

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing for the Avery County Community Transportation Program Application at 3:05 p.m.

Members Present: Robert 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 3:00 p.m.

Tim Greene led prayer.

The Pledge Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Griffith called for a brief recess until 3:05 p.m. when the Public Hearing was scheduled to begin.

Chairman Griffith declared the meeting to be back in session after a brief recess at 3:05 p.m.

Avery County Community Transportation Program Application – Debbie Smith

Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Blake Vance to go into a time of Public Hearing at 3:05 p.m. regarding the Avery County Community Transportation Program Application. Motion unanimously approved.

Debbie Smith, Avery County Transportation Director, stated that she was at the meeting to request the Board consider a resolution that would give Avery County some funding for the Community Transportation Program. This grant covers the administrative transportation services that the Avery County Transportation performs. There is a capital part also to this grant which allows Avery Transportation to purchase vehicles. Funding for this comes from the FTA and from the state with a local match. Debbie Smith read aloud the Public Hearing Notice which was as follows:

This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed Avery County Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than November 6, 2015. The public hearing will be held on October 22nd at 3:05 p.m. before the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact Debbie Smith.

The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Avery County as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using a demand response mode and operating regularly scheduled routes through the county with an inventory of 7 vans and 5 mini-vans. Services are rendered by Avery County Transportation Authority. The total estimated amount requested for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 is Administrative total \$226,600.00 with the local share being \$33,990.00; Capital is \$43,725.00 with the local share being \$4373.00. Total funding request is \$270,325.00 with a total local share of \$38,363.00.

Ms. Smith stated that one of the services that we target with these funds enhance the access of people for healthcare, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation. This is to assist our public in getting where they need to go. I ask that the Board consider this resolution to proceed with this application.

Tim Greene, County Manager, stated that this particular grant goes a long way with offsetting the costs of the transportation department. The grant does not cover fuel but does cover most of the operational expenses. When you look at it in the grand scheme of things a lot of the transportation department's costs are offset by the money from the state.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Maxine Laws and second by Blake Vance to go out of a time of Public Hearing regarding the Avery County Community Transportation Program Application and back into Regular Session at 3:13 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Maxine Laws to accept the Avery County Community Transportation Program Resolution (Section 5311) for 2017. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Chairman Griffith adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

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

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk