

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The meeting was changed from Monday, September 5, 2016 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Maxine Laws, Vice-Chair; Reo Griffith; Faith Lacey; Blake Vance

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Blake Vance led prayer.

Reo Griffith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Neil Reece stated "as you know I was here last month and had some questions and I am back again asking those questions. We still have no rescue service in the Elk Park area. My tax money is as good as the people at Grandfather Golf and Country Club. The people in Elk Park and Frank deserve a crash truck down there just as much as the people in Newland and Linville do. I want to be treated equal with the tax money that I pay. I feel it is a dire need before it costs someone their life."

Charles McKinney, Jr stated "I to want to say that I am not here to bash anybody, that is not my intent. I am up here trying to help the people of Avery County. I have a solution. It should be in the paper tomorrow. I would like to see any and all equipment that was given to Linville Central Rescue Squad because that was the whole purpose that it be used for the county given to Elk Park Fire Department. We have talked to some of the people with the fire commission and other people that are members of other fire departments, people that are willing to do this under the fire commission. I will guarantee you within the first six months 20 people will be at that substation. I probably will not be there because I am pretty much done. I am willing to get it started. I have already got five people. We will have about 10 certified and a total of 20 in six months and have coverage down there. It will go where it needs to go and it will be under the fire commission. As far as the tax dollars, this is in the commissioners minutes, and was voted on the rescue squad cannot be paid under the fire tax money. It is under general statute 153-8 and chapter 69 talks about this. The county attorney at the time and Tim Greene knows that there should be no comingling of money. I want you to think about that."

Board Appointments

There are two reviews of applications. One is for the Agricultural Advisory Board and the other is for the Fire Commission. These will be voted on at the next regular meeting.

Raising the Awareness of the Eagle Rock Ministries High Country Toy Run – Chris Tashner

Chris Tashner, student at Avery High School, gave a presentation on raising awareness of the Eagle Rock Ministries High Country Toy Run. Mr. Tashner stated that he was working on his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Project in Troop 888. This project ministry is a completely volunteer effort that has supported children of families in need at Christmas time in Avery, Watauga and Ashe counties for over fourteen years. Last year over 1,400 children were supported in our region with approximately 400 in Avery alone. Unfortunately, perhaps due to a lack of awareness, very few volunteers came from Avery County so I wanted to raise awareness of this ministry. The process for the ministry includes identification of children; shopping for clothes and toys; selection of items for each individual need; gift wrapping clothes and toys and delivering each gift bag to each child.

Commerce Fellows Grant Project Documents – Michelle Ball

Michelle Ball commented that there were twelve documents included in the Board packet that needed to be adopted for the Commerce Fellows Grant. These documents are the same documents the Board has adopted in the past for the Scattered Site Relocation Plan. Commerce and HUD require the same policies to be adopted for CDBG project no matter the activity.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the 504/ADA Grievance Procedure; Code of Conduct Resolution; Equal Employment & Procurement Plan; Fair Housing Complaint Procedure; Fair Housing Plan; Fair Housing Resolution; Language Access Plan; Optional Coverage Relocation Plan Resolution; Procurement Policy; Project Ordinance; Residential Antidisplacement & Relocation Plan; Section 3 Plan. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to authorize the Chairman to sign all of the documents adopted above regarding the Commerce Fellows Grant. Motion unanimously approved.

Tax Administrators Report – Phillip Barrier

Tax Collections Report

The Tax Collections Report for the month of August 2016 is \$3,161,099.24.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of August 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Reo Griffith left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Regular Releases

The Regular Releases for the month of August 2016 is \$9,918.13.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the Regular Releases for the month of August 2016 as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Mr. Barrier stated that the total sales for June and July were 76 which is up from 59 sales last year.

County Manager Updates – Tim Greene

Site Visits

There have been two different site visits; on August 25th we visited swimming pools and on September 1st we visited agricultural buildings. The architect proposals for these two projects are due on Friday and we will need to schedule selection committee meetings to go over the architect proposals. The clerk will poll the commissioners regarding the dates for the meetings.

Once the selection committees have completed their tasks, it might be good to set up a committee for both projects to talk with the architects to tell them what we are looking for and maybe we use the same committees as the selection committees and repurpose these committees.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to transition the Professional Selection Committee members for the Swimming Pool and the Agricultural Building projects into Ad Hoc Committees for the projects. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

VFW Request to Replace Shrubbery at the VFW monument in the Square

Mr. Greene explained that the VFW had requested permission to replace the shrubbery at the VFW monument in the Square because it had gotten too big.

Consensus by the Board to allow the VFW to replace the shrubbery at the VFW monument.

Finance Officer Report – Nancy Johnson

Budget Amendment

The Avery County E-911 department requests a budget amendment for contract maintenance due to a vendor's mathematical error.

Motion by Faith Lacey and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the budget amendment for the E-911 department in the amount of \$10,000 with a debit of \$10,000 to Maintenance Contracts (226600.1540) and a credit of \$10,000 to Fund Balance Appropriation (223990.0000).

Blake Vance stated that he had real “heartburn” with this budget amendment because it was the vendor’s error.

VOTE: 3 to 1

For---Martha Hicks; Maxine Laws; Faith Lacey

Against---Blake Vance

Budget Amendment

The Avery County Department of Social Services requests a budget amendment for additional allocations received from the state for Child Care.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adopt the budget amendment regarding the Avery County Department of Social Services in the amount of \$12,366.00 with a debit of \$12,366.00 to Day Care for Children (10.6140.2000) and a credit of \$12,366.00 to Day Care Revenue (10.3631.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

County Attorney Report – Gerald McKinney

Mr. McKinney stated that the Board needed to go into Closed Session regarding Attorney/Client Privilege G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) and Acquisition of Property G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to go into Closed Session regarding Attorney/Client Privilege G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) and Acquisition of Property G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) at 6:53 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance. Invitees are the Board, manager, clerk and attorney.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to approve the August 1, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 8, 2016 Board Workshop Minutes. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Blake Vance commented that the Commissioners meeting time had been changed to 6:00 p.m. almost two years ago because people had said that they would come if the time was later for the meeting. The people that wanted this time change has not shown up one time at the meeting so I think it would be easier for the staff and everyone if we thought about changing the meeting back to 3:30 p.m. Hopefully this can be done at the next meeting.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting is September 19, 2016 if the Chair deems it is necessary.

Adjourn

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to adjourn this meeting at 7:12 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk