

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON SECONDARY ROADS AND
REGULAR SESSION – AUGUST 8, 2011**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met at 3:30 p.m. for a public hearing with the Department of Transportation, followed by the regular session at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, August 8, 2011 in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry E. McPeters, Vice-Chairman; Andrew K. Webb; Michael K. Lavender; and Joshua R. Dobson.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Carrie Padgett, Clerk to the Board; Theresa Strickland, Public Information Technician, (Filming); Department of Transportation staff including Ed Greene, Division 13 Maintenance Engineer; Rick Tipton, Division Construction Engineer; Wade Tate, County Maintenance Engineer; Sandy Miller and Chad Young, Technicians in the District Office in Marion; and Henry Worley, Supervisor for Maintenance in McDowell County; and reporter Mike Conley, for THE McDOWELL NEWS.

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Chairman David Walker, Vice-Chairman Barry McPeters called the meeting to order and asked the County Manager if he would give a brief introduction prior to hearing from DOT officials with their presentation.

Mr. Abernathy explained what state law requires in regard to secondary roads and holding a public hearing. He said he recalled in years past there would be "standing room only" at these meetings when citizens would talk about the condition of their road, the need for paving, etc. He noted the Department of Transportation has worked to get most of the roads in the County paved which has helped tremendously. He then asked if, at the end of the public hearing, they would give an update on the project to widen U.S. 221.

Mr. Greene thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity of meeting with them. He advised the public hearing was being held in accordance with G.S.136-44.8 for the expenditures of estimated funds, pointing out the funds had been reduced from the

previous year's funding and, as they move forward, the funds will continue to be reduced since most of the roads for which right of way is available have been paved.

Wade Tate presented the proposed program as follows:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
2011-12 Secondary Roads Construction Program
McDowell County**

I. Construction of unpaved roads

<u>Priority Number</u>	<u>SR No.</u>	<u>Length (Miles)</u>	<u>Road Name and Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>
2001-04 #10	1407	0.20	Mill Creek Road (partial pave) from SR 1407 to US Forest Service property	\$ 300,000.00
New addition	1814	0.09	Edwards Street from end of pavement to end of maintenance	\$ 10,000.00
Off Rural R/W unavailable list	1551	0.31	Linville Road from end of pavement to end of maintenance list	<u>\$ 150,000.00</u>
Subtotal				\$ 460,000.00

II. Paved Road Improvements

<u>SR No.</u>	<u>Road Name and Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>
1208	Finley Road Drainage Improvement	\$ 40,000.00
1001	Sugar Hill Road Left turn lane at I-40 EB	\$ 150,000.00
1411	Ed Allison Road at US 70 Sight Distance Improvement	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
Subtotal		\$ 205,000.00

III. Funds reserved for surveying, right of way acquisitions,

road additions, contingencies, overdrafts, and paving
entrances to certified fire departments, rescue squads, etc.

Subtotal	\$ 29,218.00
FY 2011 Anticipated Funding	\$ 694,218.00

CONTINUE DOWN PRIORITY LIST UNTIL ALL FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED

**PROGRAM SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, RIGHT-OF-WAY,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

2011-2012 SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
McDOWELL COUNTY BACKUP PROGRAM

<u>SR #</u>	<u>ROAD NAME AND DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
1131	Davis Town Church Road From SR 1103 to SR 1123	1.80	\$ 540,000.00

In general discussion, Mr. Greene elaborated on how much the funds were reduced, the priority system and how they determine the amount allocated for secondary roads, how roads are assessed for paving, etc. Mr. Tate addressed the Finley Road project in more detail, explaining what they propose as far as drainage improvements for this road. A question was raised about the access road leading up to the Maple Leaf Sports Complex. In response, Mr. Greene said the road is not up to standard. Mr. Abernathy advised there are some real issues with the road and while the City has already done some repair, it will be expensive to make the improvements necessary to bring the road up to standard.

Commissioner Webb questioned DOT officials in reference to what the General Assembly and DOT has allocated as a priority for maintenance of existing roads and right of ways, how they handle situations, particularly in conditions of bad weather, etc. He expressed concern about the lack of road maintenance, making reference to the 5-cent tax increase.

Mr. Greene responded to his questions and concerns.

A general discussion followed on exactly where paving will be done on Mill Creek Road, how they determine where funds are allocated, what improvements are planned on Sugar Hill Road with the construction there, what the process is for getting a road on the system and meeting the standards for this to happen. One final question was on the simplest way for a homeowner in a sub-division to get a road taken over. DOT officials said it should be in their contract or agreement. Mr. Greene explained that a person can go to the Register of Deeds to review the plat that is registered there or they can call the DOT office and they will look it up for the individual.

The floor was opened for questions from the public. One gentleman said basically his question had been answered but he did ask about the right of way with the Forest Service. This item was discussed.

(Commissioner Walker arrived at this time.)

Commissioner Webb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to close the public hearing and by unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Webb, to approve the resolution approving proposed expenditures of Secondary Roads in McDowell County. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mr. Tipton then addressed the status of the project to widen U.S. 221. He advised the project is moving forward, is in the TIP and is funded.

The Board posed a number of questions to Mr. Tipton regarding environmental assessments, particularly those that may cause delays, how they determine road surfaces, etc.

REGULAR SESSION ITEMS

In order to utilize time, Chairman Walker moved to items of “old business” which could be handled between now and 5:00 p.m. when the regular session would start.

UPDATE ON MAPLE LEAF

The County Manager advised the Board had taken action directing that the restrooms at Maple Leaf be done and made reference to the design from Chuck Hamrick which the Board had previously received. He pointed out that he had pushed right hard to see if restrooms could be scaled back, but due to regulations regarding the capacity of the complex, this would not be permitted. Therefore, Mr. Abernathy suggested that the Board authorize having the design done by Mr. Hamrick, bid the restrooms in January, plan to have the project under construction by the end of March with a 60-day construction period in the spring, and then finance the project as debt with a payment in the next fiscal year. He pointed out it would be good to have a report from last year’s audit prior to doing this.

In discussion, Mr. Abernathy pointed out the City had agreed to waive the tap fees and noted there are some issues regarding to wells, sewage, etc. A question was raised as to the possibility of a PARTF Grant. Mr. Abernathy said he would look into this as well as how the City went about doing what they did. There was discussion on the possibility of a partnership with the City in doing some of the work. Mr. Abernathy agreed to explore this idea.

As discussion continued, words of caution were expressed that before a commitment is made, they needed to hear from the auditors, know the fund balance, know what their priorities are, etc., to make sure they are not over committed. Concern was expressed in regard to payments in arrears, although it was understood why this is being done.

Mr. Abernathy suggested that they begin the process, assess the issues, etc.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to move forward based on the memo dated 8-2-11. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

UPDATE ON STAG GRANT/WATER PROJECTS

The County Manager advised the South Creek main line construction is completed and the contractor is installing the remaining taps. They are waiting for the go ahead to start. Applications are coming in.

Harmony Grove is completed and serving people and the section from the Caboose to the “curve” has been permitted and is moving forward.

Discussion of the South Creek project followed.

Mr. Abernathy then addressed the EPA Grant/permitting process. The grant is in the amount of \$485,000 and is to be used for water system projects, including the permitting of the intake and treatment plant sites. He addressed the application that is necessary in order to pull water from the Lake, etc., noting that this is quite an undertaking and he did not want to rush the process. He mentioned that he would be meeting with Mr. Hendrick and anyone who wished to could join them.

Discussion followed on the need to start using the grant without waiting too long.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to authorize staff to enter into an RFP process and to continue working with Mr. Hendrick. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and by unanimous approval, the motion carried.

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Walker called the regular meeting to order. Commissioner Dobson gave the invocation, followed the pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Lavender.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 11, 2011 regular session and the August 1, 2011 special session were presented for the Board's approval. In a brief discussion, a couple of the Commissioners stated they had not read the minutes for the regular session of July 11th and would prefer to postpone approval until the next meeting. Commissioner Dobson moved for the approval of minutes for August 1, 2011. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and by unanimous approval, the minutes of August 1, 2011 were approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The County Manager noted that the item for recognition of regional softball winners had been removed from the agenda.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous for approval.

ORDER OF COLLECTION

The County Manager advised the Board has two tax collection matters that must occur with each new fiscal year. First is the "Order of Collection" which authorizes the Tax Collector to use all collections mechanisms available to collect property taxes.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Order of Collection as presented. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and by unanimous approval, the Order of Collection was approved.

The second item, the "Tax Settlement", will be on the September agenda since it is not yet finished.

BUDGET UPDATE AND AMENDMENT/WATER RELEASE

The County Manager gave a brief update on sales tax, noting there are still two months remaining that will accrue into the previous fiscal year.

Finance Officer Alison Morgan presented the bidding on the computer system for Sheriff's Department. The low bid was BB&T with a 2.51% rate financed for four years. She noted the other response was a bid of 4.95% with Mountain 1st Bank.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms for the financing package with BB&T for the rate of 2.51% as presented. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and a brief discussion followed. When put to a vote, the motion carried with unanimous approval.

The Finance Department was requesting adjustments to the accounts of Minnie Tate (amount of \$253.79) and Helen Haynes (amount of \$35.00) with the Nebo Water System.

Commissioner Webb moved to release the two bills as requested by the Finance Department. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and by unanimous approval, the motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DEFIBRILLATOR DONATIONS

Emergency Services Director William Kehler advised the McDowell County Fire and Rescue College Training Committee had offered to make a one time donation to McDowell County EMS to purchase two new Philips FRX defibrillators for each fire and rescue departments in McDowell County with one AED being purchased for the new 911 Center. The amount of the donation is \$27,900. Mr. Kehler requested approval to accept the donation of \$27,900 from the Rescue College and apply funds to purchase 25 Philips FRX Automatic External Defibrillators and to approve the trade-in of 21 units. He explained the condition of the equipment being traded in, noting that Southeastern Emergency Equipment and Boundtree Medical has offered to allow McDowell EMS a trade-in value at the low bid of \$1,116.00 per unit on 25 of the current units that are now outdated.

The County Manager advised the action needed was for the Board to authorize the receipt of the donation and the purchase of the new units and to approve the Resolution that authorizes the trade-in of the current units to the company.

A brief discussion followed on the older models versus the new ones and other areas where units are needed, such as the Senior Center.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to accept the receipt of the donation, to approve the Resolution Authorizing Purchase and Transfer of 25 New AEDs as presented. He asked for a report from Mr. Kehler on what other locations units are needed. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and a further discussion followed. When put to a vote, the motion carried by unanimous approval.

TRAIL EASEMENT MATTER/LEGAL MATTER

First, County Attorney Fred Coats addressed the legal matter involving the furniture and equipment taken by New River Behavioral Services when they vacated the building on Spaulding Road. He noted the items taken, the replacement cost (about \$30,000), and said Smoky Mountain has said they did not authorize these items being taken. He had left a message but as yet has had no response from New River. Mr. Coats recommended authorization to take action to get these items back, as well as other action that is needed.

In discussion, Commissioner Lavender, who serves on the Mental Health Board, explained what he recalled about the situation and the transition, the taking of property by the County, etc., noting that he felt they should take whatever action is necessary to get this matter resolved, and mentioned other situations where they have been unresponsive.

A motion was made by Commissioner Webb to authorize the County Attorney to move forward with a registered letter to New River Behavioral Services regarding this matter and to move ahead with whatever means are necessary. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and a brief discussion followed. When put to a vote, the motion carried by unanimous approval.

Concerning the trail easement, the County Manager made reference to the work done to Point Lookout and Mr. Coats picked up at this point noting the involvement of the property owner and the easement across his (Tommy Johnson) property for the extension along the Catawba River. The construction of restrooms was discussed.

Mr. Coats advised he will draft a document as much as possible; that he is waiting to see what else might be needed.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Chairman Walker declared the Board in public hearing and immediately called forward Steve Early, Director of Foothills Industries, for the presentation.

Mr. Early advised that each year they apply for a grant through the Department of Transportation under the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) for funds to help offset the expenses associated with the three organizations that use the funding. They are the Department of Social Services, the Senior Center, and Foothills Industries. They applied for the grant and have received notification that funds would be received in the amount of \$82,822. The funds will be broken down as follows:

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) (Split between Senior Center and Foothills Industries, with both receiving \$32,179)	\$64,359
Employment Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL)	\$18,463

Speaking for Foothills Industries, Mr. Early advised these funds would primarily be used to transport adults with disabilities to and from the workshop location each day.

DSS Director Phillip Hardin stated the allocation for the Senior Center would be used for general transportation for seniors to the grocery store, recreation, and other similar scheduled trips in addition to congregate meals. Also, a portion will be used to assist the America Legion in transporting veterans to the VA Hospital. Mr. Hardin explained the Employment Transportation Assistance Program (EMPL) funds will be used in providing employment transportation expenses to their eligible clients.

Mr. Early noted the allocation received this year is \$16,704 less than last year's allocation. He pointed out it this was not a result of anything they did or did not do; it was just a general cut across the state with DOT. He requested the Board's approval on the grant funds received.

With reference to discussion several months ago regarding the possibility of a study to determine the long-term transportation needs of the County, Commissioner Lavender asked for an update on what had happened and what the expectations might be.

In response, Mr. Early stated earlier this year, at the Board's directions, the County had signed a letter of intent authorizing the study, with funds as he recalled coming from the County's operating budget this year. The complete study was estimated to be around \$70,000, and he had anticipated a quick response once the letter was sent in. However, with no information in several months, he inquired again about the status of the study and had then received a history of the number of studies done over several years, about 24 of which were done this year. He pointed out studies are done based on those counties with the oldest study, and McDowell is about in the middle. Studies are supposed to be done every five years.

Chairman Walker then opened the floor for comments from the public. However, no comments were heard.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dobson, to go out of public hearing. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender and seconded by Commissioner Webb to concur with the recommendation of funding for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP), and to approve the resolution as presented. Upon a vote by the Board, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING ED PROJECT

Chairman Walker declared the Board in public hearing concerning proposed economic development incentives for a new industry location as authorized under NCGS 158-7.1.

Economic Development Director Chuck Abernathy advised he could not name the company but it is a well established local company that wishes to expand, thus creating 43 new jobs. The standard amount of \$3,000 per job will be used which equals \$129,000. The County is in the process of making application to the State of North Carolina for the same program used for RockTenn, the One North Carolina program, and we expect the State to match the County's \$129,000. The law requires that a public hearing be held to receive comment prior to approval. The project will be announced by the State and the County is very favorable about the likelihood of this happening.

Mr. Abernathy advised the public hearing notice says that the payment will be made over five years and the State has informed the County it will be over three years. He pointed out the State has allowed the County five years a couple of times, an arrangement he likes because the longer period lowers the payment.

A general discussion followed.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for comments from the public, but no one wished to speak. Commissioner McPeters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, to close the public hearing. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Webb, to authorize staff to proceed as recommended. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

VETERANS WALL/SENIOR CENTER

The County Manager mentioned the very successful fund raiser which had been underway for the purpose of building the Veterans Wall. Discussion had started with the Wall being right on YMCA Corpening property but has now shifted to adjacent County property (McDowell Senior Center). Mr. Abernathy and Alan Mainer, Veterans Service Officer had drafted an agreement which he summarized as follows:

- 1) The County agrees to provide the property for the construction of the Veterans Memorial Wall. The property will remain in the ownership of McDowell County.
- 2) The American Legion Post 56 will construct the Veterans Memorial Wall and is responsible for obtaining a contractor, all associated costs and for the oversight of the construction project.
- 3) The American Legion Post 56 is responsible for the future maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Wall, including repairs and upgrades.
- 4) The American Legion Post 56 and McDowell County agree that additions to the Memorial Wall are authorized that are consistent with the design submitted to the Board of Commissioners. Both parties agree that significant changes from this design will require the approval of both parties.
- 5) The American Legion Post 56 is authorized to continue to raise funds from the sale of bricks consistent with the mission and goals of this organization.

