

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Regular Session on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chair; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: Kenny Poteat (vacation)

**Call To Order**

Vice Chair Forbes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Glenn Johnson led prayer.

Vice Chair Forbes stated if anyone would like to speak to an agenda item they must sign up on the sheet with the clerk otherwise there would be a time of public comment.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**County Manager Report – Robert Wiseman**

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, advised that the Avery County Humane Society was scheduled to be on the agenda but there was some communication this morning and they would like to postpone until they are better prepared.

Mr. Wiseman said that in the Agenda Consent Items there are two letters pertaining to the Linville Cove Housing. I was a little hesitant to execute the letters but time was of the essence. The County Attorney reworded the documents to protect the county's interest. These letters place limitations to ensure that the County will not be fiscally liable for the \$192,000. It is just a matter of hearing back if the grant has been approved.

**Ordinance Administrator Position – Tommy Burleson**

Tommy Burleson, Inspections Director, stated that Inspections and Planning is the life blood where the new tax base is created. The Ordinance Administrator's Position should not be confused with the Building Inspector's position. There are a host of ordinances that the Ordinance Administrator is responsible for. Mr. Burleson explained the other duties of the Ordinance Administrator. Mr. Burleson requested that the Board give him a half time position for the Ordinance Administrator. Vice Chair Forbes advised Mr. Burleson that there would not be a decision made at this meeting due to there not being a full Board present.

**Finance Officer Report – Tim Greene**

**Budget Amendment #**

The Transportation Department will be unable to purchase two center aisle vans that are in the current year budget. The state will allow the County to purchase a conversion van and a lift equipped van. These two vans will cost an additional \$14,356.00 of which the state will reimburse \$12,155.00. The remaining \$2,201.00 will have to be paid from County funds. If the budget amendment is not approved, the Transportation Department will not receive the vans.

**Motion by Scott Heath and second by Martha Hicks to adopt a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$14,356.00 with a debit of \$14,356.00 to Capital Outlay - Vehicles (106300.7400) and a credit of \$12,155.00 to Transportation (103610.0000) and credit of \$2,201.00 to Fund Balance Appropriation (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Surety Bonds**

The County's annual individual Surety Bonds are up for renewal effective July 1. The Surety bonds are issued to ensure the individuals faithful performance of their duties. Some of these are set a little bit high and it is recommended that these be reduced pending the County Attorney's approval. The County Attorney can review these and this issue will be addressed at the June meeting.

**Agenda Consent Items**

Adopted by consensus. The two letters regarding Linville Cove was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**

There will be a budget meeting immediately following this meeting. There will be a budget meeting May 19, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. with the Fire Commission, Sheriff, and Board of Education.

Vice-Chair Forbes called for a 5 minute recess and announced that the budget workshop would reconvene after the recess.

**Reconvene**

Vice-Chair Forbes called the meeting back in session after a brief recess.

**Fiscal Year Budget 2011/2012**

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, stated that at the last budget meeting the budget was short by \$620,000. What is driving this shortfall, is the number of jailers that needs to be hired. Fourteen jailers for 12 months have been placed in the 2011/2012 budget to staff the new jail. There was considerable discussion regarding the fourteen jailers that need to be hired for the new jail.

There was discussion regarding each department's budgets.

There was discussion regarding the Board of Education's budget.

There was discussion regarding budgeting of Special Appropriations.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The next budget workshop will be May 19, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. with the Fire Commission, Sheriff, and Board of Education.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Martha Hicks and second by Scott Heath to adjourn this meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0).**

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

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