

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION – JULY 18, 2016**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned session on Monday, July 18, 2016, at 11:30a.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.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY GROUP

Terry Evans-DSS, Transportation Supervisor
Claire Brinkley-with Parsons Brinckerhoff
Rebecca Cherry- with Cherry Consultants
Gretchen Vetter– State of NC Dept of Transportation
Joy Shuford- Transportation Committee
Debbie Williams- DSS- Admin Asst
Weyland Prebor- Senior Center, Director
Camille Sterling- Greenway Public Transportation
Kerrie Giles- Rutherford County Transit

Mr. Evans spoke on the transportation needs of the county. He presented a chart showing in 2013 there were approximately 475 transportation trips which had increased over the years. In 2016 there were approximately 2,000 trips. He noted in 2015 the department had received a ROAP grant, and approximate transportation costs this past fiscal year were \$132,679. He also noted other counties with independent transportation departments had paid out less with the exception of Avery County.

Ms. Brinkley stated the county has three options: stay as is; establish new community transportation system; or purchase transportation services from an established provider. Presentation was made on all three options.

After the presentation, discussion was held in regards to all three options. Ms. Giles explained the transportation program in Rutherford County. Ms. Sterling explained the Greenway Public Transport, a regional independent service.

Ms. Shuford stated Foothills Industries no longer used the DSS transportation services due to federal regulations, she stated their program would be very interested in contracting services if they go with the county stand alone or independent services.

Commissioner Crawford left at 12:56 to return to work.

Mr. Evans stated there were currently six full time drivers, two part time drivers, one coordinator, and a supervisor working in transportation at DSS.

Ms. Shuford noted the DSS department was currently doing a lot of the work, if the decision was hers, she would go with DSS establishing a separate department with sole purpose of providing transportation. She added if the county goes with DSS providing the services, the Transportation Planning Board could be dissolved, as it would no longer be needed.

Ms. Brinkley stated she needs the Board's decision as soon as possible before she can proceed any further with the study.

Chair Walker thanked each one for attending and for the information they presented.

ADJOURNMENT

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

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD