

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – JANUARY 24, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 12noon, at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Kim Welborn, Elections Director; Jane Dale, Deputy Director; Jim Hachadurian, Elections Board Member; Dean Buff, Elections Vice-Chair; Terry DePoyster, Facility Maintenance Director

Call to Order

Vice Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 12noon.

Request from BOE

Mr. Wooten noted he and Chairman Walker and Vice Chairman Brown had met with the Elections staff, Board Chairman Cline, and Vice Chairman Buff, a couple of weeks ago at the Board of Elections request. The meeting was to address concerns the Board had with their current office space.

Ms. Welborn noted the following issues:

- not enough storage space;
- due to the addition of a security door on the first floor of the Administration Building, the public will not have access to the Board room for one-stop voting
- facility to hold one-stop voting;
- outgrown their location;
- need for more board room space since they will have five members;
- Voter ID will begin in May and the state will provide the needed equipment. There is not enough room for the equipment in their current space, and circuit breakers are tripping now when they add any additional electrical device
- harder to load and unload voting equipment since they have to take up all of the side parking;
- not enough parking at current location; voters called in mad because there was no parking during one-stop voting

Ms. Welborn added their current combined space is 2300 ft. The Elections staff suggested other locations that might be more suitable for them, including the old Club Fitness building beside of La Salsas restaurant on Hwy 226S.

Mr. Wooten noted Chairman Walker, Vice Chairman Brown, Terry DePoyster, and Alison Bell, Finance Officer had looked at the space and it appeared to meet all the requirements the department was requesting. There was office space, plenty of storage space, large one-stop voting space and 35 parking spaces. Vice Chairman Brown added the building has 7800 ft of space.

Mr. DePoyster noted the elections equipment is currently stored in three 26 ft trailers, and the new location would allow them to house all equipment in one location. His initial assessment of the building did not appear to be a lot of work needed for them to occupy the building. Vice Chairman Brown added the back storage room was climate controlled which would be good for the machines. Discussion was held regarding the use of a portable generator dedicated to the Elections department during voting times. Mr. Wooten added there is a generator located at the Pilot Plant that might be available for use.

Mr. Wooten presented a draft lease from the owners, James F. McKinney Sr. Family Trust for \$3,000 per month for three years with a three year option. Discussion was held on the number of year's option, and clarification of the upkeep requirements of major replacements/repair of equipment.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to direct the County Manager to go ahead with the lease, second by Commissioner Vaughn. Discussion held on a two-year option, and the landlord handling major repairs on the mechanical system, and the county would handle normal monthly maintenance costs. The landlord would also repair any existing issues such as broken window and roof leaks. Upon these conditions being met, the Board would accept the lease. By unanimous vote of 3-0, the motion carried.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 12:38pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote of 3-0 the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD