The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, September 20, 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

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

Call To Order
Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Tim Phillips led prayer.
Dennis Aldridge led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Board Appointments
Avery Fire Commission
The Fire Commission consists of a five member board; two of the board members shall be consumers appointed by the Avery County Board of Commissioners; two of the board members shall be firemen approved by the Avery County Fire Association and appointed by the Avery County Board of Commissioners. Scott Heath has applied for the Commissioner Appointee.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to appoint Scott Heath to the Avery Fire Commission as the Commissioner Appointee. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).

Morrison Library Board/AMY Regional Board
Carrie Hall has applied for the Morrison Library Board/AMY Regional Board. This position has been advertised and reviewed. This position is for a three year term.

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to appoint Carrie Hall to the Morrison Library Board/AMY Regional Board. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).

Avery Airport Authority Updates – Dean Harris
Dean Harris, Avery Airport Authority member, reported that recent improvements to the Avery County Airport have been complete reconstruction of the main runway at a cost of $1.5 million and a Fuel Farm at a cost of $240,000. Apron expansion and Partial parallel taxiway is under construction now. Other future plans include a terminal building, maintenance and repair hangar, AWOS III, airport layout plan and new taxiway for additional hangars. Mr. Harris stated that the MRO hangar and terminal building
project would need to be phased projects. Phase 1A of the overall hangar and terminal building project will be the construction of a new MRO hangar (100ft X 100ft). The estimated cost of this project is $1,744,100. Phase 1B will be the deconstruction of the existing MRO hangar and construction of a new Terminal building at an estimated cost of $1,331,050. Each site will require some site preparation, new and relocated utilities and a roadway and parking. We are asking for the state department of transportation for grant money to be able to do these projects.

**County Manager Updates – Phillip Barrier, Jr.**

**CDBG Grant**

Mr. Barrier reported that the County was finishing up the first project with the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant and are applying for the next project. We have extended the applications until Friday, September 24 2021. The applications are available on line or at the County Manager’s office.

**Skyline/Skybest**

Met Friday regarding broadband and they would like to do another push to make sure we have the number of people who do not have reliable or affordable internet so they can decide what the next step would be.

**Dogwood Trust Grant**

We have received a Dogwood Trust Grant for an asset inventory to help with workforce housing.

**County Attorney Report – Michelle Poore**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to approve the August 2, 2021 Regular Session and August 2, 2021 Closed Session. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).

**Recess**

Chair Hicks called for a brief recess.

Chair Hicks declared the meeting back in session after a brief recess.

**Public Hearing Regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Transportation Program Grant Application—Debbie Smith**

Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to go into a time of Public Hearing regarding the FY 2023 Community Transportation Program Grant Application at 4:00 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).

Debbie Smith, Avery Transportation Director, stated that this was a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the FY 2023 Community Transportation Program Grant application. Ms. Smith stated that the Community Transportation Program was to
provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services consistent with the policy requirements of each funding source for planning, community and agency involvement, service design, service alternatives, training and conference participation, and reporting. The total funding request for the CTP grant is $218,755; the total local share $29,274. Ms. Smith announced that Title VI forms were available for the public to fill out.

There were no public comments.

**Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to go out of the public hearing at 4:09 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).**

There are two resolutions to adopt. One resolution is to designate Avery County Transportation to receive the grant; this is required every five years. The other resolution is assuring that the county will provide the local match for this grant.

**5311 Designee Certification Resolution**

Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the North Carolina Department of Transportation—Integrated Mobility Division for grant years FY2023–FY2027, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5311, United States Code, other federal statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration or state statutes administered by the State of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for transit projects as allocated throughout North Carolina by County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Avery County Board of Commissioners That the Chair, Avery County Board of Commissioners, is authorized to execute and file an application for federal assistance on behalf of Avery County Transportation Authority with the State of North Carolina for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 5311 United States Code, other federal statutes or state statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

1. That Chair, Avery County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances and other documents the State of North Carolina requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.

2. That Chair, Avery County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the State of North Carolina on behalf of Avery County Transportation Authority.
The undersigned duly qualified Chair of the Avery County Board of Commissioners, acting on behalf of the Avery County Board of Commissioners, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Avery County Board of Commissioners held on September 20, 2021.

Motion by Tim Phillips and second by Dennis Aldridge to adopt the 5311 Designee Certification Resolution as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).

FY 2023 RESOLUTION

Section 5311 (including ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.

Applicant seeking permission to apply for Public Transportation Program funding, enter into agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, provide the necessary assurances and the required local match.

A motion was made by (Board Member’s Name) and seconded by (Board Member’s Name or N/A, if not required) for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, Article 2B of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Governor of North Carolina have designated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the agency responsible for administering federal and state public transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will apply for a grant from the US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and receives funds from the North Carolina General Assembly to provide assistance for rural public transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these transportation funds is to provide grant monies to local agencies for the provision of rural, small urban, and urban public transportation services consistent with the policy requirements of each funding source for planning, community and agency involvement, service design, service alternatives, training and conference participation, reporting and other requirements (drug and alcohol testing policy and program, disadvantaged business enterprise program, and fully allocated costs analysis); and
WHEREAS, the funds applied for may be Administrative, Operating, Planning, or Capital funds and will have different percentages of federal, state, and local funds.

WHEREAS, non-Community Transportation applicants may apply for funding for “purchase-of-service” projects under the Capital Purchase of Service budget, Section 5310 program.

WHEREAS, (Legal Name of Applicant) **County Of Avery** hereby assures and certifies that it will provide the required local matching funds; that its staff has the technical capacity to implement and manage the project(s), prepare required reports, obtain required training, attend meetings and conferences; and agrees to comply with the federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, Section 5333 (b) Warranty, and all administrative requirements related to the applications made to and grants received from the Federal Transit Administration, as well as the provisions of Section 1001 of Title 18, U. S. C.

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adopt the Community Transportation Program FY 2023 Resolution as presented. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).**

Debbie Smith announced that Avery Transportation had received the application for the FY 2022 for the Rural Operating Assistance Program grant. This grant covers funding for the elderly and disabled, employment expenses and rural general public. The total amount for the ROAP grant is $127,843.00.

Dennis Aldridge stated that when it comes to rural counties Avery County is exemplary in the capacity of transportation.

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Dennis Aldridge and second by Tim Phillips to adjourn this meeting at 4:16 p.m. Motion unanimously approved with those in attendance (3-0).**

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Martha Hicks, Chair
Avery County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: ______________________________
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk