

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Monday, August 20, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks

Members Absent: Phyllis Forbes; Glenn Johnson

**Call To Order**

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Martha Hicks led prayer.

Chairman Poteat stated if there was someone that wanted to speak to an agenda item they must sign up with the clerk otherwise there would be a time of public comment.

**Board Appointments**

**Avery County Fire Commission**

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, stated that the Avery Fire Association has voted to recommend Mr. Johnny Mathis for a two year term on the Avery Fire Commission.

Daryl Smith, Chairman of the Avery Fire Commission, advised that Mr. Johnny Mathis would be replacing Shane Garland.

**Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to appoint Mr. Johnny Mathis for a two year term on the Avery Fire Commission. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0)**

**Toe River Health District – Roger Wise**

Roger Wise, member of the Toe River Health District Board, presented a power point presentation on the healthcare needs in Avery County. Mr. Wise said that there is a serious problem with healthcare in Avery County. We are working on this problem and we hope to have community solutions for the problem. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin do County Health Rankings each year. Avery County ranked 100 for clinical care in 2011/2012; the lowest in the state. Avery County has 26% uninsured population; the benchmark is 11% which is the nationwide standard. The ratio of population to primary care doctors averages 859 to 1 across North Carolina but in Avery County it is 1,629 to 1. The goal is to increase access to primary medical care. We are working as partners with Toe River Health District; Cannon Memorial Hospital; High Country Care and Appalachian District Health. A grant was applied for which is funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and primary care is being offered three days a week at the Avery County Health Department. High Country Health Care has received monies for a Federally Qualified Health Center and will begin providing services in the health department in October.

**Banner Elk Fire Department Parking –Daryl Smith**

Daryl Smith, Chairman of the Avery Fire Commission, stated that Mr. Poteat, Robert Wiseman, Rick Owen, Wayne Miller and Bret Gardella met at the Banner Elk Fire Department to discuss the parking. In the packet is a map which shows the recommendation of the chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Chairman of the Fire Commission. Chairman Poteat stated there was enough room beside the Banner Elk Fire Department to put 20 parking spaces and a green space between the fire department parking and the old Banner Elk School property parking. These parking spaces will be graveled; this will be funded out of Avery Fire Commission monies. Ms. Poore said she would get with Mr. Smith and work with the existing surveys of the Banner Elk School property and the Banner Elk Fire Department. Scott Heath advised that this property should be surveyed and a formal lease agreement completed. He also said he wanted to make sure that if the school property was sold, this piece of property would revert to the Banner Elk Fire Department and if the fire department ceased to exist that the piece of property would revert back to Avery County. Ms. Poore stated that this language would be included in the lease agreement.

**By Consensus of the Board, the County Attorney will proceed with a lease agreement for the piece of property beside the Banner Elk Fire Department for parking for the Banner Elk Fire Department and the County Attorney will investigate any easements on the property.**

**County Manager Updates – Robert Wiseman**

The certificate of occupancy has been approved for the Avery County Jail Expansion and Renovation. There is a small punch list that needs to be taken care of before the actual document comes out of Raleigh.

**Linville Cove**

Mr. Wiseman stated that there were some issues with the documents regarding the Linville Cove Project and that he had not signed off on these documents yet and was waiting until he could discuss the issues with the County Attorney. The applicant for the ARC grant had to be a local government entity and Avery County agreed to be the agent for the pass through monies; the amount of the grant was \$192,000. A low bid from M&M Construction from Avery County was several thousand dollars over \$192,000. The developers asked that the money be added to the original agreement and Avery County pay it and the developers would reimburse. Mr. Wiseman said he did not feel comfortable with signing the contract. Construction cannot begin until the performance bonds are in place and that will give the attorney time to investigate the issues.

**Motion by Scott Heath and second by Martha Hicks to approve the original agreement of \$192,000 regarding the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant for the Linville Cove Project. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).**

**Finance Officer Report – Tim Greene**

No report.

**County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore**

Michaelle Poore, County Attorney, reported that Avery County had agreed along with the other four counties that make up the New River Service District to split the cost of attorney fees. The law firm Poyner & Spruill is representing New River. Each county will carry 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the total cost. There have been 18 small claim actions filed against New River Service Authority.

**Staff Reports and Requests**

Dr. John Boyd, Mayland Community College President, invited the Board to a barbecue at Mayland Community College's Avery Campus.

**Approval of Minutes**

Martha Hicks did not receive a copy of the July 2, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes so the approval of the minutes was tabled until next meeting.

**Agenda Consent Items**

Adopted by Consent.

**Upcoming Meetings**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Labor Day; the regular meeting will be rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. There will be a joint meeting with the Board of Education at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Scott Heath and second by Martha Hicks to adjourn this meeting at 4:42 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).**

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

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

