the Letter of Support inviting Country Cablevision into Avery County and authorizing the Chair to sign the letter. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### Veterans Monument

Mr. Greene reported that the Veterans Monument was up and Gauldin Monuments has completed 99% of what we had contracted with them to do. The only thing that we have contracted with them and they have not done is the benches. Their recommendation is to not place the benches until the sidewalks and patio is done. With the press in attendance I would like to say that at some point in the near future we are going to reconvene our Veterans Committee. We have some other decisions to make regarding sidewalks, possible patios, landscaping, lights, etc. Between now and whenever we do the dedication, it is going to be muddy. Gauldin Monuments will come back after everything is completed and pressure wash the monument. We are potentially hoping to do a dedication on Memorial Day.

#### Agricultural Extension Building

Glen Walker, Engineer is still working on the plans. He is hoping to get some of the plans to us next week.

#### Governor's Crime Commission Grant

I went ahead and gave Troy Cook permission to apply for that grant. Mr. Cook was under a deadline. He assures me if they get awarded this grant we don't have to accept it and it is a nonmatching grant also. The grant is \$24,500 and is for NetMotion and Viper radios.

#### Board Policy Workshop

I would like to encourage the Board to get a meeting set up regarding the Board Policy. Chair Hicks instructed the Clerk to get some dates together and speak with each board member regarding this.

Commissioner Griffith requested that the Clerk and the County Manager get up with the Sheriff's Office and compose a Resolution of Appreciation to send to the agencies from outside of the county that came and helped out during the services of Keith Laws.

## **Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson**

### **Budget Amendment**

The Emergency Medical Services Department requests the following budget amendment for contracting services with a billing and collection company.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the Budget Amendment for the EMS Department regarding contracting services with a billing and collection company of \$20,000 with a debit of \$20,000 to Contract Services (10.5300.5400) and a credit of \$20,000 to Emergency Medical Service Revenue (10.3630.0000). Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment for Special Adoption Incentives. June 30, 2015 \$7,974.00 of unexpended revenue was rolled back into the General Fund Balance. The funding will be spent to facilitate adoptive placement of children in need.

**Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding Special Adoption Incentives of \$7,974.00 with a debit of \$7,974.00 to Special Adoption Incentives (10.6800.6020) and a credit of \$7,974.00 to Special Adoption Revenue (10.3643.0000). Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Budget Amendment**

The Department of Social Services was informed by the State of North Carolina that software maintenance charges will be drafted annually. Sixty-three percent is eligible for reimbursement.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the Budget Amendment regarding software maintenance charges for the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$1,355.00 with a debit of \$1,355.00 to Software Maintenance (10.6140.5750) and a credit of \$1,355.00 to County Welfare (10.3634.0000). Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Budget Transfer**

Senior Services has used all monies appropriated for Auto repairs and the Tahoe needs a new transmission and the Subaru needs tires.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the Budget Transfer regarding Senior Services for Auto Repairs of \$2,000.00 with a debit of \$2,000.00 to Auto Supplies (10.5960.3100) and a Credit of \$2,000.00 to Available for Appropriation (10.7000.6000). Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Budget Amendment**

Emergency Management has been approved for funding of a grant from Homeland Security. The grant will be used for an Avery, Mitchell and Yancey County joint training exercise.

**Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment for an Emergency Management Grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 with a debit of \$3,000.00 to Training (10.5250.1000) and a credit of \$3,000.00 to Emergency Management Grant (10.3800.0000). Motion unanimously approved.**

### **County Attorney Report – Gerald McKinney**

Gerald McKinney, County Attorney, explained that the one thing that is listed on the agenda under his report is the Title VI Plan. Our Transportation department gets grant money from the Federal Transit Administration or from the NC DOT. In order to do that, we have to demonstrate that we are complying with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The state provides a template for us. The upshot is that it is showing that we don't discriminate or otherwise subject the person to discrimination on account of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. That is what this is doing. Debbie has filled this out and submitted it. We need to approve this. The state has already approved this. I recommend that we approve it; I have read it and everything looks good.

Chairperson Martha Hicks stated that Ms. Debbie Smith had explained the Title VI thoroughly at a Transportation Meeting that she and the County Manager had attended.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the Title VI Plan for Avery County Transportation. Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Staff Reports and Requests**

Commissioner Griffith requested a consensus of the Board to instruct the County Manager to contact Mr. Jerry Combs regarding Squirrel Creek Rd near Russell's Antiques. This road is in the same shape as Hwy 194 and I request the County Manager bring DOT's attention to this road.

### **Closed Session**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Reo Griffith to go into Closed Session at 7:48 p.m. regarding N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3) Attorney/client privilege. Motion unanimously approved. Invitees are the Board, County Manager, County Attorney, Clerk.**

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session. During Closed Session, no vote was taken.

### **Approval Of Minutes**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2015. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Agenda Consent Items**

**Adopted by Consensus of the Board.**

**Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Greene stated that it is the time of year that we need to start thinking about setting dates for the budget workshops. Last year we had the public hearing on the budget on the first meeting in June. We will have to have the budget workshops a little earlier.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adjourn this meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.**

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

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