Mr. Mainer commented on item #4, noting they had sold 500 bricks since the beginning of the sale in May and they hope to double that amount within a year; however, they will not stop once they reach that amount but will continue on. He advised they are planning to have the dedication on Veterans Day, November 11th. In regard to construction, they have considered one individual, but with the operation of his business, they are not sure whether they will be able to keep him. Therefore, they are looking at all options.

A brief discussion followed concerning a “contract” as opposed to an “agreement”. While it was noted that an agreement offers more flexibility than a

contract, Mr. Abernathy agreed to check with the County Attorney to ask his opinion concerning this.

Commissioner Dobson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, to enter into the Agreement with the American Legion Post 56 as outlined in the draft document presented to them concerning the Veterans Memorial Wall. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANDREW'S GEYSER

Terry Wilson, representing the Old Fort Mountain Heritage Alliance, advised they are a non-profit 501-3-c chartered and recognized organization that has been in existence in Old Fort for about four years. They have been operating under funding from the North Carolina Small Town Entrepreneurial Program, known as NC Step, and during this time they have worked developing the economic base for Old Fort. Mr. Wilson advised the purpose of coming before the Board tonight was concerning plans being made for the centennial celebration of Andrew's Geysers. He pointed out his organization is too small for this type of celebration but they would be willing to help in any way possible. He noted their basic request is that the celebration become a project of McDowell County, in particular the Tourism Development Authority. The celebration will be in the fall of 2012. He asked for the Board's endorsement of this project. He said they could involve the railroad, noting there are a lot of railroad "buffs" who visit the area, people with interest in the Civil War, etc.

Mr. Wilson recognized Brigitte Walters, a co-owner of the Inn at Mill Creek, who is a member of the Alliance.

The County Manager mentioned that City of Marion Mayor Steve Little had called today, indicating a particular interest in this project and may want to speak. Mr. Abernathy stated he would be glad for his staff to assist, along with Carole Price and TDA. He mentioned the Trails Association, noting that it would be good to have them involved.

Mayor Steve Little spoke briefly, commenting on what Mrs. Walters and her husband have done at the Inn on Mill Creek which he had visited for the first time the previous Saturday. Mayor Little made reference to the pipe and pond that supply water for the Geysers, noting that the pond is in the jurisdiction of the Town of Old Fort to maintain. However, he pointed out that in the past few years it has not been maintained that well and the Walters have assisted by cutting vegetation, etc. He said the work needed requires mechanical equipment, and he happens to know someone who has agreed to participate in the removal of silt, etc. The Mayor said he endorses this project.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to endorse this project, with the involvement of TDA, Mayor Little's acquaintance, etc. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and, by unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mayor Little advised Mrs. Walters has started work toward getting Andrew's Geysers registered with the National Historical Society.

UPDATE ON ASHWORTH ROAD

The County Manager addressed the Ashworth Road property access, noting the original access was identified as coming off of Ashworth Road. A construction estimate was provided showing why this is problematic (\$2,229,561.18). Mr. Abernathy advised a different route would be to construct off of Sugar Hill Road, noting the cost would be much less because a bridge is not required and the flood pool does not encroach on the second access. This cost estimate was \$1,283,078.06, including paving. He pointed out if the paving were taken off, the estimated cost would be \$765,000. Further, he mentioned having some cut and fill estimates prepared and the possibility of having the road brought up to a more minimum standard which would reduce the cost. The County could then ask the State to take the road over. He suggested doing this similar to what is taking place with the restrooms at the Recreation Department.

The \$400,000, identified/reserved for the construction of the road, was discussed. Mr. Abernathy pointed out the real question here is how long will these funds will stay put, noting there is reason to get this project done.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the items that Mr. Abernathy outlined, asking for more flexibility on the use of the \$400,000 grant funds as well as to indicate the County's intent to proceed potentially in the spring, pursuant to where we stand financially, with most of those items. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and by unanimous approval the motion carried.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT CATAWBA FALLS/SENIOR CENTER TRAIL UPDATE

The County Manager advised the County has received preliminary approval on a \$55,000 grant for the construction of restrooms and to lay the base for the parking area at the entrance to Catawba Falls. However, the funds will not be available until later in the year. The land is in public possession, and the Forest Service wants to proceed with the project in advance of the funds. The Contract amendment would authorize the Forest Service to proceed and the County would agree to reimburse the Forest Service once the grant money is formally approved and disbursed. He asked that the Board authorize the Contract amendment, stressing the point that the Forest Service and not the County would be liable in the event there is a cost overrun.

In discussion, Commissioner Webb asked if the County Attorney is normally involved in situations of this nature. Mr. Abernathy pointed out the County Attorney receives the entire agenda packet, is updated on things as they are being handled, and if a legal question arises, it is targeted before moving forward. Further, he said a lot of the Board's motions are contingent on the Attorney's review and this is communicated to him.

Commission Lavender made a motion to authorize staff to enter into the Agreement with the Forest Service pursuant to legal approval, and that the County will receive the necessary contracts related to liability. Commissioner Dobson seconded the motion and by unanimous approval, the motion passed.

SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION GRANT DOCUMENTS

The County Manager pointed out that Isothermal Planning and Development Commission is very much involved in this project and that they could be brought in for discussion with the Board if needed. He advised the County had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$160,000 for what is known as the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. There will be a two-month period for applications which must be received by 5:00 p.m. at the IPDC Community Development office on November 1st. The selection process will be made by December 30, 2011. Mr. Abernathy pointed out two questions he had were what kind of public notification process will occur to let people know about the program in order to make application. He was told there would be a press release, a notice would be placed on the government channel, information would be on WBRM, etc. Second, why a smaller number of grants as opposed to more grants that do more things with smaller dollar amounts associated with them. He was told the intent of this program is more comprehensive.

In general discussion, the Board expressed a desire to have the new Housing Coalition group involved since they are working with local pastors who know where need exists. Other areas of involvement would be the Senior Center and the DSS Adult Services Unit. The Board also discussed the need of having Isothermal in to address the outreach efforts, etc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to approve receipt of this grant and to move forward with the grant documents. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and after further brief discussion, the motion carried by unanimous approval.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A vacancy on the TDA Board for the “over 50 units category” was presented on first reading with one applicant (Richard Liebeck).

Also, the Clerk advised a letter was received from the Library Director concerning a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees due to the resignation of a member of that Board. The letter had not been received in time to be included in the agenda packet. The Clerk asked if the Board would accept the letter as notification of the vacancy for a first reading.

By consensus, the Board accepted both vacancies on first reading.

TAX MATTERS

The usual listing of tax releases and refunds was presented for the Board's approval. They are summarized as follows:

Release Refunds	Refunded amount of \$6,409.54
Motor Vehicle Releases/Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$576.71
Motor Vehicle Releases/Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$137.04
Releases Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$1,295.78
Releases Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$4,689.72

Commissioner Webb made a motion, seconded by Commissioners Dobson, to approve the tax releases and refunds as presented. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The County Manager reminded the Board of the meeting with Golden Leaf officials at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17th at the Marion Depot. He also noted that FLS Energy had started work, and were at the Law Enforcement Center at this time.

Further, the Board of E & R will be meeting on August 16th and 30th at 5:00 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Cynthia Rush, representing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Airport Road in Marion, advised they are sponsoring an Emergency Preparedness Open House on August 20th. She had sent out a public invitation by mail but she had come to give the Board a personal invitation to attend. She advised they would basically focus on the leadership of churches and the leadership of communities (tonight they were represented in Spruce Pine, Bakersville, and Marion), noting they are one of the first to respond in any disaster with food and other necessities. They will have the Red Cross, the volunteer fire departments and others will be involved in order to have all bases covered. She stated this past year, their Church had authorized non-profit organizations to receive \$1,000 donations of commodities and they have placed eight orders in McDowell County and are working to have more.

A brief discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Dobson, a second by Commissioner Lavender and by unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER, CHAIRMAN

CARRIE PADGETT
CLERK TO THE BOARD