

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JUNE 10, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Tony Brown, Vice-Chair

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 Old Fort Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Carlton, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Judge Bob Hunter.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Greene made a motion, second by Commissioner McPeters, to approve the May 9, 2019 Fire Commission meeting; May 13, 2019 Regular Session; May 20, 2019 DSS Regular Session; May 20, 2019 Recessed Session; and May 30, 2019 Budget Presentation minutes. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Friends of Lake James State Park Update

Nora Coffey, Supt. of Lake James State Park (LJSP), and Judge Robert Hunter, Vice Chair of the Friends gave an update on the LJSP. Mr. Hunter also recognized other board members of the Friends of LJSP. The Catawba River Campground is the most popular attraction of the park, and had received a lot of upgrades to the facility over the past year. Supt. Coffey gave the following statistics:

- Catawba River area attendance over 100,000 visitors a year
- Park totals 600,000 visitors a year
- Hidden Cove area is also well attended
- Swim Beach area is available to rent for parties
- Catawba River area averages 1,500-2,000 guests on a typical weekend; a holiday weekend averages 3,500-5,000 guests

Mr. Hunter presented a request for \$5,000 to go toward a leaf blower that attaches to a tractor for use at LJSP. The association will also go to the Tourism Development Authority to request funding assistance.

Chair Walker thanked the Supt. Coffey and Mr. Hunter for the update.

Old Fort Façade Program Request

Mr. Andrew Carlton, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Old Fort, requested a MEDA contribution that comes from county funds in the amount of \$2,000 for a façade program in the town. He presented copies of the Old Fort Façade Grant information and application, a copy is with the agenda materials. Businesses would apply for the funds with a maximum request up to \$3,000 per business.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the request releasing \$2000 to go toward the façade program, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

WBRM Lease Agreement

Mr. Wooten presented as a second reading a request from WBRM to place their new FM transmitter on the county-owned Grants Mountain Tower. The lease was for five years at \$200 a month lease rate. He also presented the following resolution:

Resolution Authorizing the Lease of County-Owned Property to WBRM, INC.

Whereas, McDowell County (“the County”) owns a communications tower on Grants Mountain in the vicinity of Marion; and

Whereas, the County utilizes the tower for public communication for county, State, and other governmental entities; and

Whereas, the county also leases space on the tower to private providers; and

Whereas, WBRM, Inc. has requested to place a FM transmitter on the tower; and

Whereas, County staff have determined the placement of the transmitter will not interfere with County, State, or other governmental transmission equipment; and

Whereas, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners have expressed support for locally-owned and operated businesses such as WBRM, Inc; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners do hereby authorize the lease of a portion of the County-owned tower to WBRM, Inc for a period of five years in accordance with a negotiated lease agreement.

Adopted this day the 10th of June, 2019

Attest:

David N. Walker
Chairman

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the lease and *Resolution Authorizing the Lease of County-Owned Property to WBRM, Inc*, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

226 South Property Annexation Request

Mr. Wooten presented a request from the developer of the Holiday Inn Express for the 60 foot easement area from NC 226 South to their site is annexed by the City of Marion. The City would then maintain the street.

Discussion followed on the annexation area.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the request for the 60 foot easement area on Hwy. 226S property to be annexed by the City of Marion, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

FY 2020 Budget Public Hearing

Chair Walker declared the board in public hearing at 5:32pm. He asked if anyone present wish to comment on the budget. There were no comments.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to go out of public hearing at 5:33pm, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adopt the budget as presented, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Charters of Freedom/Courthouse Lawn Update

Mr. Wooten gave an update on the upgrades that had made to the courthouse lawn. A new taller flagpole replaced the original pole, and the Veterans Wall had been cleaned and replaced.

Mr. Wooten announced there would be June 21st at 10am the Charters of Freedom will be dedicated with a special ceremony. The public was invited to the special occasion.

Board Appointments

The following vacancies were presented as a first reading:

Planning Board – one vacancy
 McDowell Tech Board of Trustees – one vacancy
 Jury Commission – one vacancy

The vacancies will be advertised by the Clerk, and applicants will be presented at next Regular Session meeting. No action was taken by the Board.

