

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Meeting with the Avery County Board of Education on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Avery County Board of Education Executive Boardroom, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chair; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: Scott Heath; Martha Hicks

Board of Education Members Present: John Greene, Chairman; Kathy Aldridge; Phillip Shomaker; Jamey Johnson; Kathy Aldridge

Others Present: Dr. Keith Eades; Robert Wiseman, County Manager; Tim Greene, Avery County Finance Officer

Call To Order

Motion by Kathy Aldridge and second by Phillip Shomaker to go into an open session meeting with the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Motion unanimous.

Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Phyllis Forbes to seat the Board in a joint meeting with the Avery County Board of Education. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Broadband – Sara Yackey

Sara Yackey, Avery County Partnership Director, presented a power point presentation regarding the need for broadband in Avery County. Ms. Yackey explained how she had contacted numerous people at AT&T and satellite companies regarding the need for broadband in Avery County. Ms. Yackey requested that the Avery County Board of Commissioners resolve to create an e-Avery effort that would be locally driven by volunteers. Ms. Yackey would chair the e-Avery Steering Committee. The e-Avery Steering Committee would be responsible for assessing Avery County in terms of technology infrastructure, public internet access, digital literacy training, and Web applications.

Avery County Schools Capital Projects

The Board of Commissioners was presented a list of the capital projects for Avery County Schools that were completed or in process at this time and currently in the budget this year.

Jeff Jaynes stated that the Commissioners were very gracious this year and gave Avery County Schools \$100,000 more money for capital projects. Mr. Jaynes advised that there was \$50,000 from other money for capital projects and this would be used in combination with the \$100,000 to complete a list of projects that were presented to the Commissioners. There was discussion at the last joint meeting and the issue was brought up about using lottery funds. Mr. Jaynes stated that the school board was instructed to come up with a list of projects that could be used with that funding. A list of these projects were given to the Commissioners.

Chairman Poteat stated that the Board of Commissioners would put on the agenda for the December meeting to discuss how much money could be allocated from the lottery funds.

Construction updates on Banner Elk School – Jeff Hurd

Jeff Hurd, Construction Manager, updated the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners on the progression of the Banner Elk School Project. A monthly progress report for November 2009 was presented to the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners.

Turn Lanes on Hwy 184 at the new Banner Elk School

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, reported that he had been in contact on several occasions with Joe Futrelle by email. Mr. Wiseman stated that he had been hesitate to approach the NC DOT about a request for funds for the turn lanes and the water control system without a solid cost estimate but that the cost estimate was not forthcoming. He stated that a letter had been prepared from the County Manager's Office on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education and that he would like to attach a signed copy of the joint resolution presented to both boards. Mr. Wiseman explained that the resolution basically said that the Avery County Board of Commissioners and Avery County Board of Education requests assistance from the NC DOT for the funding of approximately \$500,000 which was necessary to complete the Banner Elk School Project.

Motion by Phyllis Forbes and second by Glenn Johnson to approve the Resolution requesting funding of approximately \$500,000 from the NC DOT to complete the Banner Elk School Project. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

Motion by Jamey Johnson and second by Kathy Aldridge to approve the Resolution requesting funding of approximately \$500,000 from the NC DOT to complete the Banner Elk School Project Motion unanimous.

Construction and Acquisition Agreement- Banner Elk School

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, stated that the Board of Commissioners had already approved this agreement. She stated that she had spoken with the County Manager and that she understood his position. She stated that she would like to speak with the school board attorney and that she anticipated that everything would be worked out by tomorrow. The County Attorney stated that this agreement had been voted on by the Board of Commissioners and that the Board had approved for the Chairman to sign this agreement.

Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Use of Surplus Property to Fund the new Banner Elk School

The County Attorney stated that she had reviewed this document and had emailed some typographical errors to the school board attorney and that she would prefer to have these changes made before the agreement was signed. The County Attorney advised that the Board of Commissioners could go ahead and approve the Memorandum of Understanding contingent upon the corrections being made. The County Attorney stated she had drawn up the agreement that excludes the Puckett Property which would not be part of the change.

Adjourn

Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Phyllis Forbes to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (3-0).

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk