

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Blake Vance, Vice-Chair; Faith Lacey; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: Martha Hicks (family illness)

Call To Order

Vice-Chair Blake Vance called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Phillip Barrier led prayer.

Sheriff Kevin Frye led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations and Awards

Celebrate County Government

Amy Tolley was recognized for 19 years of service to Avery County.

Betty Bailey was recognized for 18 years of service to Avery County.

Tammy Dyer was recognized for 18 years of service to Avery County.

Trina Cook was recognized for 18 years of service to Avery County.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Board Appointments

Community Child Protection Team

There are four applications for four positions on the Child Protection Team. Denise Powell, Allison Phillips, Zachary Shepherd, and Jacqueline Aldridge have applied.

These applications have been reviewed.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Denise Powell, Allison Phillips, Zachary Shepherd and Jacqueline Aldridge to the Child Protection Team. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Teddy Bare has applied for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. His application has been reviewed.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Teddy Bare to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

The term for Wood Hall Young, Jr. has expired on the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Young has expressed his desire to continue to serve.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Faith Lacey to appoint Wood Hall Young, Jr. to the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

New River Service Authority

Michaëlle Poore, County Attorney, explained that the county was part of a five county group, part of the New River Service Authority and it is no longer active and all that remains to do is to wind up its business, taking care of its records and records storage. We need a commissioner appointed to that Board to wind up the business.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Faith Lacey to appoint Tim Phillips to the New River Service Authority. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Review of Applicants

Review of applicants for JCPC; CCPT; ETJ for The Village of Sugar Mountain. These will be considered for appointment at the next regular meeting.

Vision Plan for Heritage Park – NC State Design Team

Traci Ryder, Research Associate with the College of Design at NC State, and Johnnie Ring, graduate student at NC State presented the Vision Plan for Heritage Park. We have been working with Jerry Moody since last summer to look at the scope of the existing fairground site and figure out how we might better utilize that in support of the county and your citizens. We were at the fair and spoke with citizens. We have included some opportunities to develop that site. This is a vision and obviously would need to be refined.

Jerry Moody commented that this plan that the NC State Design Team has come up with is the plan that will be used to seek outside support and funding to make these things happen at Heritage Park. Hopefully with Traci's help and CapDev's help we will be able to get these facilities.

Vice-Chair Vance thanked Jerry Moody, his staff, and the NC State Design Team for the presentation and the work that they had done on the project.

Avery County Chamber of Commerce – Melynda Pepple

Melynda Pepple, Executive Director, stated that the Chamber is seeing a positive turn in the past year in Avery County. We have averaged around 350 members and opened up 12 members alone in December which is very positive. Ms. Pepple explained the different ways that the Chamber promoted economic development in Avery County.

She stated that there was a new website for the Chamber and the website includes the Avery Guide. Ms. Pepple requested \$10,000 for the Chamber to be considered in the upcoming budget.

Vaya Health Annual Report for Avery County – Brian Shuping

Brian Shuping reported that Vaya Health manages behavioral health services for Avery County and 22 other counties in Western North Carolina. In Avery County we manage behavioral health services for people with mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disability. Last year roughly we served about 710 people in Avery County; 436 with Medicaid and 274 without Medicaid. The largest provider is Daymark which is the comprehensive provider here in the county. A couple of other things going on in the county is a MindKare Kiosk at the building where the YMCA is located which is an anonymous screening for someone to take a test about themselves. It is on that individual to see if they want to seek services. There is a phone in the booth so the person can make an appointment for services. Vaya Health is one of seven MCO/LME's in the state. We have recently entered a coalition of two other MCO's which cover about 52 counties total to really advance whole person care in North Carolina. With Medicaid transformation coming, it is important to have behavioral health in local communities. We are hoping that we will be able to continue to serve the citizens and having this coalition helps to have more pull to help that happen in the state. We are doing Vaya Total Care in Avery County and coordinating with clients primary doctors to manage the care of the client.

Vice-Chair Blake Vance thanked Mr. Shuping for the report on behalf of the board.

Update on Drug Officers – Sheriff Kevin Frye

Sheriff Kevin Frye stated one of the big reasons that people like to come to Avery County is because it is safe. I believe I have outstanding men and women that do that each and every year. Last year we were given a drug officer and I have been asked to provide just a little bit of an update on that. In 2016/2017 prior to the new drug officer coming on board we had 276 drug investigation arrests that was made; that is one about every day and a half. We got the drug officer in July and from July until February 1, 2018 we had done 264. In other words before the new drug officer we were averaging 23 cases a month and now we are doing 38. When I asked for the drug officer I said this will reduce somewhat the office's overtime but it has not reduced the overtime with the drug officers and that was never the intent. It did reduce me having to pull other officers in to help. Every time we do a drug buy I need at least three people there; if we do a search warrant I need five people there. That is to make sure we handle the evidence correctly. The resources you have given me are making an impact on the drug problem.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that every time these officers make the charges these officers have to appear in court during the day. Sheriff Frye stated yes that was true. Sheriff Frye thanked the Board for the resources that the Board had provided to him to help with the drug problem,

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels
Tax Collections Report

The Total Tax Collections Report for the month of January 2018 is \$2,859,731.93.

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

Releases

There are no releases for the month of January 2018.

Mr. Daniels reported that the state of North Carolina sends out a random sampling that they require from us every year. They just pick a random group of deeds that they want the sales data on. We send that to them. This year they picked 226 sales for a random sampling and that puts us at about 98% of market value for our assessment. This is for the new values.

Mr. Daniels went over the sales for January 2018.

Mr. Daniels stated that the revaluation had been completed. We have been receiving some phone calls. We are looking at roughly 5% over the 2014 values.

Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Real Property Known as “The Avery Cares Building” For a Period of Less than One Year

This is the lease for the Avery Cares Building to Yellow Mountain Enterprises which needs to be extended until April 30, 2018.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Real Property Known as “The Avery Cares Building” For a Period of Less than One Year”. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Ms. Poore stated that there needed to be a motion to authorize the execution of the lease.

Motion by Tim Phillip and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to authorize the execution of the lease for the Avery Cares Building to Yellow Mountain Enterprises. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

County Manager Updates- Phillip Barrier

Broadband Grant

A grant was awarded to the Avery Chamber of Commerce for broadband. This is a \$100,000 grant with a \$100,000 match from a company.

Ag. Building

The framing is done. There are pictures on the website showing the progression of the project.

Rural Center Meeting

We had a rural center meeting. There is information in the informational items regarding the meeting. Our main concerns were broadband accessibility. We talked about the workforce across North Carolina. We talked about health in rural areas.

Pool Update

The soil tests are started. We are finalizing plans and expect that to be brought before the board in March.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Election Department requests a budget amendment to pay three board members for their participation in the candidate challenge hearing for the Town of Newland. The Town of Newland was billed and has reimbursed the county.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Faith Lacey to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$1,050.00 with a debit of \$1,050.00 to Salary-Board Members (10.4300.0210) and a credit of \$1,050.00 to Election Fees (10.3700.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Planning and Inspection Department requests a budget amendment for demolition expense. The cost for demolition and debris removal of Adams Apple Cluster #10 is more than budgeted.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,935.00 with a debit of \$2,935.00 to Condemnation Demolition (10.5400.1350) and a credit of \$2,935.00 to Available for Appropriations (10.7000.6000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is needed to show the restricted donation for the Sheriff's Office mentioned at last month's meeting. The donation from D.A.R.T. is for our drug officer's salary.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Faith Lacey to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$19,145 with a debit of \$19,145 to Salaries— Detectives (105100.0230) and a Credit of \$19,145 to Donations (103345.0000) and a debit of \$19,145 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000) and a credit of \$19,145 to Salaries—Detectives (105100.0230). Motion unanimously approve with those in attendance (4-0).

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, reported that 75 letters had been sent out for delinquent taxes.

Approval Of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the January 8, 2018 Regular Session Minutes. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Upcoming Meetings

There will be a board workshop on February 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 4:47 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

**Blake Vance, Vice-Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk