

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

ASSEMBLY

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene, to approve the June 12, 2017 Regular Session, June 30, 2017 Adjourned Session, June 29 Closed Session, and June 30 Closed Session minutes. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Walker called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

NCACC YOUTH SUMMIT ATTENDEE

Mr. Chad Ray, NC State Extension 4-H Youth Development, introduced Adam Miller, the NCACC Youth Summit Attendee, and gave an overview of the Youth Summit program. Mr. Ray noted this was the 3rd year a representative from McDowell County 4-H had participated in the program. He added there were 150 active regular 4-H members, and through all 4-H programming the reach is approximately 2,500 participants. The county is represented nationally also.

Mr. Miller talked about his 4-H experience and noted he was looking forward to attending the summit. He has been involved in 4-H for 8 years, and has taken the Leaders in Training program. He also spoke on the skills he had gained from being in 4-H.

The Board thanked Mr. Miller for his involvement, and then had their picture taken with Mr. Miller.

MV tax refunds	\$ 555.79
Releases over \$100	\$ 256.20
Discoveries	\$ 931.76

Fee Waiver

Mr. Wooten presented a list of late property tax relief applications because they were unaware of the June 1st deadline:

Johnny Conner; Roger and Barbara Hoover; Tommy and Lois Rumpfelt; Vernice Francis; Judith Dalton; and Kenith Ashe.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve tax matters and fee waiver, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

OVERVIEW OF CHARTER SERVICES

Mr. Wooten noted current broadband providers would be making presentations over the next couple of months. This month Mr. Michael Tanck with Charter Communications/Spectrum gave an update on their services.

Following the presentation, discussion followed on the lack of broadband coverage in the county.

FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

Mr. William Kehler, EMS Director, presented a request for a fire protection ordinance. The ordinance would designate a fire marshal for the county along with the EM office being designated as the McDowell County Fire Marshall's Office. The proposed ordinance would give the Fire Marshall's Office the authority to impose a burning ban when severe fire conditions occur along with issuing civil citations for illegal burning.

Mr. Kehler noted the ordinance was constructed with feedback from the McDowell Fire Commission along with Sheriff Dudley Greene. He requested the Board send the ordinance to the Planning Board for consideration and review.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to send the Fire Protection Draft Ordinance to the Planning Board, second by Commissioner Brown.

Chair Walker called for a recess at 6:00pm, back in session at 6:02.

EMS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Chair Walker expressed his appreciation to Mr. William Kehler and the special guest in attendance, for their professional care they give to the citizens of the county.

Mr. Kehler introduced the special guest in attendance:

Mission Hospital-Carol Wolfenberger CEO; Kathy Hefner; Angie Pettus
 NC Office of EMS - Chuck Lewis; Retired OEMS Chief, Regina Godette Crawford
 Dr. Jerrill McEntire - Retired Medical Director
 Angie Solesbee - Mission Hospital
 Dr. William Maddox - Mission Hospital
 Dr. St. Bernard - EMS Medical Director
 Steve Wilkerson PA-C Asst. Medical Director

Dr. Penny Cross, MTCC
Nick Byrd - McDowell Health Coalition

Retired EMS Captain Barry Bailey
Retired Major John Angley
Lt. Andrew Pressley
Deputy Director Craig Walker
Lt. John Bruner
Sgt. Courtney Setzer
Lt. Chad Robinson
Lt. Jason McKinney
Captain Donnie Tipton
Captain Adrienne Jones
Lt. Brenda Agreda
Captain Marvin Hancock
Steve Hancock, Logistics Officer
Sgt. Johnsie Parker
Angie Wright, EM Assistant

Mr. Kehler then gave a presentation on the history of McDowell EMS, and thanked the county staff and Board for their support. Comments from several of the special guests followed.

Mr. Kehler presented each one present a commemorative coin recognizing the 40th anniversary.

Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation to the past and present employees of EMS.

Chair Walker presented a *Resolution Recognizing McDowell County EMS for Forty Years of Excellent Service* to Mr. Kehler in honor of their 40th anniversary.

WORKFORCE WELLNESS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. William Kehler, ES Director, and Mr. Nick Byrd, with the McDowell Health Coalition, presented a proposed initiative the McDowell Health Coalition and partners desired to implement in McDowell County. The initiative addresses workplace wellness.

Under the proposal the Community Paramedic Program would provide onsite health services at area industries. Applications for grant funding would be submitted to Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and the Cannon Foundation.

Isothermal Planning Commission would submit the KBR grant, and McDowell County would submit the Cannon Foundation grant. If the grants are approved McDowell EMS would receive funding to hire and equip one additional community paramedic assigned to the workplace wellness initiative, and one new equipped community paramedic vehicle. It would be a three year pilot program with a sustainable business model being prepared by Isothermal during the pilot. Mr. Kehler requested permission to proceed with the grant applications.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to give support to apply for the grants, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Kehler announced in celebration of 40 years of service, McDowell County EMS along with other emergency agencies would conduct an "Emergency Services Expo" on Saturday, July 15th from 9am-12pm in the parking lot of Roses in Marion. He invited the Board and the public to the celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louie Parrow invited the Board to a Community Forum on Tuesday, July 11th at 5:30pm, to discuss strategies to strengthen East Marion, Clinchfield, and Eastfield.

Chris Revis spoke on internet service coverage in the county.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Crawford, and a second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD