STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF McDOWELL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION – DECEMBER 6, 2010

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2010, in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting. With the General Election held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, Commissioners David N. Walker and Michael K. Lavender were reelected to another four-year term and Joshua R. (Josh) Dobson was elected to a four-year term. Therefore, the Board met the first Monday instead of the second Monday for organizational purposes.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Barry E. McPeters, Michael Lavender, Andrew K. Webb, and Joshua R. (Josh) Dobson

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner David Walker called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Josh Dobson, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Lavender.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 13, 2010 and October 11, 2010 regular sessions, the November 15, 2010 adjourned session, and the November 30, 2010 Public Hearing on the Schedule of Values for the upcoming revaluation were presented for approval.

Commissioner Webb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McPeters, to approve the minutes of September 13th, November 15th and November 30th as recorded, and to postpone approval of the October 11th meeting until the next meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The County Manager requested the addition of the Mutual Aid Agreements under which the Sheriff's Department has been functioning. He said apparently those needed to be reenacted. By consensus, the Board agreed to add the item to the agenda.

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

SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN

Commissioner Walker turned the meeting over to the Clerk for the selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

Nominations for Chairman were then taken. Commissioner Webb stated he appreciated the work that Commissioner Walker had done, his service as Chairman to the Board and as Commissioner, his reelection campaign, and his faithfulness to the County. With that said, he nominated Commissioner Walker for Chairman for the year 2010-2011

With no other nominations, Commissioner McPeters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, for nominations to cease. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

By a vote of 4-0, Commissioner Walker was selected for Chairman for 2011.

Nominations for Vice-Chairman were taken. Commissioner Walker nominated Commissioner Barry McPeters, noting his leadership and faithfulness to the Board.

With no other nominations, Commissioner Webb made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, for nominations to cease. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

By a vote of 4-0, Commissioner McPeters was selected for Vice-Chairman for 2011.

Chairman Walker stated he appreciated the work of his fellow commissioners and it is a pleasure to work with them.

APPROVAL OF SHERIFF'S BOND

The County Manager briefly noted State law requires that a Board of County Commissioners vote to authorize the Sheriff's surety bond following an election. The bond is in the amount of \$25,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Webb to approve the Sheriff's bond as presented. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

MUTUAL AID RENEWAL

In presenting this item, the County Manager pointed out McDowell County has mutual aid agreements with adjoining counties in probably every emergency services area, one of which is with law enforcement and very routine. He advised with an election, the agreement should be renewed and the Board had authorized it previously. Therefore, Mr. Abernathy asked that the Board authorize the same Mutual Aid Agreement under which the Sheriff had been functioning.

In discussion, the County Attorney suggested it would probably be good to check to make sure there are no issues with insurance coverage while working outside the County. The County Manager asked the Finance Officer to make sure the mutual aid agreements are copied to the insurance carriers and that they are made aware deputies operate outside the County under this provision. He noted this would apply to EMS workers as well.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreements consistent with the one previously used by the Sheriff's Department, pursuant to the County Manager's direction regarding insurance. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Following is the Mutual Aid Agreement as approved for law enforcement:

McDOWELL COUNTY RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 160A-288, the governing body of a county may adopt appropriate guidelines for the purpose of mutual assistance with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said laws, the law enforcement assistance to be rendered authorizes lending officers to work temporarily with officers of the requesting agencies, including in an undercover capacity, and lending equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interests of the citizens of <u>McDowell</u> <u>County</u> to adopt a reasonable policy and guidelines whereby reciprocal law enforcement assistance can be both rendered to and obtained from other governmental jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, such reciprocal assistance is necessary for effective law enforcement for the protection of the citizens of McDowell County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the <u>McDowell County Board of Commissioners</u> that:

- 1. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into mutual assistance arrangements with other municipal and county law enforcement agencies, provided that the head of the requesting law enforcement agency makes such a request in writing.
- 2. That Sheriff is hereby authorized to permit officers of the <u>McDowell</u> Sheriff's Office to work temporarily with officers of the requesting agency, including in an undercover capacity, and the Sheriff may lend such equipment and supplies to requesting agencies as he deems advisable.
- 3. All such request and authorizations shall be in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 160A-288, as applicable.
- 4. While working with a requesting agency, an officer shall have the same jurisdiction, powers, rights, privileges and immunities (including those relating to the defense of civil actions and payment of judgments) as the officers of the requesting agency in addition to those the officer normally possesses.
- 5. While on duty with the requesting agency, an officer shall be subject to the lawful operational commands of the officer's superior officers in the requesting agency, but the officer shall for personnel and administrative purposes, remain under the control of the officer's own agency, including for purposes of pay. An officer shall furthermore be entitled to worker's compensation and the same benefits to the extent as though he were functioning with the normal scope of the officer's duties.
- 6. The Sheriff is hereby authorized to enter into mutual assistance agreements with other law enforcement agencies in accordance with such reasonable arrangements, terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the respective heads of the law enforcement agencies.

This the 6th day of December, 2010.

APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE OF VALUES

First, the County Manager made reference to the resolution that basically says the Board is approving the Schedule of Values, noting that the Board had met twice concerning this issue, including the public hearing that is required by the Machinery Act. He advised there had been quite a bit of input and questions by the Board and staff concerning the Schedule of Values. Following the adoption, whether done tonight or whenever, the Schedule of Values has to be advertised for three consecutive weeks

stating it is available for public inspection, and it is then sent to the State of North Carolina for their review and assumed approval.

Mr. Abernathy briefly addressed the rate which in previous discussions had been pretty much the issue. He pointed out the residential rate had been lowered from 74 to 72, with some discussion of lowering it further to 70. He asked Mr. Ebert to address where the issue currently stands.

Mr. Ebert stated he was present to hopefully witness approval of the Schedule of Values, noting there were no individual values in the book—only the standards, rules, and procedures that the Assessor's office is to use and follow, not only for the 2011 year appraisal but for subsequent tax years until the next appraisal, whether four, six or eight years. He proceeded to address the land values and passed out a schedule for ranges of value as shown:

The 2011 Reapppraisal Land Use Price per acre range from the 2003 rate (per category) to the 2011 State Property Tax Commission recommended rate (per category)

| Agriculture: | <u>from</u> | <u>to</u> |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| | \$750.00 | \$1,200 |
| Horticulture | <u>from</u> | <u>to</u> |
| | \$1,500.00 | \$2,260.00 |
| Forestry | | |
| | <u>from</u> | <u>to</u> |
| | \$300.00 | \$355.00 |

A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Ebert continued by addressing the three types of valuations that are considered (the cost approach, market analysis approach, and the income approach) the factors that are used to establish a base rate and some of the features that are considered in making adjustments.

Commissioner Lavender explained the research he had done in the surrounding regions in comparison with the state averages, noting the Board should not short change themselves, particularly in a couple of years. Mr. Ebert responded to his comments and again, Commissioner Lavender said he liked the 72 rate, and gave justification noting the fact that they would have time to tweak it.

Chairman Walker gave each commissioner opportunity to comment, after which he expressed his appreciation for the work Mr. Ebert has done. He asked Mr. Ebert to "plug in" 70, 71 & 72 and allow the Board to look at them.

A general discussion followed.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the Schedule of Values with a \$70.00 range based on the discussion tonight. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous

Commissioner Webb then made a motion to approve *A RESOLUTION OF SCHEDULE OF VALUES ACCEPTANCE* as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and by a unanimous vote, the motion carried with the Resolution adopted as follows:

McDOWELL COUNTY RESOLUTION OF SCHEDULE OF VALUES ACCEPTANCE

WHEREAS, the consultant for McDowell County, Mr. Tom Ebert, has developed a schedule of values to be used in the valuation of the McDowell County 2011 revaluation, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with GS 105-317, the schedule of values has been presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their review, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the proposed schedule of values and corrections have been made as directed by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners as follows:

- 1. The Board accepts and adopts the 2011 Schedule of Values as it is presented to the Board as a guide to use in the valuation of real property in the 2011 revaluation.
- 2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption, this the 6th day of December, 2010.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND UPDATE, EMS WRITE-OFFS

The County Manager advised the audit was approved by the State and that the report will be presented in January. The rating is good news and things continue to be positive.

The Finance Officer presented the following budget amendments for the Board's approval:

- GF 12 Transfers \$13,000 from the Workers Compensation Insurance line item to the Building and Vehicle Insurance line item.
- GF 13 Replaces a non-functioning refrigerator at the Jail. The amendment also budgets the sale of phone cards to inmates, a new program that the Sheriff initiated that returns 100% of sales to McDowell County. The amendment appropriates funds within the Sheriff's budget.
- GF 14 This amendment handles multiple adjustments including the Burn Building which was previously approved. Transportation funds is received from a grant. Tax Management and Collection Expense are the audits that are in foreclosures (this is paid from the collection). The watershed and radio equipment for EMA are "roll-forward" funds from the previous fiscal year.
- GF 15 Amendments that are less than \$3,000. The County Manager is authorized by the Board to approve these without its formal approval. The amendment includes the replacement of a computer that crashed and inmate labor for public works.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve budget amendments #GF 12 through #15 as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Abernathy then gave a report on two months of sales tax (July & August) which is shown just over \$80,000 in the black, and property tax which he noted is "right on the money". He provided the following list of items that are obligations made for this fiscal year (unbudgeted):

Fund Balance Appropriation \$210,101

Carpet/Roof at Library \$45,000 (this is a roll forward from 09-10)

Jury Parking Lot Paving \$25,000

Pool Repairs \$45,179

Part F Grant (Trails) \$183,500 (could be broken into two fiscal years)

Burn Building \$50,000

Raise approved for Sept. \$125,000

| Jail Boiler | \$30,000 |
|-------------|----------|
| | |

Wrecked Ambulance \$19,501

Roof at Mission \$10,000

Full Payment for Nebo Base Station

Payment for Sugar Hill Water Line

Total \$606,531 (This does not include the roll forward

and only half the Part F Grant)

Continuing with his budget update, Mr. Abernathy then addressed the following items as impacts for next fiscal year:

| Purchase Property for Water Plant | \$1,050,000 (will be financed) |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2 nd ADA Bathroom/Courthouse | \$25,000 |
| Renovate Building for Bldg. Inspections | \$72,000 |
| Panic Alarm and Renovation | \$10,000 |
| Maple Leaf Restroom | \$100,000 (very much an estimate) |
| Payment for Ambulance 1 | \$40,881 |
| Payment for Ambulance 2 | \$39,001 |
| Payment for Ambulance 3 | \$40,881 |
| Heart Monitors | \$30,414 |
| Sheriff Vehicles | \$25,000 |
| 3 new Sheriff Vehicles | \$25,000 |
| Budget Raise Granted in Sept. | \$142,500 |
| Second Payment for Part F | \$91,750 |
| | |

Mr. Abernathy noted the estimate for the Sugar Hill Road water and sewer line is \$2.5 million. Grants have been secured for \$1.3 million. The County share will be 40% of the remaining amount and will be financed. A loader at the Transfer Station will be needed but this payment could be put off until 2012.

\$35,188

Mr. Abernathy concluded with comments about the County's rating from the North Carolina Municipal Council report concerning the financial condition of the County, which is positive, and the good fund balance for last fiscal year.

In discussion, Commissioner Webb asked, with so much good information contained in the North Carolina Municipal Council report that puts things in perspective, could that report he placed on the County's website for the public's viewing. The County Manager agreed to have this done.

EMS billing "write-offs" for November that were inadvertently left out of scanning were presented for the Board's approval (total amount of \$14,262.16). A question was raised concerning the collection rate. The Finance Officer stated she would report back to the Board regarding this.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the uncollectible EMS "write-offs" as presented. Commissioner Dobson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

SOLAR PANEL BIDS AND UPDATE

The County Manager pointed out the installation of solar panels on the Senior Center and County Jail had taken longer than anticipated. The Board had approved the contracts with FLS Energy for this in the spring of 2010. Through encouragement of FLS, McDowell County then applied for an energy grant in the amount of \$66,749. The grant was unknown at the time the County was negotiating with FLS. The grant was awarded which caused the numbers in the contract to be incorrect. However, the savings to the County will be greater than originally anticipated.

Mr. Abernathy advised the grant required a formal RFP process which caused further delays, but this was necessary based on the guidelines involved, and the County will enter into an agreement for maintenance, etc. Bids were received and opened on Friday, December 3rd, resulting in revised savings.

Mr. Brownie Newman of FLS Energy was present and spoke concerning the savings the County will realize, particularly since FLS will fully fund the costs to install the solar panels. He pointed out the original contract would have benefited the County but the grant award makes the savings even greater.

A general discussion followed.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McPeters to approve a revised contract with FLS Energy, with said contract reflecting the changes as discussed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Walker thanked the staff for their work in this project.

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Walker declared the Board in public hearing for the purpose of discussing funds available through the Community Development Block Gran (CDBG) program.

In general comments, the County Manager said this is a good example of how things can be done, noting the need for two public hearings with the second one giving more information. The hearing relates to the "Building Reuse and Renovation" category which is used to provide funds for the up fitting of existing buildings and applies to an existing business. The grant amount is capped at \$750,000.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for public comment, but none were heard.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

No further action was needed at this time.

LGC FINANCING APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Walker next moved to the public hearing on a financing application that is proposed to be submitted to the LGC. Chairman Walker noted the advertisement for the public hearing and declared the Board in a Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving citizen comment on the proposal. Chairman Walker recognized the County Manager and the Finance Officer and asked that they overview the project.

The County Manager provided an overview of the project which was described as a five year interest by the Board in pursuing a source for treated water at Lake James. Several workshops were held by the Board with officials from the State, with Duke Power, contracted engineers and other officials. The consensus and direction provided in early 2010 was to proceed with the project and to focus on a specific 265 acre site owned by Crescent Resources located near the power generation dams on Lake James. Additional due diligence was performed on the property and the County placed the property under option for \$1,043,000.

A general discussion followed.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, to go out of public hearing. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Finance Officer reviewed the LGC application with the Board and banking proposals received to finance the project. The proposed financing would be with RBC Centura for a ten year term with an interest rate of 3.25%. Alison Morgan explained that

the amount to be financed would be \$1,066,000 and included bank fees, closing costs, survey, and a Phase 1 Environmental Audit.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Webb, to approve the contract amendment and extension thereof, approve the down-payment of \$25,000 to \$30,000 to authorize the LGC application and approve the bank bid. Further, that Exhibit C be clarified and to authorize any further necessary changes. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

HEALTH COALITION UPDATE

Shamaree Cromartie, of the Health Coalition, came before the Board with an update. First, she thanked the Board for their support and cooperation, and invited them to an event on Friday, December 10th, for food and social interaction. She advised that a community assessment would be done in 2012.

Commissioner Webb asked about the impact for obesity in regard to the "trails" program in McDowell. Ms. Cromartie, along with her colleague Mary Smith, addressed the advantages of having trails, supporting physical activities, and eating healthy. The County Manager further noted the various items related to trails that are underway.

A general discussion followed. The idea was mentioned of having a commissioner serve on their board and attend the meetings. Two County employees are currently on the board (Weyland Prebor and Kristin Mart).

WATER LINE BIDS FOR HARMONY GROVE ROAD

The County Manager presented the following bid tabulation (unofficial) for Harmony Grove Water Line:

| C&W Utilities | \$175,554.80 |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| T&K Utilities | \$185,760.00 |
| Payne McGee | \$187,164.98 |
| Steppe Construction | \$191,574.65 |
| Hickory Sand Company | \$209,660.00 |
| Blytheco Construction | \$213,410.40 |
| Disaster Recovery | \$221,540.00 |
| Himley Construction | \$226,324.00 |

\$282,220.00

The low bid of \$175,554.80 from C&W Utilities was staff's recommendation for acceptance, pending final authorization of the EPA.

A general discussion followed concerning the existing bad situations in the area. The issue of tap fees was mentioned. Facility Maintenance Director Terry Depoyster addressed this, noting that they have surveyed the area and would be putting tap right at their homes to make everything in the citizen's favor for convenience. The County Manager pointed out that in this situation, there is more grant than project which is good. Chairman Walker stated he would be in favor of waiving the tap fees.

Mr. Abernathy asked if there was a problem in going on South Creek Road as opposed to Harmony Grove Road. A general discussion followed.

Mr. Abernathy pointed out the action needed was to authorize inclusion of the certified bid results into the minutes and to approve the low bid of \$175,554.80 from C&W Utilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender, seconded by Commissioner McPeters, to approve the bids received for the Harmony Grove Road water line extension, to accept the low bid of \$175,554.80 from C&W Utilities, and to waive the tap fees for three months. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Chairman Walker stated four individuals had signed up to speak under Citizen Comment. He recognized Frank Denniston, Jr. at this time. Mr. Denniston stated he had attended the November meeting at which time a request was made for a transportation survey to be conducted by the State Department of Transportation. He requested an update on this issue. Commissioner Webb pointed out he had been in contact with a staff member at Foothills Industries concerning having a study done and that there had been discussion about this issue. He asked if County staff had received anything concerning a study. Neither the County Manager nor the Clerk to the Board had received anything at this point.

A brief discussion followed. The County Manager agreed to inquire about the proposed request.

Mrs. Anne Allen advised she did not plan to talk but would take the opportunity to mention that only two counties in the State do not have public transportation (Terrell and McDowell). She complimented the Board on their "good money management", noting that other counties do have public transportation and it is time for McDowell to have it as well.

Peggy Walker, the new priest at the St. Johns Episcopal Church, mentioned a wreck in which an individual was badly injured and how terrible it is for that person to get to the doctor, etc.

Joyce Winiarski stated she does not want to move but with a son in Asheville with melanoma, she feels she will need to move at some time. She advised she is in support of county-wide transportation.

TAX AND WATER BILL MATTERS – RELEASES AND REFUNDS

The usual listing of tax and water bill releases/refunds was presented for the Board's approval. In summary, the tax items were as follows:

Tax Releases Under \$100.00 Released amount of \$420.63

Tax Releases Over \$100.00 Released amount of \$7,104.08

Motor Vehicle Releases Under \$100.00 Released amount of \$448.44

Motor Vehicle Releases Over \$100.00 Released amount of \$49,211.05

Tax Release Refunds Refunded amount of \$3,327.29

Commissioner McPeters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Webb, to approve tax releases/refunds as presented. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The County Manager addressed the need for additional restroom facilities at the Maple Leaf Ball Field complex. Currently Maple Leaf has only one restroom for male and female. He pointed out the County had contracted with Chuck Hamrick to design/construct a new facility, noting that due to the drainage and well infrastructure in the ground, the current building could not be expanded to accomplish what is needed to meet new code and ADA requirements.

Facility Maintenance Director Terry DePoyster recommended keeping the Maple Leaf facility at the current code and build a new facility on the west side of the property, and to change the facility from a Youth Complex to an Adult Convention Center. He recommended using block construction, inmate labor, and do water and sewer which would function with a ¾ in. tap.

Mr. Abernathy suggested doing construction by April and to formally bid the work. Concerning meeting with the Utility Committee to discuss this, the County Manager pointed out the December meeting had been cancelled, but maybe he and City Manager Bob Boyette could handle the one item. The idea of having a changing room

for those using the facility was mentioned. Also, Chairman Walker mentioned the need for netting to cover the entire field to alleviate any hazards, or injuries.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING COMMISSIONER COMMITTEES

Chairman Walker noted that since the Board had appointed Pat Burnette to the Nursing Home Advisory Committee last month, the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman had requested that she also serve on the Adult Care Home Committee, if the Board would agree. That being the case, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Pat Burnette to the Adult Care Home Committee.

Vacancies on the Agricultural Committee were presented on first reading, to be posted and advertised.

Concerning former Commissioner Dean Buff's replacement on various committees, Chairman David Walker agreed to serve on the Utility Committee, unless Commissioner Dobson would want to serve on that Committee. Commissioner Dobson agreed to allow Chairman Walker to serve on the Utility Committee. Commissioner McPeters said he would be willing to allow Commissioner Dobson to serve on the Health Board due to family commitments. Chairman Walker asked that Commissioner Dobson take the Isothermal Board and be able to learn regional issues. The Keep McDowell Beautiful and Focal Point appointments will be decided at a later date.

VARIOUS HOLIDAY MATTERS

The County Manager advised County offices will be closed for Christmas holidays on December 24th and 27th and on December 31st for New Year's Day. The Annual Employee Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th. He noted that part-time employees received the Christmas Bonus. Also, he agreed to play any school concerts, plays, etc. on the County's Government Channel as long as they are taped.

Further, Mr. Abernathy noted the New Year's celebration on New Year's Eve, starting at 9:00 p.m., sponsored by the Rotary Club, along with other related events. Hours of operation for Christmas holidays at the Convenience Centers were also mentioned.

MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD

Concerning the meeting with the Board of Education, Chairman Walker advised he had spoken with Dr. Trollinger and discussed the County's financial situation. Plans are to have a dinner meeting. Chairman Walker asked what date the Board would prefer. The 4th Monday, January 24th, was suggested. By consensus, the Board agreed to meet on January 24th at 6:00 p.m., with the location to be determined.

DOWNTOWN FACADE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Concerning the Downtown Façade Program, Mr. Abernathy advised the City Council would be discussing this as well. He pointed out the McDowell Economic Development Association, the Marion Downtown Business Association, the City Council and Board of Commissioners would be sponsoring this program. Donations of \$7,500 will be made by both the MEDA Board and the Marion DBA and the grant will be capped at \$5,000. Mr. Abernathy noted plans of holding a meeting of the four groups in order to get their input for this program.

A general discussion followed. More information will be forthcoming.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

First, Chairman Walker welcomed Commissioner Dobson to the Board.

The County Manager mentioned two dates, the first one being the public input session with the National Park Service regarding the Over Mountain Victory Trail headquarters. This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse. Mr. Abernathy encouraged at least one Commissioner to be present and speak concerning this issue. The second date was December 11th, for the annual Rescue Squad Dinner, scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

With this being the Christmas season, Chairman Walker then gave each Commissioner an opportunity to offer a Christmas greeting, etc. to the public. This opportunity was extended to the County Manager and Clerk to the Board as well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Webb and a second by Commissioner McPeters, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER, CHAIRMAN

CARRIE PADGETT
CLERK TO THE BOARD