STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTRY OF AVERY

The Avery County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Friday, October 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, 175 Linville Street, Newland, NC. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss and take any action necessary on the following items:

Proclamations and Awards; Public Comment; Eagles Nest Holdings, Vineyard Reserve Phase I Subdivision Approval; Tax Administrator Report; County Manager Updates; Finance Officer Report; County Attorney Report; Approval of Minutes; Agenda Consent Items; Upcoming Meetings.

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

Members Absent: Blake Vance; Wood Hall Young, Jr.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper’s Executive Order No.163 issued on September 1, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 25 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The meeting was broadcast live and recorded on the Avery County Youtube Channel.

Call To Order
Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
Tim Phillips led prayer.
Phillip Barrier, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
There were no public comments.

Eagles Nest Holdings, Vineyard Reserve Phase I Subdivision
Tommy Burleson reported that the Avery County Planning Board has done a preliminary review of the Vineyard Reserve (Phase 1) and also a final plat review and found that the subdivision is in compliance with the Avery County Subdivision Ordinance.

Dennis Aldridge questioned if this was the area across old Beech Mountain road up on the hill behind the building. The representative from Eagles Nest stated it was the eastern section from old Beech Mountain road down to the tree line. Mr. Aldridge questioned if these were one acre lots and the representative stated yes that these were one acre and some two acre lots.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Eagles Nest Holdings, Vineyard Reserve Phase I and authorize the chair to sign. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0). Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye

Tax Administrator Report – Bruce Daniels
**Total Tax Collections**
The Total Tax Collections for the month of September 2020 is $2,986,377.61.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the Tax Collections for the month of September 2020 as presented.** Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0). Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye

**Releases**
The Releases for the month of September 2020 is $57.93.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the Releases for the month of September 2020.** Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0). Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye

**Sales**
Mr. Daniels stated that it had been a good month in September as far as the number of sales with 167 qualified sales with an overall total sales of 203. We are at 75% of the assessed ratio for the month of September.

**County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.**
**Community Building**
We had a construction meeting yesterday regarding the Community Building. The mechanical people are working and the trim guy is working. The exterior siding will start next week.

**Cares Act/FEMA**
We are currently working on the priority list for the Cares Act. The deadline to spend the funds is December 31, 2020.

**Broadband**
The Great grant is now open. There is a letter of support in the board packet that I would like for each commissioner to sign.

**Legislative Goals**
Dennis Aldridge stated that the legislative goals is working under the assumption that the Medicaid transformation is going forward and that is a very gray area on what that is going to look like. I think what would be more accurate is that public health, behavioral health, and social services be looked at regardless of the Medicaid Transformation. The County manager stated that he would relay that message to our representatives.

**Other**
June sales tax is up about 10%.

**Finance Officer Report – Ashley Ingwersen**

**Budget Amendment**
JCPC Administration did not use any of their funding for the fiscal year 19/20. This has to be paid back to the state. This is to move the money forward from fiscal year 19/20 to fiscal year 20/21.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $750.00 for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council with a debit of $750.00 to JCPC Administration (107000.6125) and a credit of $750.00 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**
The Sheriff’s Office can receive money each year from Federal Drug Fund. At the end of each fiscal year any remaining monies should have been carried forward to the next budget year. In looking back this was not done for FY 17/18 or FY 18/19. To be in compliance with the federal regulations we need to move the remaining money from each year to FY 20/21.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $14,841.42 regarding the Federal Drug Fund with a debit of $445.36 to Federal Drug Fund (17/18) (105100.5702) and a debit of $14,396.06 to Federal Drug Fund (18/19) (105100.5702) and a credit of $14,841.42 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye.**

**Budget Amendment**
The Sheriff’s Office receives money each month for the proceeds from State Unauthorized Substances Excise Tax. At the end of each fiscal year the remaining monies should have been carried forward to the next budget year. In looking back this was not done for FY15/16; FY16/17; FY17/18; FY18/19 or FY19/20. To be in compliance with state regulations we need to move the remaining money from each year to FY 20/21.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $23,933.01 regarding the State Unauthorized Substances Excise Tax with a debit of $23,933.01 to State Drug Fund Revenue (103514.0000) and a credit of $23,933.01 to Fund Balance—Appropriated (103990.0000). Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye.**

Ashley Ingwersen, Interim Finance officer, directed the Board to a letter regarding supplemental accounting services for Avery County. The auditors have made us aware that there are new regulations in place that limits the auditors from helping with some accounting clean up. This individual is familiar with the accountants and they have recommended her to come in and help with this.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to approve supplemental accounting services in the amount of $50.00 an hour. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips—Aye; Aldridge—Aye.**
approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye.

County Attorney Report – Michaelle Poore
Ms. Poore stated that she had nothing to report that required the Board’s attention.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye.

Agenda Consent Items
Adopted by Consensus of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings
The next Regular Meeting will be Monday, October 19, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjourn
Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 3:26 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0) Hicks—Aye; Phillips---Aye; Aldridge---Aye.

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Martha Hicks, Chair  
Avery County Board of Commissioners

Attest: __________________________   
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk