

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – APRIL 12, 2021**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., at the Universal Conference Room, 634 College Drive, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chair; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Attorney Fred Coats; Allison Bell

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Vice Chairman Walker, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Ellis.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion, second by Commissioner Ellis, to approve the March 8, 2021 Regular Session, and March 15, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the March 8, 2021 Closed Session minutes, second by Vice Chairman Walker. By a vote of 5-0, the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to add trash discussion; zoom discussion; mask wearing discussion; and Recreation gym discussion. Also add a Closed Session for discussion of personnel matter, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion carried.

COVID-19/Vaccine Update

Mr. William Kehler gave the following update:

- Day 393 at the EOC for COVID-19 under Level 2 Activation
- 4,935 positives; 77 deaths; and 9.8% positivity rate
- Hospitalizations remain low; and no outbreaks at congregate living facilities
- 13,233 residents have received the first dose; 9,671 have completed the series of vaccines
- Supply is greater than demand for vaccinations at this time
- Outreach to homebound for vaccinations; working with homeless and vaccinated approximately 100 members of the homeless population
- Situation is stable in the county

Vice Chairman Walker asked Mr. Kehler if Pfizer and Moderna use aborted tissue per a rumor going around, and Mr. Kehler replied no that was not true per the CDC.

Mr. Kehler noted the National Weather Service confirmed an EF-0 tornado with 80mph winds had touched down in eastern McDowell County around 8:10 p.m. on April 10. The tornado had a 0.6-mile path length and a 540-foot maximum width. There were no injuries or deaths reported in the storm, but there were numerous structures damaged, and residences suffered some roof damage

Election Equipment Purchase

Ms. Kim Welborn, Elections Director, reported ADA compliant equipment must be used at the election polls. The current voting machines were bought in 2006, and are not ADA compliant. She had received a quote from Election Systems & Software for 21 ADA compliant ExpressVote BMD Terminals for \$74,678.75 after accepting 21 AutoMARK machines as trade-in toward the purchase.

Ms. Welborn added there were \$49,894 in HAVA grant funds that would be received for the purchase of the machines and the remaining amount would be covered by available funds in the elections budget.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the purchase of the elections equipment, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Old Fort Park Update

Ms. Blair Melton, Planning and GIS Associate, presented updates on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the McDowell County System Master Greenway Plan for approval. A copy of the handouts is with the agenda materials.

The updated Master Plan includes renovating and developing new facilities for: Sandy Andrews Park; Woodlawn Roadside Park; Glenwood Park; Lindley Park and Old Fort Pool; Fonta Flora State Trail @ Greenlee Park (Catawba River Park); County Recreation Center; County Sports Complex; Future Fonta Flora State Trailhead Park in Old Fort; Future Black Bear Access Park; and Future North Fork River Park.

Also, developing facilities and programming for local greenways and regional linear trails: McDowell County Greenway Trail System; Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail; Fonta Flora State Trail; Wilderness Gateway State Trail; and Thermal Belt Rail Trail.

The Fonta Flora State Trail will connect 100 miles from Morganton to Asheville including a loop around Lake James. It will also be a part of the Pisgah National Forest System and will connect to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail with hiking and biking trail. Within the next three years the County is planning to make park improvements that will include expanding the Fonta Flora State Trail with a pedestrian bridge over the Catawba River; a Dog Park; and a playground.

The Town of Old Fort plans to develop and open the site to the public as the Fonta Flora State Trailhead at Old Fort Park within the next three years.

Ms. Melton also presented the following resolution for the county to again commit \$100,000 for a grant application to PARTF for the Town of Old Fort for approval.

**RESOLUTION BY MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN SUPPORT OF TOWN OF OLD FORT PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND
GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation has been authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly to award grant funds to eligible park, recreation and open space projects including recreational trails; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Old Fort seeks to develop the Fonta Flora State Trailhead at Old Fort Park with funds from this grant that will provide recreational opportunities including a playground, dog park, extension of the Fonta Flora State Trail, and public access to the Catawba River for fishing as well as protect a vital natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Old Fort developed a site plan and cost estimate for the Fonta Flora State Trailhead at Old Fort Park and Fonta Flora State Trail extension; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Old Fort projects the total cost of construction is an estimated \$660,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Old Fort intends to request funding from the Division of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$330,000 from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF).

WHEREAS, the Town of Old Fort intends to allocate \$100,000 in local match from the Town's General Fund, and utilize \$100,000 from a private donation being held in trust account restricted for the development of the Fonta Flora State Trailhead at Old Fort Park including construction of the Fonta Flora State Trail through the Park.

WHEREAS, the Town of Old Fort has requested financial support in the amount of \$100,000 from McDowell County Government to support the local match requirement for the PARTF grant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MCDOWELL COUNTY THAT:

Section 1. McDowell County Government will support the development of the Fonta Flora State Trailhead at Old Fort Park including extension of the Fonta Flora State Trail and commit \$100,000 from the County's General Fund to match the amount awarded by the State if the Town's application is approved. The funds will be provided to the Town on a reimbursement basis as payments are made to designers, contractors, etc.

Section 2. The Town of Old Fort will be responsible for the efficient operation and maintenance of the park, trail, and associated recreational facilities upon completion of the project.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 12th day of April, 2021

Attest:

Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown, Chairman

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve updated map; Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan; McDowell County System Master Greenway Plan; and Resolution by McDowell County Board of Commissioners in Support of Town of Old Fort Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion was approved.

Economic Development Public Hearing

Chairman Brown declared the Board in public hearing setting at 5:21pm pursuant to NCGS 158-7.1.

Mr. Chuck Abernathy, MEDA Director, noted this hearing was for an existing North Carolina company that had been in business for three years, and currently employs 47 employees in the telecommunications area. The jobs are diverse and pay an average of \$45,000 annually. The company also provides health insurance at 75% of cost.

The company would hire 25-50 new jobs within the first three years, and the work takes place outside of the building. The incentive proposed to be offered includes approximately 2.5 acres of property in the McDowell Industrial Park valued at \$45,000.

Chairman Brown asked for comments from the public.

Ken Buckner-- asked if the land was being given to them, and were they relocating

Mr. Abernathy noted the company was relocating here, and yes, the land would be given to them as part of the incentive. He added if the company is borrowing money they must own the land, if during the loan cycle the company defaults the land would revert back to the county. If the company owns and then sells, the land must be used for industrial use. He added the company would relocate in 90 days.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to go out of public hearing at 5:35pm, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Walker requested to be excused from voting due to he would be the landlord renting space to this company until the building in the Industrial Park was completed.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to excuse Vice Chairman Walker due to him being the landlord for the company, and making a direct profit, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the incentive with the stipulation, the property reverts back to the county if they default on the agreement, and can only be sold for manufacturing use unless the Board of Commissioners approves, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Housing Consortium Proposal

Mr. Steve Lockett, Foothills Regional Commission Interim Director, requested the county join a HOME consortium. The four counties and the participating municipalities in the Foothills Regional Commission would seek funds for housing improvement projects in the region. Mr. Lockett requested McDowell County to be the lead agency for the consortium. The funds would flow through the county, but the Commission would do the majority of the administrative work. The HOME Consortia would have access to \$800,000 for housing funding, and the Foothills Regional Commission would work as a region and decide on the projects.

Vice Chairman Walker asked if Ms. Alison Bell would have the time to process the extra work. Mr. Wooten noted he had spoken with Ms. Bell and she had agreed the Finance Department could handle the extra work, and Foothills Regional Commission had been great to work with in the past.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion for the County to participate in the Consortia and allow the Finance staff to administer the funds, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

2023 Revaluation Update

Mr. Tim Cain, Revaluation Director, and Tammy Wylie, Tax Assessor, discussed the 2023 Revaluation. Mr. Cain noted that 2019 was the last revaluation, and there were several appeals from that revaluation. He added several of the past revaluations were desktop reappraisals. The Board had decided for the 2023 revaluation every property would be visited, and the information would be compared to what was on the property owner's tax card.

Corrections would then be sent out if there was a discrepancy from the 2019 revaluation. The 2023 revaluation would be present value based, since all corrections would have been made by then. The goal is to have all data accurate, so when all property tax bills are sent out in 2023, every parcel would be assessed at the determined value in 2023.

Ms. Wylie noted per NCGS 105-312.4 (g and h) when property is discovered, it shall be taxed for the year in which it was discovered and for any of the preceding five years that it was taxed. There should also be a 10% penalty added for each year the property was not listed since 2019. She added in 2019 the dwelling and the property were listed separately on each parcel.

Discussion followed by the Board and Mr. Wooten. Mr. Wooten noted it would be very difficult to try to figure out why the property had not been listed in the past. One option was to make the discovery move forward and bill current year and don't try to figure out why the property was not listed. Ms. Wylie added there had been discussion of a threshold for assessing properties that had a \$25,000 or greater value to make the discovery and waive the penalty.

Following discussion, Commissioner Ellis made a motion after reviewing of the properties, making corrections for 2021 and 2022 with notice of assessment in 2019, and going back to that value. The discovery would be for \$25,000 or more, and waive any penalty, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

EMS Billing Update

Staff presented a formal proposal/contract from EMS|MC to perform the EMS billing for the county. The request was brought before the Board at the previous meeting on March 15, 2021.

Mr. Wooten clarified from the prior meeting involving the 5% billing fee: EMS|MC charges a 5% fee for all bills that go through their hands. So, if a bill passes through their collection efforts and comes back to the county for additional efforts, the county would be required to pay 5% of that collected bill back to EMS|MC to cover any costs they incurred during their efforts. The company would be able to begin billing in July if the contract was approved. A copy of the contract is with the agenda materials.

Commissioner Ellis asked for clarification purposes the current collection rate was 66%, and the company would improve the rate to 80%. Ms Bell responded that was the collection rate for other counties that were using EMS|NC.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the outsourcing of the billing and the EMS|MC contract, second by Vice Chair Walker. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Emergency Services Building Update

Mr. Kehler presented a fundraising project proposal where individuals and businesses can donate funds to go towards equipment, etc for the new headquarters.

Commissioner Ellis left the meeting at 6:05pm, and returned at 6:07pm.

The fundraising request was for room sponsorships and the selling of Memorial bricks to be installed in the memorial garden to honor fallen emergency personnel in McDowell County.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the fundraising program, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Budget Process Update

Mr. Wooten presented the following dates for budget planning:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| • School Board Meeting | April 16 | at Old Fort Elementary |
| • Fire Department Tax Request | May 13 | at William Harold Smith Bldg at MTCC |
| • Fire Commission | May 13 | at William Harold Smith Bldg at MTCC |
| • Budget Presentation | May 24 | |
| • Budget Public Hearing | June 14 | |
| • Budget Adoption | June 30 | |

Public Shooting Range Update

Mr. Wooten and Chairman Brown visited the Public Shooting Range site. The bridge over Muddy Creek construction is ongoing, and remains a bottleneck to access the range site for work.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Proclamation

CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in McDowell County for the fiscal year 2020 there were 724 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 2021 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 12th day of April, 2021.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown, Chair

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Administrative Items

Mr. Wooten presented a Resolution Approving Financing Terms for: one 2022 Ford F450 Ambulance; one 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4; two 2021 Dodge Charger pursuit; one 2021 Dodge Durango Pursuit; and one 2022 Ford F250 Crew Cab 4x4, for the Emergency Medical Services, Sheriff's Office, and the Recreation Department.

The Finance Department received the following responses for financing:

- BB&T (Truist Bank) 1.20%
- First Citizens 1.30%
- Park National 1.569%
- First Bank 1.70%

Truist Bank responded with the lowest rate of 1.20% in the amount of \$523,284.91, for a period of four years (8) semi-annual payments in arrears beginning November 2021.

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

WHEREAS: The McDowell County, NC ("Borrower") has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing of various vehicles & equipment (the "Project"), and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Borrower hereby determines to finance the Project through Truist Bank ("Lender") in accordance with the proposal dated April 6, 2021. The amount financed shall not exceed \$523,284.91, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 1.20%, and the financing term shall not exceed four (4) years from closing.
2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Borrower are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.
3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing

Documents previously signed by Borrower officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Department shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.

4. The Borrower shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The Borrower hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).
5. The Borrower intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the Borrower's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Project that are to be financed from the proceeds of the Lender financing described above. The Borrower intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Borrower's general fund or any other Borrower fund related to the Project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.
6. All prior actions of Borrower officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this 12th day of April, 2021

ATTEST:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman

Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Mr. Wooten presented three cost estimates for replacing the HVAC in Building 4 at MTCC:

- Gentry: \$77,795
- Pyatt \$52,149
- Triangle \$63,350

Dr. Brian Merritt, President of MTCC noted they had \$20,000 available in capital funds and requested \$32,149 to repair the HVAC before summer classes.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the funds for the repair, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Mr. Wooten noted the lease with Foothills Industries for office and parking spaces at 302 Rockwell Drive in McDowell Industrial Park for McDowell Transit is up for renewal. Staff recommendation was to renew the lease for now and evaluate future options that may come along in county-owned buildings. He added \$9,603 is the cost of the lease, and 85% of the cost is covered by federal funds.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the lease, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

At last month's meeting Mayor Steve Little presented the RAIL Memorial Project. The item was presented for discussion regarding Board interest in making a financial contribution to the project.

Chairman Brown made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the RAIL Memorial project, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 3-2 the motion passed.

Chairman Brown, Commissioner Vaughn, Commissioner Ellis -- yes
Vice Chairman Walker and Commissioner Allison -- No

The Sheriff's Office requested several positions be adjusted on the salary schedule. A copy of the salary schedule is with the agenda materials.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the titles added to the position list as requested, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

The Sheriff's Office requested retiring detention officer, Dora Lewis's badge be donated to her.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the County of McDowell owns certain items of personal property that has become surplus for its current needs; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) 20-187.2 permits the County to donate the badge worn by a Law Enforcement Officer upon their retirement; and

WHEREAS, NCGS 20-187.2 permits the county to sell the service side arm to the retiring Law Enforcement Officer upon securing such permit as required by NCGS 14-402 or without such permit the weapon has been rendered incapable of being fired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of McDowell County that the Board authorizes the donation of service badge which has been declared surplus to Dora Lewis.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of April, 2021.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the *Resolution Authorizing Sale of County Owned Property*, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Staff presented non-collectible EMS transport bill write-offs totaling \$24,471.75

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve \$24,471.75 of EMS write-offs, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Budget Amendments

- GF--44 transfers between line items and appropriates reimbursements in Emergency Services
- GF--45 Transfers between line items in Public Services
- GF--46 Transfers between line items in Register of Deeds
- GF--47 Transfer between line items for Juvenile Justice housing
- GF--48 Transfers between line items to provide funding for the G5 Old Fort Trail Project
- GF--49 Transfer between line items and appropriates revenue in the DSS budget
- 911F3 Transfer between line items in the 911 Fund

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to approve all budget amendments as presented, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Tax Matters

MV tax refunds	\$ 1,069.84
Refunds	\$ 628.22
Release over \$100	\$ 1,502.96
Write-offs	\$ 4,011.65

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

Board Appointment

The Planning Board's one vacancy was presented as a second reading. The vacancy had been advertised and following applications received: Teresa Abernathy; Robin Bradley; Benny Stamey; Michael Seay; Christopher Ray Sigmon; and Megan Webster.

By written ballots the vote was 5-0 for Benny Stamey.

Vice Chairman Walker left at 6:28pm and returned at 6:30pm.

Citizen Comment

Chairman Brown opened the floor for public comments at 6:28pm.

Matthew Jackson- veteran and former law enforcement officer; spoke in favor of the 2nd amendment.

Vice Chairman Walker requested the Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution be put on the agenda for next month again. The Board has new members since the original Resolution was approved.

Richard McEntire- asked the status of his request to change the Noise Ordinance due to barking dogs at his neighbor's residence.

Chairman Brown advised Mr. McEntire it was not his desire to have the Noise Ordinance changed due to the complaint of one individual's complaint of his neighbor's barking dogs. There are several hunters in the county, that a change in the ordinance would also effect.

Commissioner Ellis added the Planning Board had recommended no change in the Noise Ordinance. He also had talked with Sheriff Buchanan and 80 calls had been made since January, 2021 to the Sheriff's office for complaints.

Suggestion was made for Mr. McEntire to have the complaint taken to small claims court.

Ken Buckner –Resident for 17 years, and would like to see a lower tax rate for natives. He noted there was no wi-fi in the parking lot of the library. He asked the Board to contact DOT regarding painting of the outside white lines since the repaving. It was difficult to see with only a center line. He also requested the Board to ask DOT when the 100-year-old bridge on McDowell Memorial Park Road would be replaced, since it was so narrow and had received damage due to a wreck a couple of years ago.

Public comment ended at 7:01pm.

Trash

Vice Chairman Walker noted there was a lot of litter along the highways and he would like to have the Planning Board look at a trash ordinance addressing this issue.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to request the Planning Board to review the County's Trash Ordinance, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Recreation

Vice Chairman Walker noted the noise inside the Recreation gym was extremely loud when people were talking or during games. He added staff had received bids for sound baffling to be installed, and there were funds in the department to cover the cost of installation.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to install baffles at the Recreation gym, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Zoom

Vice Chairman Walker noted for the last two months there had only been two viewers to utilize the Zoom opportunity to view the Board meetings.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to suspend Zoom options for the Board meetings, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-1 the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Walker, Chairman Brown; Commissioner Vaugh; Commissioner Allison ----yes
Commissioner Ellis ---no

Mask

Vice Chairman Walker requested to look at the possibility of county employees having the option of wearing mask at work once they have received their vaccinations. After discussion consensus was to look at data in 30 days for possibility of lifting masks requirement for those who are vaccinated.

Closed Session

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:06pm pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)6 for personnel discussion, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to go out of Closed Session at 7:22p.m., second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

No action was taken.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Ellis, second by Commissioner Allison, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman