

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Blake Vance, Vice-Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Tim Phillips; 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 prayer.

Blake Vance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Celebrate County Government

The members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee were recognized for their service to Avery County.

Public Comment

Melynda Pepple, Avery Chamber of Commerce Director, thanked the Board for the money that had been allocated to the Avery Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Pepple also invited the Board to the Chamber dinner on November 7, 2019.

Burt Velry thanked the Board for allowing the High Country Senior Softball team for the use of the softball fields at the Rock Gym. Mr. Velry stated that the staff at Parks and Recreation had been very helpful to them.

Oasis Presentation – Tiffany Moon

Tiffany Moon, representative from Oasis, stated that October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. Since January of 2019, Oasis has served 112 people from Avery County; 68 are adults and 44 are children. We have housed 13 individuals in the confidential emergency shelter and we have gone to court a total of 39 times; 29 of those to civil cases and 9 to criminal cases.

Tiffany Moon introduced Sarah Crouch who is the Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Crouch explained that she is reaching out to the communities through talking at community meetings, church organizations, etc.

Chair Hicks thanked Ms. Moon and Ms. Crouch for their involvement in Avery County.

Resolution to Waive Bidding for Previously Bid Contract

WHEREAS, Avery County is in need of a new E-911 telephone system; and

WHEREAS, Mobile Communications America, Inc. has offered to sell a Vesta 9-1-1 system to the County on as good as or better terms than a comparable system sold to the County of Smyth, State of Virginia, with such contract with Smyth County dated 24 October 2018 and being entered into after a formal bidding process substantially similar to that required by NCGS 143-129; and

WHEREAS, a Notice was published in a newspaper having general circulation in Avery County as required by NCGS 143-129(g)(3);

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the execution of such Agreement will be in the best interest of the citizenry of Avery County and approves of the execution of the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Avery County Board of Commissioners meeting in regular session on the 7th day of October 2019 hereby approves the waiver of the bid procedure for that purchase of a Vesta 9-1-1 system from Mobile Communications America, Inc. in the amount of \$153,169.14 and authorizes the County Manager to execute such agreement for such purchase for the uses and purposes therein. The Board further authorizes the Chair to sign this Resolution.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution to Waive Bidding for Previously Bid Contract. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections Report

The Total Tax Collections for the month of September 2019 is \$2,105,180.84.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of September 2019 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Tax Releases Report

The Total Tax Releases for the month of September 2019 is \$79.16.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Total Tax Release Report for the month of September 2019 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Sales Statistics

The sales for September 2019 are 89 compared to 87 sales last year.

Morrison Public Library Board Bylaws

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to table the action on the Morrison Public Library Board Bylaws. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

Mr. Barrier stated that he was working on a grant for the Agricultural Dept. to help with building trails at Heritage Park.

The culvert project in the parking lot of the administration building is being taken care of. The porch project at the administration building has been completed. The Green Valley picnic shelter has been completed by the Buildings and Grounds staff.

Surplus Property Bid

Mr. Barrier stated that the County of Avery became the owner of a house that was built in 1930 and a piece of property. This was a tax foreclosure. This was deemed surplus property. We opened up the bids and received one bid for \$111.11. We are asking that the Board accept this bid. The bidder does understand that he will pay the attorney fees, fees for register of deeds and back taxes.

Ms. Poore, County Attorney, stated that the Board was under an obligation to sell surplus property for fair market value. With this property, the land value is \$600.00 according to the tax card and value of the building is \$12,300 but I understand since the tax card was printed the house has been condemned and has no value. The Board needs to be aware that the bid is less than the value of the property. The County can accept the bid because they have to pay the back taxes. If the Board wanted to approve it contingent that the buyer provide the bid amount and the back taxes then that would be above the tax value of the property.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to accept the surplus property bid of \$111.11 dollars plus the tax amount of \$1,005.17 and all associated fees and services. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Finance Officer Report – Tim Greene

Budget Amendment

The EMS Department has received an insurance reimbursement for the 2019 Chevrolet Ambulance claim.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$3,620.00 with a debit of \$3,620.00 to Auto Supplies (105300.3100) and a credit of \$3,620.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The county wide phone system bids came in over the budgeted amount. An additional \$35,000 needs to be added to the original appropriation. We had \$75,000 budgeted for that.

Blake Vance questioned what the reason was for that being so high because it was almost 50% over budget. Mr. Greene stated that during the budget process we had talked to the department of information technology when it went out to bid and when the bids come back we went over bid. The actual price was \$97,000 plus \$6,000 for taxes.

There were five vendors that bid on the project. We did invite two of them on site and let them demo the products. This is a county wide phone system. The current system we have we don't have support for. This will include the Agriculture building. We had went with another vendor when the new phone system was put in at the agriculture building which was a less expensive system that has not worked properly since it was installed.

Dennis Aldridge questioned if this was hardware, service and support. Mr. Greene said this was would be the phone system, installation and support. Mr. Aldridge asked if there would be any ancillary costs. Mr. Greene said there would be maintenance contracts of around \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the budget amendment in the amount of \$35,000 for a county wide phone system with a debit of \$35,000 to Capital Outlay (104400.7400) and a credit of Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

At the May 6, 2019 Board Meeting a budget amendment was adopted for the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$610,000. This needs to be re-budgeted for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$610,000 for the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant with a debit of \$610,000 to Neighborhood Revitalization Program (417000.6930) and a credit of \$610,000 to Revenue – CDBG Funds (413100.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the September 3, 2019 Regular Meeting and the September 27, 2019 Special Meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

There will be a special meeting on October 15, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. with the Board of Education. The next Regular meeting will be October 21, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 4:28 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk