

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, Newland, NC. The purpose of this meeting was to receive input from Congressman Patrick McHenry and pose questions as to the stimulus package and other issues affecting Avery County.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chairman; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: None

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called this meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.  
Glenn Johnson led prayer.

Chairman Poteat stated that Congressman Patrick McHenry's willingness to meet with the citizens of Avery County was greatly appreciated. Phyllis Forbes commented that she had been a Commissioner for 12 years and during that time Congressman McHenry was the first Congressman to ask to meet with the Commissioners and she appreciated that.

Scott Heath questioned Congressman McHenry regarding his thoughts on the situation with the stimulus package. Congressman McHenry stated that stimulus funds come to the state and the state divvies it up. Discussion regarding the different stimulus monies and the "strings" attached to this money.

Martha Hicks asked if there were any stimulus funds or grants that would help Avery County in building a new school and a new jail. Congressman McHenry stated there were low interest rate loans through the Rural Development and Laurie Moody could research grants that might be available. There are also energy efficiency avenues that are available. Chairman Poteat questioned if there were any funds that could help with the "bricks and mortar". Congressman McHenry said there were limited funds and that was part of the failure of the stimulus monies.

Phyllis Forbes questioned if there was a specific website that the general public could go to find out what kind of tax deductions or get answers to their questions. Congressman McHenry suggested that the citizens could track the stimulus funds on a website called "recovery.gov".

Chairman Poteat asked Congressman McHenry about the "Cash for Clunkers". Congressman McHenry stated that he voted against the "Cash for Clunkers" because this funding was not limited to just American made cars and the three major automotive companies were bailed out. He said that people will be able to buy cars and houses when there is economic growth and real economic growth does not resonate with government but small business, lower taxes, and less intervention.

Glenn Johnson discussed the postal service and the problems with the postal service. Glenn Johnson stated that he appreciated Congressman McHenry's conservative issues that he stood for; the right to life and the right to bear arms.

**Motion by Scott Heath and second by Phyllis Forbes to adjourn this meeting at 4:42 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.**

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**Kenny Poteat, Chairman  
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk