

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – JULY 27, 2020**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 11:30 a.m., at the Universal Conference Room, 634 College Drive, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn.

Members Absent

Barry McPeters and Lynn Greene.

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Lisa Sprouse, DSS Director.

Call to Order

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Commissioners/Staff Reports and Communications

Chairman Walker began the meeting by noting that the Department of Social Services building has been closed for over a week due to several COVID-19 positive employees. He noted the purpose of the meeting today was to discuss the resumption of operations in the facility.

Chairman Walker also noted that Commissioners Greene and McPeters would not be at the meeting, but he had spoken with both. He indicated that both commissioners indicated they wanted employees to return to the facility when there are negative tests.

Ms. Sprouse noted that except for the employees who were initially identified as positive, there have been no additional positives out of the rest of the staff. She noted the employees that have tested positive will need a negative result before they can return to work.

Ms. Sprouse mentioned that she had spoken with Health Director Karen Powell, who recommended that staff who can telework should do so for the time being until the community's situation improves.

Chairman Walker suggested that all negative employees return twenty-one days from July 27. He suggested that all other current proactive measures continue to take place.

Vice Chairman Brown and Ms. Sprouse discussed the level of interaction between employees while in the building. She noted that Economic Services is more able to work independently than Child Welfare. Mr. Brown indicated he would give a 30-day window for employees to return to the building.

Commissioner Vaughn asked about the technology that is available for interoffice communication. She also asked about the technology available for employees working in the home.

After a general discussion about resumption of building activities, the Board directed by consensus for staff to return to the building effective September 1. In the meantime, supervisors, clerical staff, and volunteers will be allowed to return to the building effective July 29.

Property Sale Update

Mr. Wooten noted for the Board that the Forest Lake Heights property sale had concluded. The county netted \$175,000 from the sale of the property. He noted that there had been discussion of using the proceeds for an employee salary adjustment. Staff has looked into the possibility and noted that a one-step raise could be done effective August 1. The total budgetary impact would be about \$140,000.

Vice Chairman made a motion to approve the one-step increase effective August 1, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Chairman Walker indicated that he would like to see the balance of the funds used for capital improvements at recreation properties such as the Recreation Center or Maple Leaf Sports Complex.

Vice Chairman made a motion to allocate the remainder of the sale proceeds to recreation capital improvements, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Vice Chairman Brown and a second by Commissioner Vaughn, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Ashley R. Wooten
Deputy Clerk to the Board

David N. Walker
Chairman