

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 5, 2017 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.

Blake Vance led prayer.

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

**Proclamations and Awards**

**Celebrate Avery County Government**

Recognition was given to four employees from Avery County Emergency Medical Services for twenty-three years of service. The employees recognized were Jerry Turbyfill, Dean Gibbs, Roger Wright, and Jerry Calloway.

**Resolution Recognizing Avery County Transportation**

Whereas, the Avery County Board of Commissioners takes pride in recognizing the accomplishments of all departments in Avery County; and

Whereas, the Avery County Transportation team placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the First Rural Regional Rodeo which included five area counties; and

Whereas, the placement qualified the Avery County Transportation team to compete at the state level; and

Whereas, the Avery County Board of Commissioners recognizes this great accomplishment; and

Whereas, this brings region wide recognition and distinction to all of Avery County.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Avery County Board of Commissioners hereby publicly recognizes and congratulates the Avery County Transportation team's outstanding achievements—Chris Brewer, Jr. on winning 1<sup>st</sup>

place, Claude Buchanan on winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Tim Brewer on winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Resolution Recognizing the Avery County Transportation Department. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

#### **Public Comment**

John Greene, Chair of the Avery County Board of Education and Ken Townsend, Superintendent of Avery County Schools thanked the Board for allowing them to speak at a previous board meeting. That conversation raised awareness of the need for the Pre-Kindergarten class to be filled to keep from losing funding. The Pre-Kindergarten class at Riverside is filled and there are only four open slots across the county.

#### **Board Appointments**

##### **Review of Applicants**

The Board will review the applicants for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee and for the Jury Commission. These will be voted on at the next meeting.

##### **Avery Fire Commission**

The applicant for the Avery Fire Commission appointment (commissioner) is Bill Beuttell. This application has been reviewed.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Bill Beuttell to the Avery Fire Commission as the commissioner appointee. Motion unanimously approved.**

Jim Brooks has been elected by the Avery County Fire Association as their representative for the Avery Fire Commission.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Jim Brooks to the Avery Fire Commission as the Avery County Fire Association representative. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

#### **Avery County Planning Board Review Officers**

Phillip Barrier, County Manager, stated that per the letter from Tommy Burlson, Director of Inspections and Planning, that Allison Kidd and Adam Long needed to be appointed to the position of Review Officers for the Avery County Planning Department. When Mr. Burlson is out of town, there is no one to review the survey maps which need to be reviewed in a timely manner.

**Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Allison Kidd and Adam Long as Review Officers for the Avery County Planning Department. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Resolution—Register of Deeds**

Mr. Barrier stated that Renee Dellinger, Register of Deeds, had recently been to a conference and it was brought to her attention that there needed to be a resolution to enforce the hours of recording for the Register of Deeds. There is not a resolution on record at this time.

*BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avery County Board of Commissioners in session duly assembled \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, does upon recommendation of Renee Dellinger, duly elected Register of Deeds in and for the County of Avery, establish the hours for recordation of instruments, pursuant to the North Carolina General Statute, to be 8:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. and the issuance of Marriage Licenses to be 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for all other services Monday through Friday, excepting holidays.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any instrument received after the specified time shall not be considered of record.*

*This action is being taken to prevent documents from being received without ample time to check documents and process before the end of a business day; and also to prevent employees from accruing overtime.*

*This Resolution shall be effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.*

**Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Blake Vance to approve the Resolution for the Register of Deeds Office. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Tax Administrators Report- Bruce Daniels**

**Tax Collections Report**

Bruce Daniels, Tax Administrator, reported that the Tax Collections for the month of August 2017 was \$4,155,440.21.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of August 2017 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Regular Releases**

The Regular Releases for the month of August 2017 is \$2,629.89.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young and second by Blake Vance to approve the Regular Releases for the month of August 2017 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

## **Refunds**

There is a refund for the month of August 2017 of \$121.63.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Refund for the month of August 2017 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

## **County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier**

### **Parking Lot Update**

M&M Construction has done a great job with the parking lot. They had that accomplished in five days. Last week the parking lot was used heavily.

### **Playground Update**

Construction is scheduled to start on September 11, 2017.

I have talked with the people at the Valdese pool and they should be putting the bubble up on September 19, 2017. The Clerk will poll the Commissioner to see how will be going to Valdese.

### **Agricultural Building Update**

We have been busy with documents regarding the Agricultural Building Update. We are moving along with that project. Boomerang Architects will present to the Board at the meeting in October.

### **EMS Update**

The renovation at the EMS building looks great. We are thinking about scheduling an open house.

### **Solid Waste Update**

Solid Waste Collection day was in August. 212 vehicles came through. There were 20 yard open tops of paint, 4 pallets of pesticide, 200 televisions and no one had to wait in line for more than 10 minutes.

### **Economic Development Committee Meeting**

The Economic Development Committees next regularly scheduled meeting is the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. They have asked for a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners.

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

### **Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Agricultural Extension Office requests the following budget amendment to recognize grant revenue received for the pesticide storage facility.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment regarding a grant received by the Avery County Agricultural Extension Office in the amount of \$12,288.00 with a debit of \$12,288.00 to Fund**

**Balance Appropriation (103990.0000) and a credit of \$12,288.00 to Pesticide Storage Facility Grant (103363.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

Avery County Soil and Water requests the following budget amendment for revenue recognition and final payout of the North Toe River project.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment for the Avery County Soil and Water in the amount of \$3,400.00 with a debit of \$3,400.00 to Conservation & Development and a credit of \$3,400.00 to NC Soil & Water Conservation. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) requests a budget amendment to recognize revenue received for training.

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve a budget amendment recognizing revenue for Avery County EMS for training in the amount of \$2,500.00 with a debit of \$1,250.00 to Travel (105300.1400) and a debit of \$1,250.00 to Training (105300.1450) and a credit of \$2,500.00 to Miscellaneous Revenue (103350.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Budget Amendment**

The Avery County Public Buildings and Grounds Department requests the following budget amendment for asbestos abatement services for the old Johnson building. These services were not completed before June 30, 2017.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve a budget amendment for asbestos abatement services for the old Johnson building in the amount of \$15,450.00 with a debit of \$15,450.00 to Capital Outlay – Johnson/Lacey Property and a credit of \$15,450.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

**Closed Session**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to go into Closed Session regarding Attorney/Client Privilege 143-318.11 (a)(3) at 4:26 p.m. Invitees are the Board; County Manager; Clerk; County Attorney. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

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

**Amend the Agenda**

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to amend the agenda to address the pool project. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

Blake Vance stated he thought everyone knows his opinion. Upon review of Ms. Isaacs contract it is clear she is not engaged in this project with Avery County. I am thankful we are going to head in a different direction.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. stated that he felt it would be in the county's best interest monetarily wise, construction wise and architectural wise to not go with Ms. Isaacs but choose a different architect. She has been paid for the services up to this point.

Tim Phillips stated that he was just one voice but he wanted to give her ample time to amend her contract. I will say whatever the majority wants to do I will get behind them and work with them. I did want to give her ample time to amend the contract.

Faith Lacey stated she felt it was in the best interest of the taxpayers not to go with Isaacs & Associates Architects.

Chair Hicks stated that Ms. Isaacs have been paid for the work that she has done. I don't feel like we should enter into a contract with her. It is not in the best interest of the county.

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, said the question at this point is whether the Board by consensus wants the Manager to proceed with further inquiry into an architect for the pool.

Unanimous consensus by the Board to allow the Manager to proceed with further options as far as an architect for the pool.

Blake Vance stated that Ms. Isaacs had fulfilled her duties as an architect and has been paid.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the Minutes for May 16, 2017 Budget Workshop; May 18, 2017 Budget Workshop; June 28, 2017 Special Meeting with the Board of Education; July 3, 2017 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

### **Agenda Consent Items**

**Adopted by Consensus.**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next Regular meeting will be October 2, 2017.

Blake Vance commented that 800 pages of paper had been saved with this agenda by using the Ipads.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 5:27 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).**

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr.**