

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – APRIL 10, 2017**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Tony Brown; Matthew Crawford

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lynn Greene

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager, Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Theresa Strickland, Public Information Technician (Filming)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Crawford, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Vice Chair McPeters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Brown, to approve the March 13 Regular Session minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Walker called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mr. Wooten added an item Shooting Range Update to the agenda.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford to approve the agenda with the addition. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

RECOGNITION

Ms. Rhonda Robbins, of Lily's Place Child Advocacy Center, and Leroy, the Center's service dog gave a presentation in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Center is an entity of the South Mountain Children's Center.

Ms. Robbins praised the support the Center receives from the law enforcement, DSS, and the county. The McDowell Center is the only center in the state with a service dog.

Chair Walker expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Board for the Child Advocacy Center. Previously this month he made a presented a Child Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation on behalf of the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Fee Waiver

Mr. Wooten presented a fee waiver request from the US Forest Service. They had paid approximately \$65,000 to connect their Nebo facility to the Nebo water system, and requested a waiver of the \$150 account deposit.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford, to approve the fee waiver. By unanimous approval the motion passed.

Amendments

Ms. Alison Bell, Finance Officer, presented the following budget amendments:

GF 41 – Allocates additional revenue in Emergency Services

GF 42 – Transfer funds between line items in Facility Maintenance

GF 43 – Appropriates donations received at the Library

GF 44 – Appropriates additional revenue received at the Sheriff's Office

GF 45 – Appropriates additional revenue received at the Senior Center

GF 46 – Appropriates fund balance for use of restricted ABC funds

GF 47 – Appropriates additional revenue received at the Recreation Department

GF 48 – Appropriates reserved funds for book repair in the Register of Deeds

GF 49 – Appropriates fund balance and revenue and transfer between line items for self insured

NWENT1 – Allocates revenue in the Nebo Water System Enterprise Fund

SI2 – Allocates revenue sources for self insurance claims

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve GF 41-GF 49; NWENT1, and SI2. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten reported the sales tax report showed a slight upswing of about 2% for the year.

EMS BID APPROVAL/911 BACKUP UPDATE

Mr. William Kehler, Emergency Services Director, presented the ambulance and vehicle bids, and introduced paramedic Lt. Pressley who had secured the bids.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Northwestern Emergency Vehicles | \$ 144,150.00 |
| 1 st Priority | 149, 500.00 |
| Select Custom Apparatus | 149, 803.77 |
| Southeastern Emergency Equip | 150,750.00 |

Mr. Kehler recommended the bid be awarded to Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for the remount of a 2008 Type 1 ambulance on a 2017 Ford F-450 chassis. He also requested approval to proceed with replacement of an SUV for the EMS shift supervisor, to be purchased off state contract. The total financing request was for \$190,700.

Mr. Wooten also requested the financing to include three Ford Interceptor AWD Sedans, one Ford transit XL 350 Van, and one Dodge Durango AWD SUV for the Sheriff's Dept. He noted Carolina Alliance would finance at 1.95% over four years.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to award the bid for a new 2017 or newer Ford F450 remount ambulance to Northwestern Emergency Vehicles with approval to remount the patient care box from the 2008 Ford ambulance, and also the purchase of the SUV for \$190,700, and also approving the financing from Carolina Alliance and approval for the Resolution Approving Financing Terms, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous approval, the motion passed.

Mr. Kehler also gave an update on the 9-1-1 Backup Center. He noted all equipment was on site, and the Center is still on schedule for the June 30th deadline. Commissioner Crawford asked about the availability of 911 funds. Mr. Kehler noted there were deadlines and requirements placed by the grant funders, and it was taking longer to get answers from the funders. He stated he was working closely with Ms. Alison Morgan, to make sure all paperwork was in order before the close of the fiscal year.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Wooten discussed a study that was performed on the county transportation system that is housed in DSS and their budget. The state had evaluated the system and options were presented. The study showed to contract with a transportation provider (Greenway Transit) would be the most beneficial. Staff and two Commissioners met with the Greenway Board to discuss their operations. Currently, the NCDOT is working on a follow up study to determine how to implement the partnership cost on an annual basis with Greenway. The study should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Discussion followed in regards to the age of the current vehicles DSS is operating, excessive mileage on the vehicles, and part time drivers.

Staff will contact the Public Transit Division to see if there are any NCDOT funds available for the operation. Consensus from the Board was to put this item on the May agenda since the follow up study would be completed and results received by then, and decision would be made at that time.

TRAIL PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Wooten advised staff had advertised for a Request for Qualifications for design/engineering firms for the Greenway Phase 3 project. The results would be presented at next month's meeting.

He also presented a MOU between McDowell County and Resource Institute, a company that specializes in stream stabilization and greenway construction. The firm would identify grant funds and then be paid 10% of the total grant awarded to the county. The firm would be able to discuss the MOU at a meeting on April 24, 2017.

The Board would like clarification in the MOU: *Terms of Service-McDowell County Responsibilities: McDowell County will make payment to Resource Institute at the rate of ten percent (10%) of the total grant awarded to the county that Resource Institute has assisted the county in obtaining.*

Discussion was held on securing and receiving grant funds prior to the commission being paid to the firm.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to receive funds, get clarification on the wording in the MOU, and pay 10% after monies are received, second by Vice Chair McPeters. Discussion followed on the phases of construction on the Greenway. Mr. Wooten confirmed the county had received \$543,000 of the \$600,000 needed to complete Phase 3. Consensus of the Board was to let the firm come on April 24th at noon for discussion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

WATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted several years ago the EPA granted McDowell County \$485,000 for the study of the Lake James intake and water treatment plant. He advised the grant funds would be expiring at the end of the year, and due to the slow pace of the project all of the permitting work would not be completed. Staff would like to use the funds for design/permitting water service to Stacy Hill Road. Mr. Wooten asked for authorization to move on the design and permitting for the project. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to move forward with the Stacy Hill project water lines, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair Walker presented two vacancies for a second reading from the Planning Board. There were five applicants: Arvin Hicks; Lynn Morris Khan; Alex Portelli; Chris Revis; and Dennis Whitson. The Board voted by written ballots, and the Clerk tallied the votes.

The votes were unanimous for Dennis Whitson and Arvin Hicks.

BUILDING PURCHASE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten advised the county had received a counter offer on the Rock Tenn building from the owners. The offer was for a 10 year lease period which would include an option to purchase the building at the end of the lease term. Discussion was held on the offer. Mr. Wooten noted government entities could not borrow money on properties they did not own. Commissioner Brown added he would like a three year lease with money going toward

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| MV tax refunds | \$ 167.67 |
| Releases under \$100 | \$ 101.28 |
| Releases over \$100 | \$ 3,600.38 |
| Discoveries | \$ 329.43 |
| Write-offs | \$ 258.63 |

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford to approve all tax matters. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten recommended a resolution against Senate Bill 363. The bill would rewrite the tax appeal process to essentially eliminate the role of the Board of Equalization and Review and the Property Tax Commission. There has been a lot of opposition from several rural counties. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to adopt the resolution opposing Senate Bill 363, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten noted there were several House bills that would allow for school calendar flexibility. He added Rep. Dobson had introduced a bill in the House, but there had not been any support in the Senate. He presented a resolution in support of school calendar flexibility.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to adopt the resolution for school calendar flexibility, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten also mentioned House Bill 477 that would allow Medicaid reimbursement for EMS transport to behavioral facilities.

The next item Mr. Wooten spoke about was Senate Bill 594 which would form a study commission to evaluate transferring DSS county functions to state regional authorities.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Wooten for the updates, and continue to update the Board on legislative matters.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Chris Revis –

- would like the Board to look at ways to involve the younger generation and let them know of the BOC meetings
- would like to see more diversity on boards and not just the same people over and over, also, what type of volunteers are you wanting on the boards
- would also like to see more involvement from the community at the meetings

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wooten reported the Commissioners had received an invitation to the county wide volunteer appreciation dinner on April 27th at 6pm at the McDowell Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Brown, second by Vice Chair McPeters, the meeting was adjourned to April 24th, 2017 at 11:30am in the Commissioner's Board Room.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD