

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JULY 11, 2016**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 11, 2016, at 5:00p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Van “Randy” Hollifield; Matthew Crawford, and Tony Brown

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 Brown, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Hollifield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Brown, to approve the June 13, 2016 minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS /GARBAGE TRUCK FINANCING

Mr. Wooten thanked the Board for their work on the 2017 budget work.

Mr. Wooten presented a water leak waiver in the Nebo Water Service in the amount of \$125.19.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve leak adjustment, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented a contract renewal agreement from Johnson Price Sprinkle for auditing the county records.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to renew contract, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten requested authorization to purchase a roll-off garbage truck. The Public Works department is currently leasing a truck due to their 1988 model experiencing numerous issues. The vehicle would be financed with funds received from the operations supported by the truck (white goods, recycling, etc.).

The Finance Department received three responses in regards to the financing of one (1) 2017 Mack Roll Off Waste Truck for the Public Works Department. Carolina Alliance responded with the lowest rate of 1.45% on the financed amount of \$160,065.00, for a period of four years (8) semi-annual payments in arrears beginning March 2017.

Other Responses:

Asheville Savings Bank - 2.43%
 BB&T - 1.83%
 BOA - No response
 PNC - No response
 Fifth Third - No response
 Wells Fargo - No Response
 SunTrust Bank - No Response
 First Citizens Bank - No response
 Capital Bank - No Response

Commissioner Brown made a motion to go with Carolina Alliance, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION PROJECT

Ms. Tonia Hampton, Register of Deeds, stated she had reserved over \$94,000 in the automated reserve fund to go toward the preservation of documents. She presented a request from Peeler Preservation for a total of \$76,000. The company would be preserving 24 Death Books (from 1912-1961) and 32 Marriage Books (from 1852-1961) with each book containing approximately 400 pages each. The company would also donate a \$5,000 shelf to store the documents once they had been completed. The project would take two to three weeks to complete, and would be done onsite. Ms. Hampton asked for the Boards permission to approve the Peeler Preservation quote.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to proceed in the process, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS/NCACC VOTING DELEGATE

Chair Walker presented the second reading for the Planning Board vacancy, and asked each Commissioner to vote their ballot for one of the three applicants. The applicants were Tommy Stamey, Thomas Fleming, and Alex Portelli. After reviewing the marked and signed ballots, Ms. Mitchell announced it was a unanimous decision for Tommy Stamey.

Chair Walker also presented a vacancy on the Nursing/Adult Care Advisory Committee as a first reading. He then presented a request for designation of voting delegate to the NCACC Annual Conference in Forsythe County in August.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to have Commissioner Hollifield be the voting delegate, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

TAX MATTERS

Mr. Wooten noted the Tax Assessor had submitted three tax release request:

Redeemed Freewill Baptist - asked for their property to be exempted because they were unaware that their parking lot was mapped separately.

Debra Cox - asked for a deferral of her taxes with the PUV program due to the death of her mother and missing the deadline.

Creston POA – current mailing address was never updated with the Assessing department and the notices were sent to an unused mailbox.

Elderly exemption request:

Mr. Jay Gardin,
Ms Sandra Matthews
Mr. Thomas Williams
Ms. Frances Lindsay
Mr. Billy Proctor

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

Write-offs	\$ 1,659.00
Refunds	\$ 1,079.82
MV tax refunds	\$ 678.66
Releases under \$100	\$ 282.39
Releases over \$100	\$ 2,021.14
Discoveries	\$40,064.16

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve all tax releases, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DUKE ENERGY RELICENSING AMENDMENT

Mr. Wooten presented a Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement with Duke Energy for approval. The agreement with Duke Energy is for their license to operate Lake James. The license was recently issued to Duke for a 40 year term starting in 2015. There was a change that would increase the level of Lake James by six inches during certain events.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion to approve Duke Energy request, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

FOSTER PARENT LICENSING POLICY

Mr. Wooten stated staff had worked on a foster home licensing policy as directed by the Board at the June meeting. Discussion was held on the policy. Commissioner Brown suggested removing the third exemption stated in the policy under:

Exceptions to Residency Requirement:

- Any other situation that mandates licensing due to state or federal

Discussion was held on the grandfathered homes clause.

Grandfathered Homes: Homes outside the territorial limits of McDowell County that have completed the licensing process do not require the Board's approval.

Chair Walker suggested removing the grandfathered homes clause due to the strain and expense placed on our county of grandfathering homes two counties away. Mr. Wooten stated staff would speak with Haywood County to see if they would license a couple who have taken the foster training class in McDowell County.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion to approve Foster Home Licensing Policy along with changes and amendments as stated by this Board, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten announced there was a foster parent licensing class this week, and encouraged the public to participate. Chair Walker also encouraged participation in the class.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Water Projects –

** Universal water line should be under contract in the next week or two. Mr. Wooten noted staff had been waiting on a few permits to be approved.

** Harmony Grove Water line – Staff is working with NCDOT to approve some design changes that would reduce the cost of the project. Mr. Wooten asked for an additional \$83,885 be allocated to the project bringing the county commitment to \$300,000 toward the project, state department \$100,000, Forest Service \$60,000, ARC \$300,000 and staff will be asking ARC for an additional \$232,703.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to extend to \$300,000, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented a contract from the Forest Service for the county to extend the water line to their facility for \$60,000.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve agreement with Forest Service, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- Courthouse – Mr. Wooten stated there would be a ribbon cutting for the courthouse elevator on Friday, July 15th at 10:30am. Sheriff Greene will also give a tour of the security upgrades. The architect is working on preliminary drawings, elevations, etc. for the next phases of the work.

- Transportation – Board will meet with the transportation steering committee on July 18 at 11:30am to receive recommendations on the transportation item.

- Shooting Range – Mark Hamlett with NC Wildlife has left the agency and a new interim employee is handling shooting range projects now. The new employee will visit the county on July 26th to do some sound studies at possible sites.

- Senior Housing – Joy Strassel with Western NC Housing Partnership had a family death and had been out of the office for two weeks. Mr. Wooten reported he had received several names from community members who have an interest in the topic and will forward them to Ms. Strassel.

Vice Chair McPeters joined the meeting at 5:51pm.

Commissioner Hollifield commented on how nice the newly purchased building looked since the overgrowth had been removed.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

*July 15-Ribbon cutting 10:30am at the courthouse elevator, tour by Sheriff Greene to follow

*July 18-Transportation meeting at 11:30am in the Board Room

*July 28-Fourth Legacy premier at 6:30pm at the Marion Senior Center

CITIZEN COMMENT

There was no one signed up to speak, therefore there was no citizen comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Hollifield, second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned to July 18 at 11:30am in Commissioner's Board Room.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD