

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Board Workshop on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the Avery County Agricultural Extension Office, 661 Vale Road, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Capital Projects, Personnel, and Upcoming Budget.

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 9:05 a.m.

Dennis Aldridge led prayer.

Chair Hicks turned the meeting over to Phillip Barrier, County Manager. Mr. Barrier welcomed everyone to the board workshop. Mr. Barrier turned the meeting over to Tim Greene, Finance Officer.

Upcoming Budget

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, explained the budget process. Budget packages will be sent out to each department head. The department heads will then send in the requests. Mr. Greene showed some examples of the budget packages that will be sent out and explained some highlights of that process. In March there will be meeting with the department heads where each line item will be discussed.

Mr. Barrier stated that he had run a scroll from the tax office about the growth. These are very early numbers. The Board of Equalization and Review must meet which could change things. Preliminary numbers are showing an increase from 3.607 billion dollars real property value to 3.684 billion dollars real property value.

Personnel

Sheriff Deputies' Pay Classification

Mr. Barrier stated that he had been in touch with David Hill who did a pay classification study for the county last year. Mr. Hill stated that counties were having a hard time getting qualified deputies and that he was going to look at the pay study again and would share that information with Mr. Barrier as soon as it was available.

Part-Time Assistant Solid Waste Director

There was discussion about a part time assistant solid waste director. It was felt that there needed to be some justification for what the Solid Waste Director needs.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

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

Capital Projects---Upcoming Capital Projects---County Facilities

Parking Lot Paving

Mr. Barrier stated that last year \$15,000 was budgeted for paving around county facilities. The \$15,000 got the playground area paved. The idea that I have is to keep moving around each year and get on a cycle of patching and paving. We will try to do something between \$15,000 and \$25,000 dollars each year. We will make sure that the scope of work is the same for each bidder.

Front Porch of the Courthouse

Mr. Barrier explained that the front porch of the courthouse needed some repair work to the concrete. He stated that he had found someone that did a rubber seal which would protect the concrete from salt. The estimate for the front of the courthouse and down the handicapped ramp is approximately \$14,000. The estimate at the administration building is around \$6,000.

Outside of Jail

Mr. Barrier stated that Gragg Construction had fixed the water issue with the evidence room and mechanical room in the jail annex. The water was coming from the porous brick and this was allowing the water to penetrate through the brick. Mr. Gragg has suggested that the entire building be sealed. The estimate on this would be approximately \$18,000. Mr. Barrier is going to check on doing a section a year.

Rock Gym

The chimney at the Rock Gym is leaking and we have not been able to fix these issues around the chimney. The estimate for the chimney to be torn down is \$9,000; the estimate to remove the dormers is \$6,000.

Old Ag. Building

Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office are using the old Ag. Building for storage.

Sheriff's Vehicles

There was discussion regarding possibly leasing Sheriff's vehicles compared to purchase of vehicles. The County Manager and Finance Officer will analyze information that was received from the leasing company. Consensus of the Board to budget for five vehicles in the upcoming budget year.

School Capital Needs

A capital reserve fund was set up for the Crossnore Elementary School roof . There is \$687,000 in the capital reserve fund. The County Manager will ask to get another opinion on the roof at Crossnore Elementary School.

Community Center

There was discussion regarding a community center at the Ag. Building. There were several options discussed about raising the money along with the county committing money to the project.

Avery High School

There was discussion regarding Avery County High School Addition and Renovation. The Finance Officer gave examples of possible finance options at 15 years and 20 years.

Recess

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

Chair Hicks declared the board workshop to be back in session after a brief recess.

Discussion continued regarding the high school. There were several questions regarding the construction of the school. The Board instructed the County Manager to comprise a list of questions and send them to Dr. Bryan Taylor, School Superintendent and also get a joint meeting with the school board scheduled as soon as possible.

Adjourn

Chair Hicks adjourned the board workshop at 3:34 p.m.

Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk