

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JULY 9, 2018**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, July 9, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

David N. Walker, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair McPeters called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Ashley Wooten, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Cheryl Mitchell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greene made a motion, second by Commissioner Vaughn, to approve the June 11, 2018 Regular Session, June 18, 2018 Adjourned Session, June 28 Fire Commission meeting, and June 29 Adjourned Session minutes. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NCACC YOUTH DELEGATE

Mr. Chad Ray, NC State Extension 4-H Youth Development, introduced Alyson Biddix, the NCACC Youth Summit Attendee, and gave an overview of the Youth Summit program. Mr. Ray noted this was the 4th year a representative from McDowell County 4-H had participated in the program.

Ms. Biddix is active in the 4-H Ride It Club; Shooting Sports Club; and Livestock Judging Team. She is also the incoming Vice President of FFA at McDowell High School.

The Board thanked Ms. Biddix for her involvement. Vice Chair McPeters called for a brief recess for photos.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Building Inspections Fees

The Building Inspection Fees discussed at the last meeting were not completely understood, and Mr. Jay Suttles, Chief Building Inspector, proposed a new fee schedule. The new fee schedule would have a flat fee inclusive of the trades. The proposal was one flat fee of 30 cents per square foot for new homes, and 20 cents per square foot on additions/renovations.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to resend previous action, and approve the fee adjustments as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Cell Tower Fee Correction

At the June 29th meeting, the cell tower fees presented had a typo for the new cell tower fee. The correct fee should have been new tower fee increase from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to resend previous action, and approve corrected fee, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

WATERSHED ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Chair McPeters declared the Board in Public Hearing pursuant to NCGS 153A-323.

Mr. Ronald Harman presented the Watershed Ordinance and Map revision. The revision includes the section of the county that is now considered part of the Lake James watershed. There were no changes made in the ordinance that would change the intent or regulation, only clarification of some of the wording.

Vice Chair McPeters asked for comments from the public.

There were no comments.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to go out of public hearing, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the revised Watershed Ordinance and Map as presented, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DREXEL DONATION AGREEMENT

Mr. Wooten noted the City and County had been in discussions for three years of what to do with the old Drexel property. The current owner after purchasing the property had the building demolished and then left town. The owner now desires to donate the property to the City and County. An interlocal agreement with the City and County was presented with each paying \$125,000 and the State paying \$800,000 for the cleanup of the property. The City and County would perform environmental studies and enter into a Brownfield Agreement at the appropriate time. City has done the environmental studies, and has asked the State for additional funding. The State has agreed to an additional \$300,000. The property owner has signed the contract. Mr. Wooten noted he had not heard any objections from the County Attorney,

Commissioner Brown made a motion to move forward and approve the agreement, second by Commissioner Greene. Discussion followed. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Adult Home Care/Nursing Home Advisory Board has an on-going need for members, and one application had been received from Molly Eller.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve Ms. Molly Eller to the Adult Home Care/Nursing Home Advisory Board, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten advised he had received a request from Ms. Sabra Rock at the McDowell Mission for a Commissioner to attend their board meetings, and perhaps join their Board. Consensus was to put this item on next month's agenda as a second reading.

TAX MATTERS

Releases, Refunds, & Discoveries

MV tax refunds	\$ 514.00
Release under \$100	\$ 80.06
Discoveries	\$ 440.43
Refunds	\$ 81.73

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve all tax matters, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

FONTA FLORA TRAIL GRANT ENDORSEMENT

Tom Kenney, Land Protection Director, with Foothills Conservancy (FC) requested endorsement from the Board for a Recreational Trails Program grant. The grant application was for \$100,000 of state and federal funds to construct the public trail, a small parking lot, and trailhead on Old Highway 70. The FC is partnering with Camp Grier and State Parks, to route a section of the Fonte Flora Trail between Old Fort and Point Lookout Trail. The grant would not involve county dollars or responsibilities.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to endorse the grant with a letter of support, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lloyd Bureson spoke on the issues at the Johnny Banks Trailer Park. His property joins the park and he noted there was still squatting, and some are stealing power with drop cords from those who have power. He has been threatened by those living in the park, and has never seen the Sheriff's Dept at the location. The current owner is in prison. Consensus from the Board was to have the County Attorney see if there is any action that can be taken, also have the Health Department to look into the situation.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Greene, and a second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

BARRY McPETERS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD