The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC.

Members Present: Martha Hicks, Chair; Tim Phillips, Vice-Chair; Dennis Aldridge; Blake Vance

Members Absent: Wood Hall Young, Jr.

**Call To Order**
Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Chair Hicks led prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Proclamations and Awards**
There was recognition of 15 year county employees for 2020 and 2021.

**Public Comments**
There were no public comments.

**Board Appointments**
There are two applications to consider for reappointment to the Avery Airport Authority. These applications are for Dempsey Clark and John Dean Harris.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Dempsey Clark and John Dean Harris to the Avery Airport Authority. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Subdivision Approval—Chappell Farms**
The Chappell Farms Subdivision consists of 18 total lots with the smallest lot being 1.187 acres. The lots are served by a loop road, Chappell Farm Road. The subdivision is for single family dwellings only. The potable water system will be accomplished by the lots sharing five wells. The Avery County Planning Board approved this subdivision on July 26, 2021.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to approve the Chappell Farms Subdivision. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Recess**
Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.
Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in session after a brief recess.

**Home and Community Care Block Grant**
The County funding plan for the Home and Community Care Block Grant was presented to the Board. There was a revision in the 2021 document. Due to cutback in transportation services, the bulk of the funding was moved from Transportation Services into the Nutrition Program. Transportation was a huge asset in the Senior Center getting all the Home –Delivered meals out this past year. The Fiscal year 2022 spending plan is based upon the percentages of the previous year.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Home and Community Care Block Grant County Funding Plan. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels**

**Tax Collections Report**
The Tax Collections for the month of July 2021 is $25,106.34.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of July 2021 as presented. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Sales**
The Total Qualified Sales for July 2021 is 112 sales as compared to last year at 144 sales.

**Avery County 911 Communications Advisory Committee**
An advisory committee for 911 Communications needs to be formed. The Avery 911 Communications Committee will be an internal committee for Avery County and will advise the Board of County Commissioners on the daily operational issues for the 911 Communications Department. The Board will need to approve the bylaws for this committee.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Avery County 911 Communications Advisory Committee bylaws. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Finance Officer Report – Caleb Hogan**

**Budget Amendment**
The Department of Central Dispatch has radio system upgrades that were in process but not able to be completed in FY 20/21. In order to pay for the completion of this project the money will need to be moved into FY 21/22.

**Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $100,042.06 with a debit of $100,042.06 to Capital Outlay (108200.7400) and a credit of $100,042.06 to Fund Balance---Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).**

**Budget Amendment**
The Department of Emergency Management has received money from FEMA for various expenses related to pandemic response.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $75,248.81 with a debit of $75,248.81 to FEMA (105250.3304) and a credit of $75,248.81 to Emergency Management (103812.0000). Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Public Hearing—Economic Development Committee Expenditures
Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to go into the Public Hearing regarding the Economic Development Committee Expenditures. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

The public hearing is to receive public comments regarding the Economic Development Committee Expenditures which include training and meeting expenditures not to exceed $550; travel expenditures not to exceed $500; advertising with the Chamber of Commerce and others not to exceed $1,000; and funding for Economic Development projects not to exceed $1,000.

Ken Walter, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, commented about a Bowen National Research Housing Assessment that is a four county project that would be nationally recognized. This assessment can be an attraction to a developer for homes and apartments that are affordable. Mr. Walter asked the Commissioners to consider this which would cost approximately $1,000.

There were no further public comments.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to go out of the public hearing at 4:04 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to approve the expenditures for the Economic Development Committee. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.
American Rescue Plan
Mr. Barrier stated that he hoped the County would have guidance on the use of these funds by the end of August. We are anticipating Avery County to receive 3.4 million dollars.

Covid Update
There were 12 active positive cases as of today.

Contract for AMY Regional Library
The AMY Regional Library System is required to have a 10 year interlocal contractual agreement on file to qualify for State Aid. This agreement is critical for AMY Regional to
receive state funds that support so much of what we do as individual libraries and as a collective library system. The Regional Library board has met in person and thoroughly reviewed the agreement and is highly satisfied with the wording of the agreement.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Contract for the AMY Regional Library System and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

**County Attorney Report – Michælle Poore**
Nothing to report at this time.

**Closed Session**
Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to go into a time of Closed Session regarding Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) and Attorney/Client Privilege G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) at 4:15 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0). Invitees are the Board, County Attorney, County Manager, Clerk, Finance Officer, and Sheriff.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting to be back in Regular Session after a time of Closed Session. During closed session, no action was taken.

**Approval of Minutes**
Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the minutes for May 6, 2021 Budget Meeting; June 21, 2021 Regular meeting; and June 21, 2021 Closed Session. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

**Upcoming Meetings**
The August 16, 2021 meeting will be cancelled. A special meeting will be scheduled for August 23, 2021 to have a public hearing on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

**Adjourn**
Motion by Blake Vance and second by Dennis Aldridge to adjourn this meeting at 6:08 p.m. Motion unanimous with those in attendance (4-0).

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Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:_________________________________
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk