The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 7, 2020 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; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Call To Order
Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Wood Hall Young, Jr. led prayer.
Blake Vance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Organizational Meeting
Martha Hicks turned the meeting over to Phillip Barrier, Jr., County Manager. Mr. Barrier opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Blake Vance nominated Martha Hicks for Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to cease nominations. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to appoint Martha Hicks as Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Phillip Barrier, Jr. turned the meeting over to Chair Hicks.

Chair Hicks asked for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Dennis Aldridge nominated Tim Phillips as Vice-Chair.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to cease nominations and appoint Tim Phillips as Vice-Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.
Chair Hicks asked for nominations for County Manager. Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Phillip Barrier, Jr. as County Manager.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to cease nominations and appoint Phillip Barrier, Jr. as County Manager. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Wood Hall Young, Jr. nominated Michaelle Poore as County Attorney, Caleb Hogan as Finance Officer, and Cindy Turbyfill as Clerk/Assistant County Manager.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to cease nominations and appoint Michaelle Poore as County Attorney, Caleb Hogan as Finance Officer, and Cindy Turbyfill as Clerk/Assistant County Manager. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Chair Hicks asked for a motion to amend the agenda to place consideration of a Lease for a Tower Site to 3.3D.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to amend the agenda to add Lease for a Tower site to 3.3D. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Public Comment
Cynthia Riley from 760 Dark Ridge Rd. Old Beech Mountain expressed her concerns about the increased development on Old Beech Mountain and in other areas of Avery County. Ms. Riley requested that the Board look at the subdivision ordinance and consider amendments to that ordinance.

Board Appointments
Review of two applicants for the Economic Development Advisory Committee. This appointment will be considered at the next regular meeting.

Eagles Nest Holdings, LLC Vineyard Reserve Subdivision Approval
The Avery County Planning Board has approved the final plat for Eagles Nest Holdings, LLC Vineyard Reserve; Phase II, Revised Lots VR-18, VR-19, VR-21 & VR-22 and Phase III, Lots VR-24 through VR-29 on December 1, 2020. The Avery County Planning Department has inspected the site and all the sedimentation and erosion controls are in place and the approved grading plan is being followed. The road widths and emergency vehicle turn-arounds meet the guidelines of the Avery County Subdivision Ordinance and the road grades do not exceed the 18 percent as required per the ordinance.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Eagles Nest Holdings, LLC Vineyard Reserve Phase II Revised Lots VR-18, VR-19, VR-21 & VR-22 and Phase III, Lots VR-24 through VR-29. Motion unanimously
Memorandum of Understanding Between NC Department of Health & Human Services and Avery County FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022
This is a memorandum of understanding between the NC Department of Health & Human Services and Avery County. This MOU is to comply with the requirements of NC General Statute 108A-74 and is for a term of 18 months beginning January 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. This MOU has been reviewed by the DSS attorney, County Attorney and approved by the DSS Board.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between NC Department of Health & Human Services and Avery County. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels

Tax Collections Report
The Total Tax Collections for the month of November 2020 is $4,011,272.74.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the total tax collections for the month of November 2020 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Releases
The Releases for the month of November 2020 is $1,100.71.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Releases for the month of November 2020 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Sales
The total qualified sales for November 2020 are 154 sales as compared to November 2019 which was 88 sales.

Land Lease for Tower Site
This is a two year lease effective January 1, 2021. This lease will allow the County to use the tower on the property for a communication radio system. This was already in the budget and the equipment is already here. The road to the tower will have to be graveled.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the Land Lease for the Tower Site. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.
County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.

Community Building
The Community Building is complete. Furniture is beginning to arrive. This will be used as a virtual workplace as needed.

Trash Sites
The trash sites will be open on Wednesday, December 23, 2020; closed Thursday and Friday and reopen on Saturday, December 26, 2020.

Finance Officer Report

Budget Amendment
The Sheriff’s Office has received an insurance reimbursement for the 2015 Ford Taurus.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of $1,000.00 with a debit of $1,000.00 to Auto Supplies (105100.3100) and a credit of $1,000.00 to Insurance Reimbursements (103340.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Budget Amendment
The Emergency Management Department received a NC Tier II Non-Competitive Grant. The grant is for hazardous materials emergency response planning, training and related exercises for our regions local emergency planning committee.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of $3,000.00 with a debit of $3,000.00 to Capital Outlay (105250.7400) and a credit of $3,000.00 to Emergency Management Grant (103800.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

County Attorney Report – Michelle Poore
No items that need Board action.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

Agenda Consent Items
Adopted by Consensus of the Board.
Adjourn
Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 4:13 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye; Vance—Aye; Young—Aye.

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Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

Attest:___________________________
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk