

**State of North Carolina
County of Avery**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 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; Faith Lacey; Tim Phillips; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

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

Tim Phillips led prayer.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hicks recognized Dick Crews, candidate for Avery County Commissioner. Mr. Crews stated that he came to speak about the highways. There is paving in Linville and around the Linville Post Office and it is terrible. That is something that needs to be checked into.

Blake Vance stated that the highway repairs were a state function and not a county function.

Proclamations and Awards

Celebrate County Government

Danielle Henson was recognized for 16 years of service in the Tax Department.

Melanie Thompson was recognized for 16 years of service in the Emergency Services Department.

Verna Clark was recognized for 16 years of service in the Department of Social Services.

Chair Hicks announced that the Avery County Board of Commissioners had received a County government partnership award from the NC Cooperative Extension. This award was presented at the Annual NCACC Conference.

Public Comment

There were no further public comments.

Board Appointments

WAMY Board

Avery County is designated to have public representative positions on the Board of Directors for WAMY. Clayton Harpold has applied. This application has been reviewed.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Clayton Harpold to the WAMY Board. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Barbara Jones, DSS Director, has applied for a position on the JCPC. This application has been reviewed.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Barbara Jones to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Avery Fire Commission Appointment (Fire Association Appointee)

The Avery Fire Association has approved Robert Hancock as their representative.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to appoint Robert Hancock to the Avery Fire Commission. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Review of Avery Fire Commission Applications

There are three applications for review for the Avery Fire Commission. This appointment will be made at the October meeting. Blake Vance questioned that the statute for the fire commission prescribes that two members shall be “consumers” appointed by the board of commissioners; does that mean they should not be firemen or can be firemen? Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that she thought that this would be up to the Board because this was not defined in the statute.

Chair Hicks stated that there was a public hearing scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and the public hearing had to be held at 4:00 p.m. so the Board would continue on with the agenda until the time of the public hearing.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections Report

The Tax Collections Report for the month of August 2018 is \$4,539,659.45.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the tax collections report as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Releases

The Releases for the month of August 2018 is \$5620.88.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Releases as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Sales Statistics

Mr. Daniels reported that sales were “all over the map”. There were 91 sales in August 2018 compared to 67 sales in August 2017.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Jail requests a budget amendment for two pistols that were ordered in the prior budget year but were not delivered. These pistols are needed.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt a budget amendment in the amount of \$960.00 with a debit of \$960.00 to Capital (10.5200.7400) and a credit of \$960.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Sheriff requests a budget amendment for detective salary and benefits for a vacation payout of a retiring detective.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$7,655.00 with a debit of \$6,310.00 to Salary-Detectives (10.5100.0230); debit of \$485.00 to FICA (10.5100.0500); debit of \$540.00 to Retirement (10.5100.0600); debit of \$320.00 to 401K (10.5100.0800); credit of \$7,655.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (10.3990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

The Sheriff requests a budget amendment for the unauthorized substance funds overage received in the prior year. As required by NC General Statute the funds will be used to enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to deter and investigate crimes especially drug offenses.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$14,624.00 with a debit of \$14,624.00 to Drug Fund Expenses (105100.5701) and a credit of \$14,624.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Budget Amendment

A budget amendment is requested for three 24/7 chairs. The existing chairs are worn and in need of replacement.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$6,000.00 with a debit of \$6,000.00 to Capital-Equipment (226600.7430) and a credit of \$6,000.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (223990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore

Nothing to report at this time.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier

Economic Development Update

Mr. Barrier stated that there was a public hearing scheduled today for some economic development committee expenditures. He thanked the committee for all of their hard work. We now have the available commercial properties on the website. Ken and I went down to Marion on Wednesday, August 22nd and presented four properties to the Economic Development Partnership in North Carolina. We were shopped by two individuals at a time for commercial properties that we had available in Avery County. We showed the Charles A. Cannon property at Beech Street in Newland; Pineola Property; Mike Aldridge Trucking; and JC Faw Building which was the old Lowes Building. We met people that can put us in touch with people that we need to know like Food and Beverage for the state. We also met at a man that is over recreation for the state.

Another thing going on is that we will need to fill a vacancy on the economic development committee and we will be taking applications.

The Broadband agreement has been approved by legal counsel and we are setting up a meeting to get the agreement signed.

Swimming Pool Update

Thanks to Robbie Willis for all of his hard work on this project. Dirt has been moved. They are preparing to pour concrete on the pool walls.

Lottery Fund Grant

The Lottery Fund Grant has been submitted and we have a letter that the grant was received. We did ask for 10 million dollars. We are a Tier 2 county and this is a dollar for dollar match. The only thing I am concerned with is this is based on need. We should hear something by the end of the month. If we can get some of the grant money we will far exceed what the next five years in the lottery fund would be producing.

Sales Tax Referendum

We passed a resolution and this was adopted by the Commissioners to place a sales tax referendum on the ballot. It is estimated by the sales tax people in Raleigh that we could have received in the year 2016/2017 \$697,000 a year. This could possibly be used to fund the capital projects such as the addition and renovation to Avery High School. I urge people to talk to their neighbors about this sales tax.

USDA Loan Application

There will be a public meeting on the application on September 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Nancy and I have been working hard on the USDA loan application.

Playground Update

There has been some dirt hauled in so we can get some grass planted. Patching of the pavement has been completed. Playground equipment has been ordered.

Public Hearing—2018 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program 2nd Public Hearing- Michelle Ball

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to enter into a time of Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m. regarding the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program 2nd Public Hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

The purpose of this public hearing is to give the opportunity for citizen input concerning the upcoming application submission for CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program Funds. The grant can provide housing repairs for low-income, owner-occupied homes within the County.

Avery County will be requesting \$610,000 from the NC Department of Commerce for this project. This is a competitive grant for which the state has allocated \$10,000,000. To be eligible for the funding the County must submit an application to the State by September 29, 2018 not only outlining how they plan to administer the project, but also identifying selected participants.

Homeowner applications were available at the Senior Center, Avery DSS, and the County Manager's Office and accepted from June 15, 2018 – July 31, 2018. Eleven (11) applications were received by the deadline.

The Selection Committee met on August 8th to go through the applications. Of the 11 submittals 2 were deemed ineligible due to their location in the floodplain or ownership status. The Committee was able to come up with a budget that could potentially assist the remaining 9 homeowners that applied. Three of the selected homes will receive assistance in the form of a replacement home (usually a small double-wide on a permanent foundation); five homes will be rehabilitated; and one will be helped with the Emergency Repair funds.

The homes selected for the program are located in the neighborhoods of:

Licklog	Ingalls
Cranberry	Heaton
Minneapolis	Newland (2)
Green Valley	Pineola (emergency repair)

An additional \$50,000 is in the budget for Emergency Repairs. These funds can be used to do a one-time repair under \$5,000 to an owner-occupied, low-income home. These homes do not have to be identified at this time.

Chair Hicks asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to go out of the Public Hearing at 4:05 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

WHEREAS, Avery County's Board of Commissioners has previously indicated its desire to assist in economic development efforts for small businesses/entrepreneurs within the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has held two public hearings concerning the proposed application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit selected low- and moderate-income homeowners with housing rehabilitation assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes the County to pursue a formal application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit low- and moderate-income homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners certifies it will meet all federal regulatory and statutory requirements of the State of North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the County's Board of Commissioners that Avery County is authorized to submit a formal application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for approval of a Community Development Block Grant for the North Carolina Neighborhood Program to benefit selected low-and moderate-income homeowners with housing rehabilitation assistance.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, 20____ in Avery County, North Carolina.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Resolution Regarding the Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding for the 2018 Neighborhood Redevelopment Project. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the May 10, 2018 Budget Workshop; July 9, 2018 Special Meeting; August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a recess at 4:09 p.m.

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

**Public Hearing- Economic Development Committee Expenditures – Ken Walter
Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to enter into a time of
Public Hearing regarding Economic Development Committee Expenditures at
4:30 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

Mr. Barrier stated that this public hearing was to receive public comment regarding approval of expenditure of funds to Alex Amaya for design and development of the County logo not to exceed \$650.00; a contract with Avery County Chamber of Commerce for advertising in an amount not to exceed \$500.00 and an expenditure of funds for the Junior Achievement program not to exceed \$300.00.

Melynda Pepple commented that an ad for Avery County in the Avery County Guide would be good because 45,000 copies are distributed. These are shipped to visitor centers and major airports.

Ken Walter stated that Alex Amaya was working with the images for the county logo which the committee had approved 21 of the 29 images. This expenditure would not exceed \$650.00. Mr. Walter also spoke about Junior Achievement in the schools. Each program would cost the county \$150.00. This would be offered twice a year. Dr. Taylor has expressed his pleasure in wanting this in the schools.

Chair Hicks asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to go out of the
Public Hearing at 4:38 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Economic
Development Committee Expenditures. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

Upcoming Meetings

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 17th at 3:30 p.m. A public meeting regarding the USDA Loan Application for the Avery High School will be held at 4:00 p.m. at that meeting.

Closed Session

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go into Closed Session at
4:40 p.m. regarding NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel. Motion unanimously
approved (5-0). Invitees are the Board, County Manager, County Attorney, Clerk.**

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

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 5:38 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk