

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to discuss the Avery County Board of Commissioners Board Policy and hold a Closed Session regarding Personnel N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chairman Griffith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Tim Greene led prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Griffith read aloud the notice for the Special Meeting. He stated that as the Board gets into the Board Policy we cannot make any motions on the floor in a special called meeting as far as changing the board policies. We can get a consensus. We can bring it back to a regular business meeting and then put a motion on the floor. This meeting will be for discussion only.

Commissioner Faye Lacey stated that in promising accountability to the people of Avery County she had found that the Veterans Park Board was not in compliance with the policy. The first thing that I have noted is that the Board will make every effort not to appoint more than one person to a Board. You must be a resident of Avery County in order to serve on a board and if you are a county employee you are prohibited from serving on a board. All committees and advisory boards will conduct the meetings by the open meetings law and that is where you advertise and take minutes. In order to nominate a board or committee you nominate at one meeting and vote on it the second. I have found on this veteran's board that we have people who are employed, we have people who serve on many boards and we have people living out of the county. I would like to make a motion to properly appoint a new board following the county policy. Chairman Griffith reminded Ms. Lacey that no motions could be made today only discussion of the policy.

Blake Vance questioned if there was a definition for what types of boards that we have. I think it would be wise for the Board to have the county attorney take a look at this.

There was considerable discussion about boards and committees. The Board will have the county attorney take a look at sections 6 and sections 7 of the Board policy and give his recommendations.

Chairman Griffith instructed the clerk to pass along notes regarding this meeting and the suggested changes for the county attorney to review and give his recommendations.

Chairman Griffith stated that under the Section 1.1 there had been discussion about changing the time of the meetings. Blake Vance said he had been talking to a lot of citizens and it seemed to him that the consensus of the citizens is that there be a later meeting time. My suggestion is that we move the meeting to later. Maxine Laws agreed that the meeting should be moved to later. Martha Hicks commented that she was fine with moving the time but maybe it should be 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. Faye Lacey stated that she thought 6:00 would be the more appropriate time. Chairman Griffith said it was apparent that all board members are in agreement for a time change. I would suggest that the County Manager, Finance Officer, Clerk and Tax Assessor come in at 1:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Chairman Griffith requested that 1.3 be struck from the policy. In Section 2.7 change under the "Exception" the wording "at the discretion of the Board" to "at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board".

Chairman Griffith went section by section in the board policy and asked if the commissioners had concerns. Blake Vance stated that all commissioners probably need to have a refresher on "Roberts Rules of Order".

Blake Vance suggested that in Section 13 "Delegated Authority of the County Manager" that the Board might take a more active role in the hiring process within the county. Maxine Laws agreed with Mr. Vance. Martha Hicks commented that she thought the department head and the county manager should be included in this process and perhaps another commissioner and then bring it to an open meeting of the board. Faye Lacey agreed with Ms. Hicks. Chairman Griffith said his opinion was that reviewing every application himself that he does not have time to look over all of the applications. He said that we

do need to lean on the department heads for advice. We do need to have some charge over hiring and give the final seal of approval. It could be that we actually freeze the position. Ms. Hicks suggested that the department head and county manager determine if a person would need to be terminated and keep the Board informed of any issues regarding termination. Consensus of the Board that the Commissioners definitely wanted to give the seal of approval on new hires. Consensus of the Board to seek the advice of the county attorney regarding Section 13.

Closed Session

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to go out of Regular Session and into Closed Session Regarding N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) Personnel at 9:01 a.m. Motion unanimously approved. Invitees will be Tim Greene, Interim County Manager, the Board, and the Clerk.

Chairman Griffith declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session at 11:30 a.m. During Closed Session, no vote was taken.

Consensus of the Board to meet in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to go into Closed Session regarding Personnel N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6).

Adjourn

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Maxine Laws to adjourn this meeting at 11:35 a.m. Motion unanimously approved.

**Robert "Reo" Griffith, Chairman
Avery County Board of Commissioners**

Attest: Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk