

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – APRIL 8, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Barry McPeters, Lynn Greene, and Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Call to Order

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. The invocation was given by Josh Jarrett, New Manna Girls Basketball Asst. Coach, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by New Manna Girls Basketball Team.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the March 11, 2019 Regular Session, March 18, 2019, and March 28, 2019 Recessed Session minutes as presented. By unanimous vote 5-0, the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene to approve the agenda. By unanimous vote 5-0, the motion passed.

Recognition of New Manna Team

The following resolution was presented for approval:

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE NEW MANNA LADY WIND
BASKETBALL TEAM**

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize the outstanding performance by the student athletes and the coaches of the New Manna Christian School Girls Basketball team during the 2018-2019 basketball season; and,

WHEREAS, the New Manna Christian School Girls Basketball team advanced through the North Carolina Christian School Association winning the 1A State Championship for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019; and,

WHEREAS, the team has a combined 33-8 record over the past two years; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting for the McDowell County Board of Commissioners to recognize and congratulate Head Basketball Coach Curtis Styles; Assistant Coach Josh Jarrett; and Team Members Alexis Duncan; Daylee Styles; Sunshyne Shirley; Breigh Stewart; Karsen Shirley; Allie Jarrett; Jessica Gill; Kayleigh Phillips; Emma Davis; and Geneva Wiseman; and

WHEREAS, individual honors go to Breigh Stewart for All-State Selection; and Daylee Styles and Alexis Duncan for All-Region Selection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the McDowell County Board of Commissioners that the student athletes and coaching staff of New Manna Lady Wind are to be congratulated on winning the North Carolina Christian School Association State 1A Championship.

ADOPTED this 8th day of April, 2019.

Attest:

David Walker, Chair
McDowell County Board of Commissioners

Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve *Resolution in Honor of New Manna Lady Wind Basketball Team*, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The Board expressed their congratulations to the team and coaches. Pictures were made of the presentation with the team.

Shooting Range Update

Staff requested proposals for the appraisal of the Ashworth Road Tract. The State of NC had asked the county for a donation of part of the property, and the value of the property had to be determined before the transaction could take place. Frank Dean submitted the lowest cost appraisal proposal and had begun work on the project.

ARC Grant/Universal Access Road

Mr. Wooten noted the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) was currently receiving proposals for their annual funding cycle. All proposals must be submitted by April 12th, and the funding would require a 30% cost share. Mr. Wooten suggested submitting a proposal for funds toward the construction of what is tentatively called Shell Road at the Universal property. The cost share could be between \$200,000 and \$300,000. If approved the funding would likely not be available for at least 12-18 months.

Discussion followed by the Board on the proposal.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to proceed with grant proposal, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Property Revaluation Update

Mr. Tim Cain, Revaluation Director gave an update on the property revaluation. He noted the department is wrapping up informal appeals. There were 3,211 informal appeals received, which is 10.26% of total parcels. He added formal appeals with the Board of Equalization & Review are scheduled to begin on April 25th and end on May 16th.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Cain for the professionalism he and the staff had displayed through this process.

Water Infrastructure Planning

Mr. Wooten noted now that the Stacy Hill Road waterline project was complete, staff would like to move forward with planning for additional waterline extensions and/or water system improvements. He and Mr. Terry Depoyster, Public Services Director, had attended a grant funding opportunities workshop, and would like to have consent from the Board to pursue funding options for engineering studies on where to proceed with waterlines.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion giving consent to staff to look for funding for furthering water system, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Capital Facilities Updates

Mr. Wooten gave an update on some county facility projects:

- Election building – bids have been sent out for renovation construction
- Foothills Pilot Plant – process of giving the building a thorough cleaning; assessing equipment and determining how to dispose of equipment through a Board-authorized process; have architect look at building for best possible future use
- Probation/Parole needs space; staff is looking for space

Recognition of Tony Sturey

Mr. William Kehler, EM Director, presented the following resolution for approval:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR MR. TONY STUREY

WHEREAS, Mr. Tony Sturey grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and attended Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey began his meteorological career at the National Weather Service (NWS) in 1983, and his job designations have ranged from Intern and Forecaster, to Senior Meteorologist, and for the last ten years has served as Warning and Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at the Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey provided High Impact Weather Education, Outreach, Training, and specialty services to a variety of constituents/state agencies in parts of Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey has engaged with federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Nuclear Regulatory Commission, FBI, and many others; and

WHEREAS, he worked with the Secret Service, FBI and Charlotte Mecklenburg Emergency Management in support of Rev. Billy Graham's outdoor funeral in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey was the lead for the NWS Decision Support Services for the 2012 Democratic National Convention (DNC), a National Special Security Event; and also the World Equestrian Games at the Tryon Equestrian Facility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey has provided valuable assistance to McDowell County Emergency Management and their partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sturey led McDowell County through the Storm Ready Certification process; and provided crucial guidance to Emergency Management during numerous high impact events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners do hereby express their appreciation and congratulations to Warning and Coordination Meteorologist Tony Sturey on his retirement after over 36 years of dedicated public service with National Weather Service; and for the hard work, dedication and years of support for McDowell Emergency Management.

Adopted this day, the 8th of April, 2019

Attest:

David N. Walker, Chair
McDowell County Board of Commissioners

Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve *Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Tony Sturey*, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Sturey and his work with McDowell Emergency Management. Photo was taken of the resolution presentation.

Administrative Items

Mr. Wooten presented a request from Gene Holland for tipping fee waiver at the transfer station. Mr. Holland removed debris from his business and took the waste as an individual not as business owner. Mr. Wooten noted the fee schedule governs the fee charged.

Discussion was held regarding business owners hauling their own garbage.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to deny the request, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

EMS Station Project Update

Mr. William Kehler, EM Director, gave a presentation on the EMS Building Project- North Station. The EM staff had considered several different properties considering response times, operational feasibility, cost, as well as safety. The former bank building located at 2945 US

221N met all requirements for the North Station. The location would maintain an adequate response time back into the downtown area, while improving response times on average of five minutes for the citizens in Woodlawn, PG. North Cove, Hankins and the north side of Lake James.

Mr. Kehler recommended the Board purchase the property for the negotiated price of \$360,000, which was approximately \$75,000 less than the 2019 tax card value. The property had been evaluated by an architect and determined a truck bay could be added to the rear of the building along with other interior modifications that would serve the long-term needs of EMS for decades. Mr. Kehler also presented a signed agreement from the owner on the price of \$360,000.

Discussion followed by board members.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to move forward with the purchase and have staff research best possible means of financing for renovations, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Administrative Items

Mr. Wooten presented a water fee waiver request from the Chacon residence for \$1,325.49 on the Nebo Water System. The amount was for half of the bill received due to the massive water leak.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to grant the fee waiver, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Request received from Relay for Life organizers to waive the tipping fees for the dumpsters that are used during the event.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The final draft of the TQA lease was submitted for approval. The Board had discussed the lease in a previous meeting.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0 the motion carried.

Mercy Fund Animal Rescue submitted a request for a microchip reader. The county's Animal Services had one they could donate.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to donate the reader, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The Human Resources Department submitted a revised pay plan with additions and changes for approval.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

An easement between Duke Energy and the county was presented. The fire pump at the Universal pond needed a new electrical service and an aerial line was the most cost efficient.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Budget Amendments

The Finance Department requested approval of \$138,090.36 in write-offs, also presented a Stacy Hill Water Line Project Amendment 3 Project Budget Ordinance and Kate B. Reynolds Community Paramedic Expansion Amendment 1 Project Budget Ordinance for approval.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve write-offs, and project budget ordinances, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The Finance Dept. received four responses regarding the financing of vehicles for the EMS, Public Works and the Sheriff's Dept. The vehicles all previously approved by the Board at previous meeting were:

- (1) 2019 Ford F450 Ambulance
- (1) 2019 New Way Mammoth Front Loader refuse truck
- (2) 2019 Dodge Charger Pursuit vehicles
- (2) 2019 Dodge Durango Pursuit
- (1) 2019 Ram 1500 Tradesman Classic 4x4 Crew

The following responses were received:

BB&T	2.71%
SunTrust	2.752%
First Citizens	2.80%
Carolina Alliance	3.85%

The Finance Dept. recommended approval of BB&T at 2.71% in the amount of \$663,731, for a period of four years (8) semi-annual payments in arrears beginning October, 2019.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve *Resolution Approving Financing Terms* with BB&T for \$663,731 at 2.71% for four years, second by Vice Chair Brown. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

The following budget amendments were presented for approval:

GF 46 - transfers between line items in various departments below \$3,000

GF 47 – Appropriates grant funds for the Library

GF 48 – Appropriates program revenues at the Animal Shelter

GF 49 – Appropriates program revenues at the Sheriff's Office

GF 50 – Appropriates various revenues to related expenditures line items

GF 51 – Appropriates grant revenues and interest income to Elections

GF 52 – Transfers between line items and appropriates reserved funds in Emergency Services

GF 53 – Transfers between line items in Facility Maintenance

GF 54 – Transfers between line items and appropriates revenue in DSS

FD2 – Allocates estimated property tax revenues to the fire districts

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to approve budge amendments GF 46-GF54 and FD2, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Proclamation for Child Abuse/Neglect Awareness

Mr. Wooten presented a request from the Dept. of Social Services for approval of the following proclamation:

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in McDowell County for the fiscal year 2018 there were 824 reports of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of McDowell County; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2019 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH in McDowell County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2019.

Attest:

David N. Walker, Chair

Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve *Child Abuse/Neglect Awareness Month Proclamation*, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Tax Matters

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

Write-offs	\$ 855.23
Refunds	\$ 386.24
MV tax refunds	\$ 734.56
Releases over \$100	\$3,759.54

Commissioner McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Vaughn to approve all tax matters. By unanimous vote of 5-0, the motion carried.

Board Appointments

The Planning Board vacancy was presented as a second reading with one application: Corey MacKinnon.

The Transportation Advisory Board was presented as a second reading with one application: Zach Wallace

The IPDC/Region C Workforce Development was presented as a second reading for reappointment of Mark Weber and Nikki Pittman.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to approve all applicants, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Citizen Comment

Chair Walker opened the floor for public comments at 6:10 pm.

Judy Long--

*asked if the Board knew who had picked up the litter on Old Fort/Sugar Hill Rd.

Commissioner Vaughn noted that Debbie and Bill Bach had cleaned up the roadside litter and had found a piece of paper with a name and address on it. They had submitted the paper to the Sheriff's office.

*The business she works for has been waiting 9 weeks for a septic permit

*Advised Polk County had pulled out of the district health department, and also phone system in the health department is not user friendly.

Ann Harkey—

*status of proposed dog park- current phase of the greenway doesn't have a place for a dog park since the phase of the greenway is in a floodplain. The county has approximately \$20,000 in designated funds for the dog park.

*requested 2 dog parks--one for large animals and one for small animals

Michael Thomas---

*serves on the Library Board and learned more about the county by attending tonight's meeting

Public comment ended at 6:22 pm.

Reports and Communications

Mr. Wooten reported the Board had received invites to the following:

Child Abuse Awareness event on Tuesday, April 16th at 1:30 at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

McDowell Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Thursday, April 11th, at 6:00pm

He also noted the lift for the Marion Library would soon be installed.

Adjourned

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Vice Chair Brown, second by Commissioner McPeters, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Attest:

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD