

**McDowell County Planning Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**2/23/2015**  
**Minutes**

The McDowell County Planning Board met in regular session on February 23, 2015 at 7pm. The meeting was held at the McDowell County Administration Building in the Commissioners Room located at 60 East Court Street, Marion, NC.

**Members Present:**

C.B. Edwards, Chairman  
Arvin Hicks  
Bob Brendle  
Dennis Whitson, Vice-Chairman  
Dan Thornton  
Chris Allison  
Eric Adams

**Members Not Present:**

Tommy Stamey  
Benny Stamey  
Sam Dotson  
Van Boyd

**Staff Present:**

Ronald Harmon, Board Secretary  
Phoenix Buathier, Planning Assistant  
Jim Edwards

**Others Present:**

William Kehler  
Bud

**Call to Order:**

Chairman C.B. Edwards called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum of members was present. The next item on the agenda was seating of Alternate Members, Eric Adams was sat on the Planning Board.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the February meeting agenda. Motion to approve was made by Bob Brendle, second from Dan Thorton, vote taken motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes was made by Dan Thornton, second from Vice-Chairman Dennis Whitson, vote taken motion carried.

### **False Alarm Ordinance:**

Chairman Edwards turned the discussion over to Ronald. Ronald stated that the Emergency Medical Services wanted an ordinance to address false alarms. Ronald stated that the fire departments have been receiving false alarm calls frequently due to faulty alarms or people falsely pulling the alarms. Ronald stated that the framework for the ordinance was present in the planning board packet and that Fire Commission and Mr. Kehler would be present at the next meeting, to speak about what both parties are looking for in the ordinance. Ronald asked if there were any questions that the Board may have that he could take back to Mr. Kehler and the Fire Commission.

Chairman Edwards asked if it were possible to put covers over the alarms in areas where the public was present, to help prevent people from falsely pulling the alarm. Ronald stated that he did not know what the fire code allowed, but that it would be a good question for the Fire Commission.

Sam Dotson asked Ronald if the ordinance would cover false alarms for the sheriffs department and other types of alarms. Ronald stated that he would speak to Mr. Kehler about this issue and see if the sheriffs department would need to be present at the next meeting. Mr. Hicks asked if there was already a law in place to deal with false alarms. Ronald explained that the fire department has to respond to every call it receives. Vice-Chairman Whitson stated that from personal experience it can be hard to figure out when an alarm is going bad. Vice-Chairman Whitson told the board members that for insurance purposes, the fire departments had to respond to all alarms.

Chairman Edwards asked how the committee came up with two free false alarms. Ronald stated the information presented in the packet was an example from Rutherford County, that it was their fire alarm ordinance and it was just an example of a false alarm ordinance. Vice-Chairman Whitson asked how the committee would determine the fee, and Ronald stated that the County Commissioners would determine the fees.

Mr. Hicks asked if the false alarm ordinance would defer people from installing fire alarms. Mr. Dotson suggested that it might actually help people to better maintain their alarms. Board member Bob Brendle asked if the ordinance covered the Sheriff and EMS. Ronald stated the ordinance would cover emergency services. Mr. Hicks suggested contacting Jim Edwards for his input. Ronald stated that he would contact Mr. Edwards and the Rutherford County planner for any problems or glitches in their ordinance that they thought they should have included. Ronald asked if there were any other questions, there were no more questions asked.

### **Other Business:**

Ronald then presented the up and coming 2015 calendar year to the planning board. Ron stated that other than the scheduled May meeting, there were no conflicts. Ronald informed the board that the May Planning Board meeting fell on Memorial Day and if any planning requests came before the board that month, he would reschedule Mays meeting.

Ronald stated that the Planning Board would hold off on the Planning Workshop until the next meeting. All Board members agreed with this statement.

With no further business or discussion Chairman Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Dan Thornton, second from Benny Stamey, vote taken meeting was adjourned.