

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 12, 2009**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 12, 2009, in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry E. McPeters, Vice-Chairman; Dean Buff; Michael Lavender; and Andrew K. Webb

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Carrie Padgett, Clerk to the Board; Ashley Wooten, Assistant to the County Manager (Video); and Mike Conley, Reporter for THE McDOWELL NEWS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Walker called the meeting to order and explained they were starting something special this year by inviting a different pastor in the County to come each month to participate by giving the invocation. This month the Rev. Jerry Allen, Pastor of the Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church, was present to give the invocation. The pledge of allegiance followed, led by Commissioner Buff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 10, 2008 special session and regular session were presented for approval. Upon motion by Commissioner McPeters and a second by Commissioner Buff, minutes of both meetings were approved as recorded.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The County Manager advised a representative of the Woodlawn Fire Department wanted to discuss financing arrangements on equipment for the Fire Department. Also, that the County Attorney may want to brief the Board in closed session on a legal matter.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to add the two items to the agenda as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

SIDEARM AND BADGE REQUEST

The Chairman called former Deputy Sheriff Frank Williams forward at this time to be recognized upon his retirement and asked the County Manager to address a recommended change to County Policy.

Mr. Abernathy advised the State of North Carolina does allow for the granting of a sidearm and badge to a retiring deputy and the County has a policy on this. However, there was a slight amendment to the policy which he would ask the Board to approve in addition to the requested sidearm and badge. He advised the amendment was a simplification to the policy, making it less restrictive and basically saying “consistent with the five years and retiring in accordance with one of the guidelines”.

Sheriff Dudley Greene said he appreciated Mr. Williams’ service to the County and to his department, noting that Mr. Williams would continue as a reserve officer when needed. He said he also appreciated the Board for recognizing his service.

Chief Deputy Sam Arrowood advised Mr. Williams had been a great resource for the department through the elementary school system, noting that he went “beyond the call of duty”, particularly in dealing with a troubled child, and that he appreciated his service.

In discussion, it was noted that Mr. Williams had served at all the elementary schools, both City and County, and had served as a magistrate for sixteen years. He started with Sheriff Hubert Haynes in 1969 and continued to serve with Sheriff Bob Haynes, Sheriff Jackie Turner, and most recently with Sheriff Greene.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to amend the County’s Request for Badge and Service Sidearm Policy to reflect the change recommended by staff. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lavender then made a motion to approve Frank Williams’ request to receive his sidearm and badge and to express the Board’s thanks to him for his years of service to both this County and the State through his various law enforcement and magistrate services. Commissioner Buff seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

On behalf of the Board and the citizens of the County, Chairman Walker thanked Mr. Williams for a job well done, and presented to him his badge and sidearm.

BUDGET ISSUES UPDATE/AMENDMENTS

The Finance Office presented budget amendments for the Board’s approval as follows:

- #28 – Miscellaneous – To amend the budget due to Forest Service project.
- # 29 – Public Works – To amend the budget due to equipment purchase at Garage
- #30 – Tax Collections – To amend the budget due to collections with Transworld
- #31 – Miscellaneous – To amend the budget for health insurance charges
- # ECO1 – Economic Development – To amend this fund to Forest Service project
- # ECO 2 – Economic Development – To amend this fund due to self-insurance
- # FS1 – Forest Service Project – To amend the budget due to Lead Removal
- # SP 2 – School Project – To allocate funds for projects
- # WP1 – Water Reserve Development Grant – To allocate grant
- # ENT 1 – Enterprise Fund – To allocate recycling grant

Concerning the self-insurance fund, Mr. Abernathy advised the staff had met twice and would have some recommendations probably within 60-90 days. He said the insurance carrier was looking into some of the legality of some of the things being considered. However, the Board might want to hold a workshop, depending on how they might view the recommendations, at which time they could bring in those individuals with whom staff had been meeting. Mr. Abernathy pointed out the self-insurance line item was in the red and that monies were primarily coming from unspent salary line items, but the amount being charged out for dependent and family coverage was just not covering it.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Abernathy addressed the difficulty he was experiencing in trying to make projections when he is not quite sure what is happening with the economy, noting that he did not want to overstate what is happening when perhaps in reality the situation is not so bad. On the other hand, he did not want to say nothing and appear to be “asleep at the switch” when things do deteriorate.

Continuing, Mr. Abernathy noted that back in November after discussing these issues, he had asked the Board if his assumptions seemed reasonable and, as he recalled, the Board’s reply back to him was that perhaps he was not being cautious enough and that they shared his concern. He said again he would give the Board his thoughts to see whether they agreed with his assumptions.

Mr. Abernathy then passed out information received from the Tax Collector showing a comparison of January 7th and January 15th last year, pointing out that while there was just over a week's difference in the time period, the percentage was running closely the same for property tax collections. However, he said staff feels very strongly that this is misleading and that there was an indication for a shortfall in tax collections in the \$300,000 range based on the bankruptcy of Wild Ridges alone, in addition to the fact that people will have difficulty making their property tax payments. He said he anticipated being \$300-350,000 short on property taxes but noted the good news was that the figure budgeted had that much or slightly more cushion built into it on just the property tax number.

Continuing, Mr. Abernathy addressed the sales tax report, noting that one quarter into this fiscal year the formula changed, therefore receipts would be less over the course of the year. Other revenue estimates were addressed including interest income, building permits, real estate transfers, deeds and deeds of trust, etc.

Mr. Abernathy again reviewed the steps that had been taken to reduce the impact of shortfalls. These included freezing positions, curtailing travel, eliminating large purchases, further computerization in the Law Library, etc. He said at this point he felt he was managing the situation reasonably well but was being really cautious and probably would be safer being extremely pessimistic.

A general discussion followed during which each member of the Board was given opportunity to speak. Comments were about taking safeguards, considering the economic situation and the current recession, the sad happenings, the need to tighten belts at home as well as in the workplace, etc. Others were budget transfers and other reversions made by the State and how this would impact the local budget.

MONTHLY TV SHOW

The County Manager presented a proposal for starting a monthly TV Show with Cooperative Extension Director Dan Smith as host. The show would focus on county departments and county services. There are earmarked funds that the County receives annually from a cable channel resource that would allow the purchase of necessary equipment and software upgrades. Mr. Abernathy said efforts continue to be made to upgrade the channel, and he felt the County should work toward the idea of making greater use of the channel for educational purposes. He pointed out this was a major opportunity for staff to educate the public and to take the channel to another level. The show would be a monthly half-hour interview type that would feature one department each month.

Dan Smith stated this would be an opportunity for him and a pleasure to do, and is a marketing privilege for all departments. He said local government is exciting and this would provide a chance to connect with the people of the County and, being a talk-show format, would give individuals a chance to discuss services, how to access them, etc. He pointed out the potential to broaden the format to do other shows with the College, the

School System, etc. They would start with a core show to give people the opportunity to see where their tax money goes and how it is spent.

Mr. Abernathy further addressed the format and how the show will be developed. Chairman Walker noted other possibilities would be school sports games and the Christmas Parade. Rick Acrivos, from the Old Fort Chamber of Commerce, suggested the addition of Davidson's Fort.

PRISON RECRUITMENT UPDATE

The County Manager noted the availability of land offered by the City as a potential site for a medium security prison, and the letters of support from the President of the McDowell Chamber of Commerce and the Director of the McDowell Mission Ministries, as well as conversations the Board has had with others that have indicated support. He pointed out the asset of the site being in close proximity to I-40, the relationship the DOC has with the College for training opportunities, etc., all enhancements for McDowell County being considered.

WATER PROJECTS UPDATE

The County Manager advised the Watson Road extension was finished and the Sherwood Forest extension should be complete in 30 days. He noted the Board had previously authorized staff to proceed with the extension of lines further out on Harmony Grove Road toward the interstate and that a rough number for this would be \$200,000. Plans are to use 50% of grant money that is already secured for this extension, so there will be approximately \$100,000 in local funds as a match. He pointed out the local funds are already in the project and that efforts toward reserving these funds continue to be made. He anticipates this project going to bid within 90 days.

Concerning the workshop being considered, Mr. Abernathy suggested the date of Monday, January 26th, at 11:30 a.m., with the engineers and Crescent Resources here for a lunch meeting. He also mentioned having state representatives at the meeting since this would partially involve them.

A discussion of tap fees followed.

DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL PROPERTY ISSUE

The County Manager advised this item was back on the agenda from the December meeting. He advised the letter regarding this property was sent from the attorney and not from the staff, noting that the property involves a quit claim deed and that the letter should not have been sent. The Tax Office caught the problem when asked for clarification.

Mr. Abernathy suggested that the Board state the County has no need for the property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to notify the appropriate parties to state that the County has no need for the property. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the ayes carried unanimously.

SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROJECT ORDINANCE

The County Manager advised that when the Board previously approved the project budget ordinance for the 2008 CDBG Scattered Site Housing grant, there was a typographical error on the revenue side. A corrected ordinance was now being presented for the Board's approval.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the corrected CDBG Scattered Site Housing Project Budget Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the ayes carried unanimously.

FOOTHILLS PILOT PLANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

The County Manager said the County continues to make progress on this value added agricultural project to assist growers in the industry of processing small animals. He presented the Project Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$616,500 for the Board's approval, noting that no County money is involved in the project but the County had made the property available for the project.

Cooperative Extension Director Dan Smith advised the project would include producers of poultry and rabbits as well as turkeys and ducks. He explained why a small animals processing facility would benefit the County's producers, inspection requirements, etc.

In general discussion, Mr. Smith advised notification to producers would be done through Cooperation Extension via flyers and other handouts. He addressed start-up costs and what users of the facility might expect to pay.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the Foothills Pilot Plant Project Budget Ordinance as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

VARIOUS PROJECT UPDATES

The County Manager provided an update on various current projects, noting that he would add the Nutrition Center to the list if there were no objections. Included in the update were:

- The Firing Range – A completed 18-lane project in which \$3,000 was obligated for a small storage facility on the property and \$5,000 was secured by the Department of Corrections to gravel the road leading into

the building and D.O.C. had provided labor and equipment capabilities of a person to assist with the situation of rock during grading.

- The Forest Service Grading Project – The budget was amended to allow for the remediation and work would begin on Tuesday. The State would begin work on the building in late February or March.
- The Baldwin Avenue Financing Packet – A copy of the Local Government Commission’s approval of the County’s financing application is available and the project was obviously approved. Waiting on final contracts for execution with the contractor and the County Attorney will work up a lease agreement since there are multiple parties involved. Once the project is initiated, Commissioner Lavender and Dr. Wilson will provide general management oversight to ensure that inspections, etc. are going properly.
- The Nutrition Project – Project should be completed by the third week in February and other than the first issue with the soil, the project is on budget. The building looks great and the feeling is that the Old Fort Community will be excited about it. An open house will be in March.

Commissioner Webb said he wanted to compliment staff, particularly Mr. Abernathy, for working so tirelessly in getting these projects moving, noting that some take more time than others. He pointed out that due to Mr. Abernathy’s persistence the Firing Range was brought down from \$75,000 to \$32,000. He advised the College Board of Trustees was very complimentary of the level of cooperation from the Board of Commissioners and the County Manager who did not give up on this project.

