The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, March 1, 2021 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; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: Blake Vance

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.

Phillip Barrier, Jr., County Manager, asked the Board to amend the agenda to add reviewing of the applications for the Board of Equalization and Review under 3.3C and to add the Daymark Lease Agreement under 3.4A.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to amend the agenda to add the Board of Equalization and Review applications under 3.3C and the Daymark Lease Agreement under 3.4A. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0). Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Resolution Supporting Fair Housing Month

WHEREAS, April marks the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which sought to eliminate discrimination in housing opportunities and to affirmatively further housing choices for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Avery County desires that all its citizens be afforded the opportunity to attain a decent, safe and sound living environment; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the State of North Carolina have the right to choose where to live without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, handicapped status, or familial status; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina enacted the North Carolina State Fair Housing Act in 1983;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Avery County does hereby join in the national celebration by proclaiming April 2021 as Fair Housing Month.
Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Resolution Supporting Fair Housing Month. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Contract for Specialized Consulting Service, LLC
The contract for Specialized Consulting Service, LLC is set to expire on March 31, 2021. Our representative from this company has been submitting our projects to FEMA. There are eight submittals with four to go in so far. We will need to continue this contract until at least October 31, 2021.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the contract with Specialized Consulting Service, LLC. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels
Tax Collections Report
The Tax Collections for the month of February 2021 is $329,025.67.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Tax Collections report as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Tax Releases
The Tax Releases for the month of February 2021 is $310.83.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Tax Release report as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

The applications for the Board of Equalization and Review will be reviewed and considered for approval at the next Board meeting. The applicants are: Moses Braswell; Clay Dale; Edith Traver; Amy Vaughn; Samuel Woodie.

There were 55 sales for the month of February 2021; last year there were 35 sales.

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.
Covid 19
Mr. Barrier reported that 2904 first doses of vaccines had been given and 2021 second doses had been given. We took the mobile clinics to the schools and the teachers and school personnel were vaccinated last week.

Daymark Lease
The Board of Commissioners had approved this Daymark lease last June to become effective July 1, 2020. When it went back to Daymark their attorney wanted an addition to the lease which follows:

_In the event that Tenant no longer receives appropriation, allocation or availability of funds by the State of North Carolina to the Lessee, then the Tenant may terminate this lease. The parties agree that in the event that Lessee, determines, in view of its total operations, that available funding for the payment of compensation hereunder is insufficient it may choose to terminate this lease upon sixty (60) days notice, with payment of rent up to and including the date of termination._

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the amended lease for Daymark. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye; Young---Aye.

**Budget Amendment**  
Emergency Management has been awarded the EMPG-S Grant in the amount of $12,690.00. This allotment is to reimburse the county for radio and equipment purchase.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the Budget amendment in the amount of $12,690.00 with a debit of $12,690.00 to Capital Outlay- Radio Equipment (105250.7800) and a credit of $12,690.00 to Emergency Management Grant (103800.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye; Young---Aye.

**Budget Amendment**  
Avery County Transportation has received a reimbursement from the NCACC liability and property pool to purchase and install a safety device for wheelchair lifts on their vans.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Budget Amendment in the amount of $2,030.00 with a debit of $2,030.00 to Capital Outlay (106300.7410) and a credit of $2,030.00 to Transportation (103610.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye; Young---Aye.

**Budget Amendment**  
The Sheriff’s Office has received a NC Department of Public Safety Governor’s Crime Commission Grant. It is a reimbursement for tactical team equipment purchased.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to adopt the Budget amendment in the amount of $24,389.57 with a debit of $24,389.57 to Crime Contract Grant (105100.7420) and a credit of $24,389.57 to Governors Crime
Comm. Grant (103615.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Request the Board make a motion to approve S. Gillespie, P.A. to audit the financial statements of the County of Avery as of and for the year ending June 30, 2021 at a price not to exceed $38,500.00. This represents an increase of $2,100 from the prior five fiscal years. The price also includes the Fire Commission Audit.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve S. Gillespie, P.A. to audit the financial statements of Avery County for the year ending June 30, 2021. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

County Attorney Report

Mr. Barrier stated that included in the Board packet was an agreement with Green Heron Planning, LLC to prepare a Chapter 160D Ordinance update to comply with the new changes from the state.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the agreement with Green Heron Planning, LLC. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Approval Of Minutes

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the January 4, 2021 Closed Session; January 22, 2021 Special Meeting; February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

Agenda Consent Items

Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Meeting will be Monday, April 5, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to adjourn this meeting at 4:03 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (4-0) Hicks---Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge----Aye; Young----Aye.

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Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners
Attest: ________________________________
          Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk