

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Friday, March 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary regarding a proposed remote participation policy for the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: Tim Phillips; Blake Vance

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led prayer.

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that she had done a draft remote participation policy for the Board and wanted to see if this was the way that the Board wanted to proceed. Most of the counties that I have looked at are anticipating that they will have a board meeting with three members present in the room and two participating remotely or do you want to have the entire meeting to be remote..

In the first paragraph if you wanted to have the entire meeting to be a Zoom meeting then we would have to add a subparagraph that in case of a pandemic or the safety of the commissioners we would need to add verbiage regarding this.

The way that this is set up does allow the Board to not have the public physically present but the public would be able to access the meeting on line or listen by telephone. This policy also provides for a public comment period. Any citizen could send in a public comment ahead of time and there are provisions in the policy for this. If the Board wants to allow for the possibility for the entire meeting to be conducted electronically we would make a provision that remote participation would be allowed for personal safety of the commissioners.

Dennis Aldridge stated that he thought that the policy needed to have the provision that a meeting could be held totally electronically.

Consensus by the Board members present to add a subparagraph to indicate that all board members could participate remotely if necessary for public safety and the safety of the staff and members of the Board.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Remote Participation Policy with the above changes. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adjourn this meeting at 9:12 a.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk