

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION –JANUARY 31, 2022**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Monday, January 31, 2022, at 11:30a.m., at the Commissioner’s Board Room at 60 E Court Street.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Chairman; 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; Alison Bell, Finance Officer

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order.

Surge Pay

Mr. William Kehler presented a request to extend crisis pay for EMS & 911 personnel through the end of February 2022.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to continue the crisis pay through the end of February, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

American Rescue Plan Act Update

Under the final ruling by the US Treasury, the County can now expend ARPA funds on services that are currently authorized by federal and state law. Staff recommendations:

- Authorize covering temporary staffing at the County solid waste facilities of \$165,000 expense with ARPA funds through June 30

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to use ARPA funds and have a plan for funding in the budget, second by Commissioner Allison. Discussion followed on the lack of inmate labor due to the closing of the small prison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

- The County is committed to a local match for the NCDOT-funded greenway trail project along the Catawba River. The project engineer had determined the 20% local match cost estimate of \$740,000. Staff recommended using ARPA funds for the local match obligation.

Staff will send an updated copy of the expenditures of the ARPA funds via email to the Board.

Discussion was held on the usage of ARPA funds.

Consensus was to bring proposal for contract from the engineer to the February 14th meeting.

Water System Update

The County's water system is too small for a water intake and treatment plant. The recommendation was to invest the \$11 million provided by the state budget in water system improvements.

Chairman Brown made a motion to invest funding in expanding water lines, second by Vice Chairman Walker. Discussion followed on expanding master meters in different parts of the county, particularly commercial properties. The first tranche of ARPA funds \$3M had been set aside for the expansion of water lines.

Chairman Brown amended his motion to have the engineer make recommendations on expansion of water lines, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Brown advised the Board needed a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a) (4) to discuss an economic development matter.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to go into closed session at 12:06pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to go out of closed session at 12:39pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Discussion was held on options of waste household fee, fee to grind and dispose of wood waste disposal; purchasing property and operating own landfill.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 12:48pm, second by Vice Chairman Walker. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman