

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION – December 19, 2022**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 11:32 a.m., in the Commissioner's Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

**Members Present**

Chris Allison, Patrick Ellis, Lynn Greene

**Members Absent**

Tony G. Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director; Anna Lee, HR Director

**Call to Order**

According to N.C.G.S. 153A-39 the Board appointed Commissioner Allison as Chair for this meeting. Commissioner Allison called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

**Appointment of DSS Director**

According to N.C.G.S. 108A-12, the County is required to hire a DSS Director. Bobbie Sigmon was offered the position as DSS Director with a salary of \$88,740.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to appoint DSS Director Bobbie Sigmon effective January 4, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

**DSS Update (Data and Architect)**

The MOU for this month was presented by Ashley Wooten.

The Board has previously authorized staff to post a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architect to provide options for the DSS facility needs. Staff has reviewed and scored the eight qualification statements that were received. The most qualified firm was Little Associates.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept Little Associates to work on a contract to work with the County on the DSS building updates, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

**Solid Waste Hauling/Disposal Fee**

Republic Industries has requested a mid-year increase in tipping fees. They attribute the issue to increased fuel costs. The spreadsheet they provide (and the County staff's own calculations) show that the County would save funds while the fuel is at its current level. However, if fuel prices drop, there would not be a credit back to the County based on staff understanding. Republic Industries is requesting a January 1 implementation date.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the changes to the County contract with Republic Industries as requested, seconded by Commissioner Ellis.

Upon discussion, Commissioner Greene modified his motion to state if fuel costs drop below \$4.25, Republic Industries needs to contact the County and renegotiate the contract, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

### **Audit Approval and Contract Approval**

Serina Hinson from Lowdermilk Church presented the Fiscal Year 2022 audit. There were no findings during the extensive process. The available fund balance percentage increased to slightly over 23%.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the audit and approve the contract amendment to reflect a new date, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

### **EMS Medicare Fee Adjustment**

The County's third-party EMS biller noted that Medicare rates are increasing effective January 1. The County's standard practice is to bill non-Medicare patients 150% above the Medicare rate. EMS is requesting the Board to approve the increase with an effective date of January 1.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the EMS rate adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

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Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

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Chris Allison  
Commissioner