Concerning the Trail related item, Mr. Abernathy advised staff continued to work on the Point Lookout Trail, noting the assistance from Trails Association in the removal of a tree and other maintenance. He said it was unbelievably being used by the public. He advised his Assistant had recently identified a small grant in the amount of \$5,000 for which he made application. The grant money will be used for signage along the Trail although it will not cover all that is ultimately wanted along the Trail. The grant may require a \$250.00 or \$500.00 match if approved. Mr. Abernathy advised he had asked Anne Swann to draft language for the signs which will include the Swannanoa Gap Civil War Skirmish, Davy Crockett, Old Highway 70 (2), Point Lookout, in addition to one near the tunnels noting the rail activity and the construction of the railroad up the mountain.

Concerning the YMCA Trail, Mr. Abernathy stated work was continuing with the submission of a PARTF Grant in January and by May or June, he should know the level of funding from this Grant. He pointed out he had taken the liberty of pulling off one of the more expensive trails (the one around the Law Enforcement Center and the Armory) in order to focus on the one going around the YMCA and the Hospital. Mr. Abernathy advised the County would receive points (about 20) on the PARTF Grant if the Commissioners would authorize the document they had received in a previous meeting at the Hospital. He asked the Board to authorize this document for incorporation into the Recreation Master Plan (not the Trails Master Plan which had already been done) for this

point designation. He pointed out there would be two public meetings held over the next couple of weeks at the Recreation Center. The amendment would add the Greenway Master Plan to the Recreation Master Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to incorporate the Greenway Trail Master Plan into the County's own Recreation Master Plan and to also officially authorize the Adopt-A-Trail grant application and match for same. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

The County Manager advised the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners was requesting that each County appoint a "lead" commissioner to serve as its liaison connection on matters related to legislation.

A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to appoint Commissioner Lavender as their legislative liaison for 2009. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the ayes carried unanimously.

RC AND D RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

The County Manager advised he had received a call from Doc Buckner who serves on the Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council. They are concerned about cuts in federal funding and wanted to ask that the Board support funding of Mountain Valleys RC & D by adoption of a resolution entitled *RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF MOUNTAIN VALLEYS RC & D*. Mr. Buckner had stated they would come to do a program if the Board desired one.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPeters to approve the resolution. Commissioner Buff seconded the motion and the resolution was unanimously adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF MOUNTAIN VALLEYS RC & D

WHEREAS, McDowell County is located within the geographic service area of Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D); and

WHEREAS, Mountain Valleys RC&D plays an important role in protecting the environment in a way that improves the local economy and standard of living in McDowell County; and

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners believes that natural resources conservation continues to be of prime importance in Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Valleys RC&D provides technical assistance and project administration for vital resource projects; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate Federal funding will cause Mountain Valleys RC&D to no longer have the assistance of a full-time coordinator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners encourages and supports any and all efforts to secure Federal funding to fully staff Mountain Valleys RC&D, allowing that organization to continue to serve McDowell County and Western North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 12th day of January, 2009.

TIER RANKING UPDATE

The County Manager addressed the “tier” ranking formula used by the State, advising that McDowell had been a tier 1 County for many years but had moved from tier 1 to tier 2 meaning the incentives the County is able to offer perspective clients is now less than it was a month ago. He attributed this to our strong unemployment rate, about 6% or less during the year, and is now around 10%. Mr. Abernathy stated the news brought a combination of feelings when he received it---both disappointing and positive in a way as far as where the County was. He contacted the State and was told that a computer error was made and, once this was corrected, McDowell became a tier 2 County. He had called about this to express his concern based on what has happened in the last three months. He was told this is a legislative matter and that perhaps the Board of Commissioners would want to approach our legislative delegation about trying to have them advocate for our being moved back to a tier 1 for incentive purposes.

Mr. Abernathy stated this does not require any action although it seemed to be significant enough that the County should express concern about our current status versus where we were five months ago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to ask County staff to draft a letter to our legislative delegation as well as to the commerce staff persons in this area to express our dissatisfaction with the lag time and how that affects our ability to recruit industry. Further, that the Board asks that the County be moved back to tier 1 status based on current statistics as opposed to past statistics in that area and that the County Manager take whatever other steps in this matter that needs to be taken at his discretion. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion.

A brief discussion followed.

When put to a vote, the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

In reference to the two vacancies on the Planning Board, Chairman Walker stated the six applicants for consideration were:

Max Boyd
Benny Stamey
Marc Cook
Samuel R. Dotson
Frank G. Kissell
Chris Revis

With terms of three members of the Community Advisory Committee expiring, these vacancies were presented on first reading.

An appointment to the McDowell Soil and Water Conservation Board was also considered. The Soil and Water Conservation District Board was recommending that Emergency Management Director Terry Young be appointed to replace Joseph Pittman.

In discussion, Commissioner Buff stated he had discussed this appointment with the Chairman of the S&W Conservation District Board. He pointed out there could be somewhat of an issue with dams in the County in the event of a flood situation and, with that in mind, he would like to see Mr. Young on the S&W District Board. He said he did not know all the details and perhaps they could wait to make the appointment but due to the issue of the dams, he felt it might be just as well to suspend the rules and make the appointment. Chairman Walker concurred with that suggestion, due to the safety issue. Other members of the Board concurred as well.

A brief discussion of the Planning Board vacancies followed.

The Board proceeded to vote, by written ballot, to fill the Planning Board vacancies. Results of the vote were:

For: Benny Stamey – 4 votes (Commissioners Buff, Webb, Walker and McPeters)

Max Boyd – 3 votes (Commissioners Webb, Walker and McPeters)

For: Marc Cook – 1 vote (Commissioner Lavender)

For: Samuel R. Dotson – 1 vote (Commissioner Lavender)

For: Chris Revis – 1 vote (Commissioner Buff)

Further, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Terry Young to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS

The usual listing of tax releases and refunds were presented for the Board's approval. In summary, they were as follows:

Releases/Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$879.07
Releases/Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$7,844.42
Release Refunds	Refunded amount of \$2,365.64
Motor Vehicle/Releases Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$1,178.91
Motor Vehicle/Releases Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$732.57

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the tax releases and refunds as presented. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Concerning issues related to the City of Marion, the County Manager updated the Board on discussion he had with the City Manager during which he was told that City Council had agreed to put the Utility Committee back into a process of meeting and deliberating. The Committee had not met in several months and Mr. Abernathy had expressed concern about this. The City Manager had said they were ready to resume those meetings but they would have to be moved from morning to the afternoon (around 3:00 p.m.). Mr. Abernathy stated this might require some discussion on the part of the Board but morning meetings were not something the City's two new Committee members would be able to make.

Continuing, with reference to the recent joint meeting with City Council, Mr. Abernathy said there was an ongoing issue with the sales tax distribution and a request that was made of the Board in relationship to the fire tax. As a recommendation, he stated he would almost say maybe there should be a general discussion and then have the Utility Committee thresh out the details, which are numerous. He said he had taken note of comments from individual Board members of some of the things that are important to them, as well as listing some of his own thoughts, to try to draft a consensus. He pointed out there was still some time before a decision would be necessary.

Concerning the issue of sales tax, Mr. Abernathy reviewed the two methods of distribution in accordance with general statutes (population method and one based on the value of the taxable property within the city as a ratio to the County taxable property). The Board of Commissioners had changed the formula last year which resulted in a

transition of sales tax funds that exceeded \$500,000. The Board then entered into an agreement with the City of Marion for one year that held them harmless on \$400,000 of that amount (\$100,000 shifted from City to County). Mr. Abernathy pointed out the General Assembly has that option available to counties because the annexation activities of cities can change, thus as a municipality annexes territory, it affects the distribution of state revenues that come to counties. As an example, he noted the annexation of the Prison, the annexation of Eastfield in three different phases, Finley Road in two different phases, and Tate Street, a total of about \$280,000 of sales tax revenue that was shifted from the County to the City. He pointed out all the County did was to hold the City harmless or to take back \$100,000, a very moderate action on the Board's part in relationship to the potential action that could have been taken.

Continuing, Mr. Abernathy said the City had proposed a 10-year agreement and had offered to move the \$100,000 up to \$250,000 and then hold the remainder for ten years. Mr. Abernathy pointed out he had heard from most members of the Board that 10 years would not work and that five years is a more appropriate amount of time for this agreement, which he had communicated back to the City Manager. Mr. Abernathy said his thought was that a measured starting point for the County would be \$250,000 with a \$25,000 increase during the remaining four years, from \$250,000 to \$350,000.

Mr. Abernathy advised the Board had expressed concern about other issues, more particularly about water and sewer rates, and there was a need for entering into some process in order for the County to have a continued discussion with them about their rates to citizens living outside the City's jurisdiction.

A brief discussion followed, during which the Board agreed to allow the County Manager to review water and sewer rates for about 35 entities as previously done at the December meeting. He then reviewed the inside and outside rates for 3,000 and 6,000 gallons.

A general discussion of the issues followed with each member of the Board offering input. At least two members of the Board expressed a willingness to cut the five-year time frame to two years or less. Commissioner Webb said he would be slow to speak on these issues until he hears from the City. He noted future annexations and how this could easily impact the County. On the fire issue, Commissioners Buff and Webb who are members of the Utility Committee agreed that they would receive input from other members of the Board as decisions are made.

The County Manager advised the Annual Inmate Appreciation Luncheon would be held on Wednesday, January 14th, 11:30 a.m. at the Marion Community Building. He said a member of the Board would need to speak and might want to speak on the recruitment of a prison.

Also, Mr. Abernathy advised the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service would be held at Addies Chapel United Methodist Church on Monday, January 19th, at 11:30 a.m.

WOODLAWN FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

The County Manager advised the Woodlawn Fire Department desires to borrow funds for equipment and that he had spoken with the bank's representative but he had no document regarding this. Chairman Walker noted a question regarding the public hearing notice.

Discussion followed on how the Board might assist, but everyone was hesitant to agree to approve anything without a document.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to have a representative or a document in two weeks, except in the event that the Fire Department would have to close with the bank. Commissioner Buff seconded the motion.

In discussion, the County Attorney advised he would be hesitant to allow this without first having a meeting. Chairman Walker explained his discussion with the Fire Chief and with Harold Walker, and the fact that they have not satisfied the public hearing requirement.

Commissioner Lavender then withdrew his motion and Commissioner Buff withdrew his second.

UPDATE REGARDING CATAWBA FALLS

In the absence of Tom Kenney from the Foothills Conservancy, the County Manager advised the acquisition of property and the securing of federal funds were still being pursued. However, with all the issues with the federal budget during this transition period, Mr. Kenney was concerned about these funds and felt that a back-up plan was needed. His suggestion was that the County submit an application for a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to authorize submission of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant as suggested. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Chairman Walker checked the "sign-up" sheet for those desiring to speak, but no one had signed up.

LEGAL MATTER (NEW BUSINESS ITEM)

County Attorney Fred Coats addressed the situation involving the Wild Ridges development project and the amount of taxes due the County, and shared information on contacting an attorney for assistance about filing an objection. He said he would be

getting information on the cost, etc. and, with the Board's permission, would proceed with the matter as he had explained. He stated he had spoken with the Tax Collector and she was in agreement with his suggestion also.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender to authorize the County Attorney and County staff to proceed with the plan to pursue assistance as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, upon motion by Commissioner McPeters and a second by Commissioner Lavender, the meeting was adjourned until Monday, January 26, 2009, for a luncheon meeting with the City of Marion for discussion of water issues.

DAVID N. WALKER, CHAIRMAN

CARRIE PADGETT
CLERK TO THE BOARD