Sale of Sheriff's Office Firearms

The Sheriff's Office had several firearms that were no longer needed and requested the weapons be sold. The weapons would only be sold to current and retired Sheriff's Office employees. The money collected from the sale of the firearms will go toward the purchase of new firearms for the McDowell County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Wooten presented the following resolution:

Resolution Authorizing Sale of County Owned Property

Whereas, the County of McDowell desires to sell nineteen (19) surplus firearms that have become obsolete or unused, and

Whereas, nineteen (19) firearms have become obsolete or are unusable.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of McDowell County that:
The sale of nineteen (19) surplus firearms per G.S.160A-266 and G.S.160A-267

Ruger/M-14 189-42686	Ruger/M-14 188-01098	Ruger/M-14 187-96628
Ruger/M-14 185-11893	Ruger/M-14 182-30325	Ruger/M-14 189-24263
Ruger/M-14 182-30883	Remington/870 V534774V	Remington/870 V534852V
Remington/870 V534798V	Remington/870 V532433V	Remington/870 V534790V
Remington/870 V657044W	Remington/870 V534796V	Remington/870 V532325V
Remington/870 W146869V	Remington/870 V534916V	Winchester/1200 L744137
Winchester/1200 L743996		

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 10th day of June , 2019.

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David Walker
Chairman

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Sale of County Owned Property, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Administrative Items

Project Budget Ordinances presented for approval:

Baxter Healthcare-Project Sugarplum Amendment #1

Stacy Hill Water Line Project Amendment 4

Courthouse Renovation and Addition Project Amendment #2

Crane Resistoflex Amendment #1

Ethan Allen Building Reuse Amendment #2

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve all Project Budget Ordinances, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Budget Amendments

GF 67 – Transfers between line items under \$3,000

GF 68 – Transfers between line items due to taxable poll workers in Board of Elections

GF 69 – Transfers between line items and allocate emergency reimbursement in Emergency Services

GF 70 – Appropriates donations and transfers between line items in Public Services

GF 71 – Allocates revenue and transfers between line items in the Sheriff's Office

GF 72 – Allocates additional revenue in Juvenile Crime Prevention

GF 73 – Allocates fund balance to over anticipated hold harmless payment to the City

GF 74 – Transfers between line items in the water funds

GF 75 – Transfers between line items to transfer an employee from Public Services to Recreation

GF 76 – Transfers between line items in various departments under \$3,000

GF 77 – Transfer between line items in the Sheriff's Office

GF 78 – Allocates a Community Paramedic grant award

GF 79 – Allocates sales tax revenue

GF 80- Allocates Gymnastics fee revenue

GF 81 – Allocates donations in the Animal Shelter

ENT4 – Appropriates revenue and transfers between funds in the Waste Enterprise Fund

ENT5 – Appropriates revenue and transfers between line items in the Waste Enterprise Fund

TRANSIT1 – Transfers between line items in the Transit Dept

FD2 – Allocates estimated sales tax collections to the various service districts

REVF2 – Appropriates interest income to the Revaluation contract line item.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve all budget amendments, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Tax Matters

- **Releases & Refunds**

MV tax refunds	\$ 954.45
Refunds	\$ 818.76
Releases over \$100	\$3,096.06

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve all tax matters, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Public Comment

Dave LaLonde- wanted voting precinct map, and he stated the local Board of Elections did not have one for the past two years, and according to NCGS the BOE must have one filed and posted for public inspection.

Rhonda Seaman – thanked the Board for approving the façade grant funds for Old Fort; and invited the Board to the OF Community Forum's one year anniversary meeting at 5:30pm, on June 20th at First Baptist- Old Fort.

Reports and Communications

Commissioner McPeters noted the Fire Commission Association Banquet on Saturday, June 15th at 5:00pm at McDowell High Cafeteria.

The Board was invited to attend the 4-H District Activity Day on Saturday, June 15. Award presentations would begin at 1:30pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Greene, second by Chair Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Attest:

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD