

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION – June 12, 2023**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioner’s Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

**Members Present**

Tony G. Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis; Lynn Greene

**Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Commissioner Greene. The pledge of allegiance was given by Commissioner Allison.

**Approval of Minutes**

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the May 8, 2023, Regular Session minutes, the May 11, 2023, Recessed Session minutes, the May 11, 2023, Fire Commission minutes, the May 15, 2023, Regular Session minutes, the May 15, 2023, Closed Session minutes, and the May 23, 2023, Special Session minutes, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

**Approval of Agenda**

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the June 12, 2023 agenda, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

**Parks and Recreation Projects**

Parks and Recreation Director Chad Marsh gave an update to the Board on past successes and activities that are occurring in McDowell County.

**Maple Leaf Playground Project**

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Authority recently approved the County’s Maple Leaf Playground grant. The playground vendor proposed a layout, which Mr. Wooten presented to the Board. The playground is to be surrounded by a walkway, fencing, and a picnic shelter.

### Black Bear Park

Duke Energy is close to transferring Black Bear Park to the County. There are several items being finalized including well permits, FERC approvals, etc. The staff positions are being advertised. The purchase of the five camping cabins is in process and subject to final Duke approval.

An additional item that needed approval was the purchase of a cabin for the staff. Staff recommended purchasing the cabin that was presented.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to allow staff flexibility to make minor changes to the Duke Energy contract to correct any errors, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the use of ARPA interest funds to purchase an office cabin for Black Bear Park, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

### Recreation Center Bids

Bids were opened for the Recreation Center renovation project on June 1. The certified bid tabulation was given to the Board. The lowest base bid was \$10,448,000, which is about \$6,448,000 over the remaining state grant funding.

Staff has requested the architect to develop several alternative pricing scenarios in addition to the base bid: the first alternative would be what would be called a value-engineered proposal of around \$9 million. The public bidding statute (NCGS 143-129) allows the County to make "reasonable" adjustments to the bid specifications. There is no definition of "reasonable." A deviation of 10% may be considered "reasonable" on a project of this size. The other options being priced will be the pool plus parking/driveway or ballfield plus parking/driveway in order for the work to be at or under the \$4 million cost.

The latter options would require a complete rebid. The Board could select the prior options, including a 10% value-engineered option without rebidding, but the balance of funding would need to be identified. If the Board were to consider financing the balance, they would need to understand that a debt payment of \$5-6 million would be about \$675,000 a year (12 years at 5% interest) and would limit the ability to borrow money for any other capital projects for the foreseeable future.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to receive the bids as presented and allow staff to get back to the individual contractors, seconded by Commissioner Allison. Commissioner Ellis requested staff to allow bidders to adjust if changes are made to the project to allow competitiveness. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

### Lake James State Park Update

Nora Coffey presented Lake James State Park updates to the Board.

- The new Lake James Visitor Center opened in March.

- Swim beach is open
- Missing full-time staff – needing 5 positions
- Seasonal and temporary staff – 26
- YTD visitation 434,000
- Future projects – working to secure funding for a new RV campground and camper cabins
- Adding new trails – 30 miles
- Continue to rent out the old swim beach area
- Upgrades – replacing grills, office/bath house painted, replaced fishing pier

**Budget Public Hearing**

Chairman Brown declared the meeting into a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 159-12.

Terry English, Chairman of McDowell County Board of Education, addressed the Board regarding McDowell County Schools funding. Mr. English requested the Commissioners to reevaluate the presented budget and allow their best efforts for the school system.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to go out of the public hearing at 5:36 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

**Water Project Updates and Approvals**

The State requires that each water system operator have a Water Shortage Response Plan. The plan and an authorizing resolution were presented to the Board for approval.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the plan as presented, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Tony G. Brown, Chairman  
 David Walker, Vice-Chairman  
 Chris Allison, Commissioner  
 Patrick Ellis, Commissioner  
 Lynn Greene, Commissioner



Ashley Wooten, County Manager  
 Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board  
 Donald Fred Coats, County  
 Attorney

# McDowell County

## RESOLUTION APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statute 143355 (l) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service and each large community water system shall develop and implement water conservation measures to respond to drought or other water shortage conditions as set out in a Water Shortage Response Plan and submitted to the Department for review and approval; and

**WHEREAS**, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for McDowell County has been developed and submitted to the McDowell

County Board of Commissioners for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for McDowell County, as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of McDowell County that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled, Water Shortage Response Plan dated June 12, 2023, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners intend that this plan s be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, per the statute and sound planning practice.

This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

Staff continues to work on an unprecedented number of water-related projects. Here are several water-related updates. The following projects are sorted by proximity to construction:

Construction Soon

- Contracts are being signed for Nebo Phase 1A and 1B. Staff is putting together a letter that will be handed out to each resident along the planned path. Construction will probably start in August.
- The Universal water and sewer extension project should start in July.

Permitting Soon

- Nebo Phase 2A and Hoppy Tom Hollow are being submitted to NCDEQ for plan review.

Design Soon

- The grant for the East End project along NC 126 was awarded. The engineer selection process has been initiated.

- An Appalachian Regional Commission grant to extend water around Exit 90 has been awarded. Staff will initiate the engineer selection process soon.

### Award Soon

- The study of water service to the West Marion Elementary Area is complete. An ARC pre-application was accepted. An award announcement will likely be made in September.

### **Building Projects**

#### Services Building

The project architect CBSA has completed drawings that would allow for the Probation/Parole staff to relocate to the second floor of the Services Building. He has provided the attached floor plan and cost estimate. There is approximately \$325,000 in state funding for this project, so there will need to be a discussion of if the work is to proceed using other funds.

#### Old EMS Station 1

The old EMS building on Garden Street is almost gone. Staff has met with the pavement engineer to help plan the parking lot that is proposed to replace the building.

#### Old Fort Senior Center

Senior Center Director Weyland Prebor and staff have met with Patrick McMurry of Holland & Hamrick to review expansion concepts for the Old Fort Senior Center building. A geotechnical evaluation will also be conducted under the proposed building pad to understand if that ground is suitable for expansion. The drawing and other information will be used to develop a cost estimate, which will help for grant writing purposes.

#### Pilot Plant Sale

The sales process for the pilot plant continues. The buyers are lining up financing and are ready to start moving in and doing work. Ideally, everything will be finalized in the next couple of weeks.

### **Animal Services Update**

The architecture firm Form + Function has met with staff to hear input on what a new animal shelter would look like from a functional perspective. The primary focus has been on ensuring a facility has a suitable amount of dog runs (enclosures) and an area for medical exams. A preliminary rendering was given to the Board. A cost estimate based on that rendering is being developed.

### **Firework Approvals**

North Carolina General Statute 14-413 requires the Board of Commissioners to approve each firework show within the county. There was a list of shows planned for around the Independence Day holiday.

The statute also grants the Board the authority to delegate approval of shows that originate within municipal boundaries. Staff could not find evidence that this approval has ever been granted to either Marion or Old Fort.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the firework shows as presented, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve both resolutions as presented, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Tony G. Brown, Chairman  
David Walker, Vice-Chairman  
Chris Allison, Commissioner  
Patrick Ellis, Commissioner  
Lynn Greene, Commissioner



Ashley Wooten, County Manager  
Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board  
Donald Fred Coats, County  
Attorney

# McDowell County

**RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MARION  
THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PYROTECHNIC PERMITS  
WITHIN THE CITY OF MARION CORPORATE LIMITS PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA  
GENERAL STATUTE 14-413**

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 14-413 (a1) authorizes the governing body of any city to issue permits pursuant to Article 54 of the North Carolina General Statutes which addresses the sale and permitting of pyrotechnics, and

**WHEREAS**, this statute provides for the delegation for permitting pyrotechnics to be exhibited, used, or discharged within the corporate limits of a city by a Board of Commissioners by resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marion is requesting that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of permitting of pyrotechnics to the City of Marion to permit pyrotechnics within its corporate limits, and

**WHEREAS**, the delegation of this authority shall remain in effect until withdrawn by this Board of Commissioners by a subsequent resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marion Fire Chief will notify the McDowell County Fire Marshal if pyrotechnics displays and exhibits are applied for and the subsequent permit is issued in the City of Marion corporate limits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** that this Board approves the transfer of permitting authority for pyrotechnics to be exhibited, used, or discharged within the corporate limits of the City of Marion from McDowell County to the City of Marion effective June 12, 2023.

Adopted this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

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Tony G. Brown, Chairman  
McDowell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown, Chairman  
David Walker, Vice-Chairman  
Chris Allison, Commissioner  
Patrick Ellis, Commissioner  
Lynn Greene, Commissioner



Ashley Wooten, County Manager  
Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board  
Donald Fred Coats, County  
Attorney

# McDowell County

## RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF OLD FORT THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PYROTECHNIC PERMITS WITHIN THE TOWN OF OLD FORT CORPORATE LIMITS PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 14-413

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 14-413 (a1) authorizes the governing body of any city to issue permits pursuant to Article 54 of the North Carolina General Statutes which addresses the sale and permitting of pyrotechnics, and

**WHEREAS**, this statute provides for the delegation for permitting pyrotechnics to be exhibited, used, or discharged within the corporate limits of a city by a Board of Commissioners by resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Old Fort is requesting that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of permitting of pyrotechnics to the Town of Old Fort to permit pyrotechnics within its corporate limits, and

**WHEREAS**, the delegation of this authority shall remain in effect until withdrawn by this Board of Commissioners by a subsequent resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Old Fort Fire Chief will notify the McDowell County Fire Marshal if pyrotechnics displays and exhibits are applied for and the subsequent permit is issued in the City of Marion corporate limits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** that this Board approves the transfer of permitting authority for pyrotechnics to be exhibited, used, or discharged within the corporate limits of the Town of Old Fort from McDowell County to the Town of Old Fort effective June 12, 2023.

Adopted this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

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Tony G. Brown, Chairman  
McDowell County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

### **Golden Leaf Grants**

#### Universal Technology Park Phase I

The ongoing grading project at Universal is complete. The site is being surveyed and various subsequent steps (deed prep, etc.) will be completed so that the property will be available for sale to Forza. The Board previously voted to sell the property at \$10,000 an acre. The site is approximately 11 acres. Staff will have a final sales proposal at the July meeting.

#### Universal Technology Park Phase II

The Golden Leaf Foundation recently awarded a \$1,378,550 grant to grade a second site at the end of the new cul-de-sac. Staff is currently working through the grant requirements.

#### Project Splice

Several years ago, MEDA was awarded \$95,000 from Golden Leaf to extend water and sewer to the Project Splice/Fiber Optic Solutions building site in the original industrial park. It was mutually agreed that it is best for the County to hold this grant since the County will be doing the bidding and contractor payment. The Board has previously approved a \$37,400 match.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve both grants, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

### **FY 23 Budget Update**

The property tax collection report shows a collection rate of 99.54% through May.

There were four project ordinance amendments: the American Rescue Plan Act, NC PARTF AFP Project, the HUD HOME Consortium, and Golden Leaf Project Splice. There were also several budget amendments:

GF 62 - To appropriate revenue for the Attorney due to special matters.

GF 63 - To appropriate revenue in Emergency Services due to fuel/maintenance costs and to transfer between line items.

GF 64 - To appropriate grant revenue for the Library.



GF 65 - Transfers between line items in the Register of Deeds.

GF 66 - To transfer between line items and appropriate revenues for the Sheriff's Office.

GF 67 - To transfer between line items and to appropriate revenue in Transit.

GF 68 - To appropriate revenue due to juvenile housing.

GF 69 - To appropriate grant revenue in the Senior Center.

GF 70 - To transfer between programs for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

GF 71 - To transfer between line items and appropriate ARPA funds.

GF 72 - Transfers between line items and appropriate revenue due to health insurance costs.

GF 73 - Appropriates revenue to the Waste Enterprise Fund.

FD1 - Allocates estimated sales tax revenues to the various fire and rescue service districts.

FD2 - Allocates estimated property tax collections for the fire and rescue service districts.

ENT3 - Transfers between line items and allocates revenue in the Waste Enterprise Fund.

SI1 - Allocates revenue and appropriates fund balance in the self-insurance fund.

SP2 - To amend the School Project Fund in School Project.

UENT 1 - To transfer funds to the Universal Project in the Enterprise Fund (Universal Building)

911F1 - To appropriate prior year adjustment in 911 fund.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve budget items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

### **Administrative Items**

- Water leak request from a Nebo Water customer.
- Staff has prepared an updated opioid settlement resolution, which changes the contract dates and makes a minor tweak to the EMS funding. All other items are the same.
- EMS write-offs totaling \$33,010.81
- Several agreements relating to the HUD HOME Consortium.
- The NC Department of Environmental Quality now requires transfer station operators to establish a reserve fund for a future facility closure. Staff has been told to set aside \$63,823 that will sit until the facility is closed.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the administrative items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF McDOWELL  
TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**WHEREAS** McDowell County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

**WHEREAS** the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions (“Opioid Settlement Funds”) are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“MOA”);

**WHEREAS** McDowell County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

**WHEREAS** section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in alignment with the NC MOA, McDowell County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: McDowell County Emergency Responses Postoverdose Response Plan
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A.
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 8

- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$50,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
  - Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Will provide post-overdose equipment, pay for sharps disposable, and will pay for post-overdose staffing for additional Community Paramedic hours beyond what would otherwise be budgeted.
- g. Provider: McDowell County Emergency Services

2. Second strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategy: McDowell Impact Peer Support Services
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A.
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 3
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$50,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
  - Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: McDowell Impact Peer Support Services. Impact embeds certified peer support specialists in McDowell agencies on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic including McDowell EMS, McDowell DSS Child Protective Services Unit, Mission Ministries Alliance and McDowell Access to Care and Health (MATCH).
- g. Provider: Care Reach

3. Third authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Freedom Life Transitional Housing and Supportive Services
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 4
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$45,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:
  - Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: This funding will provide the capacity for 4 transition houses. There will be 3 houses for men and 1 house for women. This supportive service funding will provide wrap-around services such as food, clothing, hygiene, evidence-based assessment and treatment, substance use and mental health support, medical health support including prescription and MAT (as effectively prescribed) support, employment training and sustainability support, transportation

support, ongoing legal need support, capacity development support including life skill and driver's license training and support, and case plan/life achievement support.

g. Provider: Freedom Life Ministries

4. Fourth authorized strategy

a. Name of strategy: Teen Intervene Program

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A

c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 6

d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$49,382.89

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Teen Intervene is an evidenced-based program designed as a comprehensive screening, brief intervention and referral to assessment/treatment (SBIRT) model of care. Teenagers who have experienced mild to moderate problems associated with alcohol or drug use, or who are caught with substances at school, will work one-on-one with a Prevention Specialist to identify and ultimately change their choices and behavior. Each youth referred to the program will receive four 45-minute sessions, including parents. These sessions will be done in the school setting with a Prevention Specialist (PS) trained in the curriculum and developed a relationship with the student and the agency that will assess and, if needed, treat the youth. The PS will follow a case management model and will do a "warm handoff" that will bridge the gap between youth/families and referral agencies for assistance or assessment.

g. Provider: RHA Health Services

5. Fifth authorized strategy

a. Name of strategy: Black Mountain Counseling Center Old Fort Location

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A

c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 3

d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$50,000.00

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: With the funding that this grant would provide, the organization would be able to provide individual counseling and group counseling to those who might otherwise be unable to get the help they need. Client co-payment for the Client Assistance Program is based on the client's income. All clients are asked to pay something toward the cost to encourage commitment to the program. Black Mountain counseling is a mental health hub for the community.

Connecting those in need with appropriate community services provides the ongoing support needed by many with SUD and co-occurring mental health issues to move in a positive direction. A career coach is on staff working with clients needing career and employment support. This work would assist those struggling with addiction and mental health issues to become more independent. A child and adolescent therapist and marriage therapist would provide broader support and encouragement and lead to a healthier family system.

- g. Provider: Black Mountain Counseling

6. Sixth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: SUD Treatment Expansion
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 2
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$50,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Easy access to care is the most important aspect of treating SUD within the community. The organization currently has a facility in Marion, NC that treats 312 patients. Our census has increased by 16% since the start of the pandemic and 11% since January of 2022. Through feedback from our patients and community partners, it is believed that extended access to care will help connect more patients to treatment. Factors that prevent patients from entering treatment and staying in treatment are financial, transportation, and access. By extending our hours to offer treatment hours in the evening, the organization can address these barriers to successful treatment. Patients who have early work hours report difficulties completing treatment requirements (e.g., clinical sessions, receiving medication, etc.) during our current business hours. Patients that rely on the transportation of others, will benefit as this allows for transportation after the typical workday, and by having an Office-Based Opioid Treatment pathway, patients would not have to attend the program daily.
- g. Provider: McLeod Center

7. Seventh authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Marion Police Department Peer Support
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 3
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$50,000.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Having a Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) designated to assist law enforcement on scene and to provide follow-up wrap around services would be an important step in creating an environment conducive to recovery for our community. A CPSS will be another tool for the Marion Police Department to have readily available when assisting individuals with substance use or mental health challenges. By partnering with McDowell Impact, the organization can embed a CPSS within our agency that will assist with mental health and substance use calls and follow up on individuals who overuse the 911 system due to their needs not being met. This will strengthen our ability to respond to these issues and decrease officer time spent on scene.
- g. Provider: Marion Police Department

8. Eighth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: McDowell Mission SUD Support
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 3
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$27,849.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Mission Ministries Alliance plays a crucial role in addressing substance use disorders in our community. In our work, the organization will move forward in implementing evidence-based recovery interventions that will reduce the consequences of substance use with the help of the wider community. Many individuals keep silent about their substance use disorders because of guilt, shame, or fear of exposure. Breaking the silence and isolation around substance use disorder is critical so that individuals confronting substance use disorder and its consequences know that they are not alone and can openly seek treatment. The organization will continue our work with destigmatizing campaigns and continuing to educate the community and individuals served on harm reduction through our outreach programs.
- g. Provider: McDowell Mission

9. Ninth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Healthy Minds of CULA
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 6
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$27,849.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: CULA currently has an active program that addresses mental health through a culturally competent and trauma informed lens called “Healthy Minds of CULA.” In this program CULA will offer community informational forums that offer education on mental health in youth and how to prevent and identify a substance use disorder. The forums and in school trainings CULA has planned through Teen/Youth Mental First Aid and QPR Suicide Prevention will allow us to meet the youth where they are so that they feel comfortable as they learn new information about mental health and substance use information. Being able to deliver it in a way that is less structural will help us create rapport with the youth population where they don’t feel pressured to learn this information forcibly. The community informational forums CULA has planned will be delivered in Spanish and some will include lived experience testimonies and advice from people with lived experience as well as professionals in the mental health and recovery fields.
- g. Provider: Centro Unido Latino-Americano (CULA)

10. Tenth authorized strategy

- a. Name of strategy: Community Narcan
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
- c. Item number in Exhibit A to the MOA: 7
- d. Amounted authorized for this strategy: \$65,083.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place:

Start date July 1, 2023 through End date June 30, 2024

- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: McDowell County Emergency Services will purchase narcan to distribute to community agencies.
- g. Provider: McDowell County Emergency Services

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above named and authorized strategies is \$465,083.00.

Adopted this the 12th day of June, 2023

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Tony G. Brown, Chair  
McDowell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board

### **Board Appointments**

This is the second reading for the **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**. There is one vacancy to serve on the Council: A faith-based seat.

There was a first reading for the **Library Board of Trustees**. There are two vacancies to serve on the Board: One for the Old Fort district and one for the Marion district.

There was a first reading for the **McDowell Technical Community College Board of Trustees**. There is one vacancy to serve on the Board.

There was a first reading for the **Planning Board**. There will be 4 vacancies coming available in August.

There was a first reading for the **Senior Center Focal Point Advisory Committee**. There will be 4 vacancies coming available in July.

There was a first reading for the **Transportation Advisory Board**. There is one vacancy.

There was a first reading for the **Tourism Development Authority (TDA)**. There is one vacancy.

There was a first reading for the **Agriculture Advisory Board**. There is one vacancy.

There was a second reading for the **Jury Commission**. Larry Lytle has applied to continue serving on the Jury Commission. Mr. Lytle was unanimously voted in to continue serving on the Jury Commission.

The Commissioners were provided with statute-required term limits for members of the **Historic Preservation Commission**. The term limits were approved unanimously.

### **Tax Matters**

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve all tax non-collectibles except for Pressley Made, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed. Vice-



Chairman Walker asked that staff look further into the efforts to collect monies from Pressley Made after the business closure.

**Citizen Comment**

Chris Price spoke on processes and procedures.

**Commissioners/Staff Reports**

None.

**Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 5:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

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Victoria Craig  
Clerk to the Board

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Tony G. Brown  
Chairman