

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION – APRIL 9, 2020**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 11:30a.m., at the Historic Carson House Jubilee Arbor.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Lynn Greene; Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Barry McPeters

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Craig Walker, Deputy Director ES; Steve Bush, Chamber Director

Call to Order

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order, and Vice Chairman Brown gave the invocation.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Walker gave an update from Emergency Services:

- concentration on long term care with concentration on staffing issues; shelter in place vs moving patients; coordination call with all administrators is planned for tomorrow
- Senior Center is continuing to deliver boxes of food to senior population making sure they have food, as well as not having to leave home to buy food
- PPE orders coming in next week
- PIO continues to send out press releases and valid information
- EOC continues to operate at a Level 2 seven days a week
- EM is continuing to assist the Health Dept. on tracing contacts and where they have been

Commissioner Greene asked why the recovery numbers were not being released for the county. Mr. Walker said that was more of a question for Ms. Powell, Health Director, but he knew across the state the recovery numbers were not being released. It felt it was because they did not know if they were fully recovered and they wanted to release factual numbers. Mr. Wooten will contact Ms. Powell for more information regarding recovery numbers.

Mr. Walker also noted there had been a decrease in number of calls coming into the call center; but an increase of those calling in who are sick. He also noted the community spread of the virus is not represented in the calls. He added this is a new virus with high rate of pneumonia and respiratory issues, and is much more contagious than other viruses

McDowell Chamber Update

Mr. Steve Bush, Chamber Director, gave an update on the business community.

- He noted the community pride and collaboration among businesses was encouraging
- Kitsbow is now making masks, and the Attic has been purchased by a owner who does 3D printing and will be producing face shields and mask
- Chamber website has a resource page- businesses open are listed
- processing of SBA loans-
- virtual meeting and counseling session with a local resident finance expert is offered through the Chamber
- Payroll protection plan (PPP) confirmations are coming back confirmed but applicant has not received funds
- unemployment filing is overwhelmed
- visitor center closed- staff is teleworking
- 2 new billboards (1) shop local (2) #mcdowellstrong

Chairman Walker thanked Mr. Bush for his work and for the update.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the March 9, 2020 Closed Session minutes, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Mr. Wooten added the Board will be meeting on Monday, April 13th at 5:00pm at the Carson House Arbor for their Regular Session. Also, the mass mailing of the COVID-19 hotline numbers postcard will go out this week.

Chairman Walker asked for input for future Board meetings. After discussion, consensus was to meet once a week on Mondays.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn at 12:10pm, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David Walker
Chairman