STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF AVERY

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, October 4, 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; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Call To Order
Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.
Tim Phillips led prayer.
Blake Vance led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amend the Agenda
Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to amend the agenda to add Ken Walter, Chair of the Avery County Economic Development Committee to Commissioners Items 3.3C. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels
Tax Collections Report
The Tax Collections Report for the month of September 2021 is $733,320.00.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr. to approve the Tax Collections Report for the month of September 2021 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Releases
The Releases for the month of September 2021 is $1772.95.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to approve the Releases for the month of September 2021 as presented. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Mr. Daniels reported that the values for the revaluation will be going up and in some places it will be substantially above the last revaluation. By state statute, the revaluation has to be 100% of fair market value. Market value is substantially higher in some places.

Economic Development Committee—Ken Walter
Mr. Walter stated that the Economic Development Committee was requesting approval of $495.00 to do a ½ page ad in the Avery County Chamber of Commerce’s 2022 Business and Visitor Guide. We would also like to spend $250.00 to upgrade our ad. This is the best bang we can get for our advertising dollars. There are 54,000 guides
ordered annually and distributed monthly to the visitor centers in Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve $495.00 plus the $250.00 for the upgrades for advertisement in the Chamber of Commerce’s Business and Visitor Guide. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.
Covid 19 Updates
Anyone that needs testing the testing site is open at the swimming pool Monday through Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-2.

ARP Funds
There is a six session workshop through the School of Government that is being offered the next two weeks.

Mapping
We are contracting with the High Country Council of Government to do some work on the GIS mapping.

Finance Officer Report – Caleb Hogan
Budget Amendment
JCPC Administration did not use all of their funding for the fiscal year 20/21. This has to be paid back to the state. This is to move the money forward from fiscal year 20/21 to fiscal year 21/22.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Budget Amendment in the amount of $259.22 with a debit of $259.22 to JCPC Administration (107000.6125) and a debit of $259.22 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Tim Phillips to approve the August 23, 2021 Special Meeting; August 23, 2021 Closed Session; September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

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

Public Hearing—2021 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program 2nd Public Hearing – Michelle Ball
Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Dennis Aldridge to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding the 2021 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program at 4:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).
Michelle Ball stated that the purpose of this public hearing was to give opportunity for citizen input concerning the upcoming application submission for 2021 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program Funds. The grant can provide housing repairs for low-income, owner-occupied homes within the County. Avery County will be requesting $750,000 from the NC Department of Commerce for this project.

The committee met last Thursday and six homes were selected. Three homes will be reconstructed and three will receive rehabilitations. The homes are located in Ingalls; Henson Creek; Heaton; two in Frank and one in Newland. In addition to the rehabs and reconstruction, $75,000 will be used for emergency repairs. These funds are for one time repairs. These homes do not need to be identified because these are considered emergency repairs.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to go out of the Public Hearing regarding the CDBG 2021 Neighborhood Revitalization Program at 4:07 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

WHEREAS, the Avery County Board of Commissioners has previously indicated its desire to assist in community development efforts for housing within the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has held two public hearings concerning the proposed application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit low- and moderate-income homeowners with assistance to provide safe and sanitary living conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes the County to pursue a formal application for Community Development Block Grant funding to benefit low- and moderate-income homeowners;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners certifies it will meet all federal regulatory and statutory requirements of the State of North Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Avery County Board of Commissioners that Avery County is authorized to submit a formal application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for approval of a Community Development Block Grant to benefit low- and moderate-income homeowners with assistance to provide safe and sanitary living conditions.

Motion by Wood Hall Young, Jr. and second by Blake Vance to approve the Resolution for the Avery County Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).
County Attorney Report – Michelle Poore

WHEREAS, the County of Avery is the owner of a certain parcel of land consisting of a .04 acre portion of that property more particularly set forth in Deed Book 96, Page 10802 of the Avery County Registry; and

WHEREAS, the County of Avery is the owner of a certain parcel of land consisting of a .06 portion of that property more particularly described in Book 533 Page 23 of the Avery County Registry, and further being subject to the terms of that Lease Agreement with the Avery County Board of Education at Book 533 Page 40 of the Avery County Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to lease such property to Skyline Telephone Membership Corporation and Skybest Communications, Inc., for the purposes of providing broadband and internet services to the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes §160A-272 authorizes the County to enter into Leases of more than 10 years upon Resolution of the County adopted at a regular meeting after Thirty (30) days Public Notice; and

WHEREAS, the County has given the required Public Notice, and the Board is convened in a regular meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Avery County, North Carolina RESOLVES that the lease of the property described above is authorized, and the Chairman to the Board is directed to execute the appropriate instruments necessary to carry out the Lease.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Wood Hall Young, Jr to approve the leases and adopt the resolution. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Agenda Consent Items
Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings
The second meeting in October will be canceled. The next regular meeting will be November 1, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Subdivision Approval-The Village at Eagles Nest (P.U.D.) Lots 78, 79, 80, 82, 93, 94 and 95
Tommy Burleson, Planning and Inspections Director, presented the subdivision for approval. The planning board has approved the plat for these lots. The planning department has inspected the site and all sedimentation and control practices are installed 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. The road grades have been certified that the road grades do not exceed 18 percent as required per said ordinance.
Wood Hall Young, Jr. questioned how close this was to the 30,000 gallon water storage tank. Mr. Burleson stated that the tank was across the road. Mr. Burleson also stated that Eagles Nest was putting in a second water storage tank.

Motion by Blake Vance and second by Tim Phillips to approve the subdivision—The Villages at Eagles Nest (P.U.D.) Lots 78, 79, 80, 82, 93, 94 and 95. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

Adjourn
Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Blake Vance to adjourn this meeting at 4:17 p.m. Motion unanimously approved (5-0).

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Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

Attest:______________________________
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk