

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JUNE 11, 2018**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 11, 2018, 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; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

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 Greene.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene, to approve the May 14, 2018 Regular Session; May 17, 2018 Budget Presentation; May 21, 2018 Adjourned; May 31, 2018 Adjourned; and June 1, 2018 Adjourned minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ashley Wooten requested to delete under New Business Item C. Wheel Loader Purchase

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve the agenda with the deletion, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF SKILLS USA PROGRAM

Ms. Mary Finley with the McDowell High Career Technical Education (CTE) program introduced students who placed in the recent SkillsUSA competition in Greensboro. The EMT program has finished in the top spots each of the four years of competition. Vice Chair McPeters is their instructor and all four students are interns at EMS.

The students and placement at SkillsUSA were: Blaine Williams, 4th place; Sierra Kelley, 3rd place; McKenzie Galloway, 2nd place; Caleb Parker, 1st place.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Construction continues on the courthouse, and footers have been poured.

Mr. Wooten recapped the May 31st Board meeting of relocating the Register of Deeds to 35 W. Fort St. He advised the revised contract had been signed, and working on due diligence with closing in early July. Once minor renovations are made the Register of Deeds could move to the newly purchased

building. This would make their current office available for renovations for the District Attorney's office to occupy.

Commissioner Brown added the budget had \$350,000 set aside for the moving of the Deeds office, so purchasing the building would be a savings.

Chairman Walker noted the Old Fort Elementary School would be in next year's budget, and the new Emergency Management building in 2020.

LIBRARY LIFT DISCUSSION

The Marion Library had requested the installation of a lift to make the library handicap accessible. The library has a private donor who has committed to \$8,000 if the county will install the lift in the next budget year. Mr. Wooten noted funds have been set aside to do the project.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to proceed with the lift, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ALBERTO RESPONSE UPDATE

Mr. William Kehler, EM Director, gave a presentation on the historical event, Tropical Storm Alberto that happened on May 29th. Flash flooding had previously happened May 18th-19th, with damage occurring in the county. FEMA and State agencies are combining the two events together. Deputy Director Craig Walker and Deputy Director Adrienne Jones led the response in Mr. Kehler's absence, (deployed to Hawaii for Kilauea volcano disaster assistance.)

Mr. Kehler gave a report on the recovery phase. He noted there were six injuries and no fatalities, and 17 citizens were rescued from the flash flooding. He emphasized the Class 1 emergency declared on the recommendation of the Lake Tahoma Dam Engineer and Warden, was the reason the Emergency Management implemented the evacuation plan of the dam area.

Chairman Walker as well as each Commissioner voiced their support with the decision the Emergency Management department made after the Class 1 emergency was called by the Lake Tahoma Engineer. They also expressed their appreciation for the support of the fire departments, churches, and agencies all working together during the storm, and the efficiency of the 911 Backup Center.

Commissioner Brown asked the process for individuals whose bridges and roads were damaged. Mr. Kehler noted the individual should notify EM of their damages and any estimates received.

UNIVERSAL WALKING TRAIL

Mr. Chuck Abernathy, MEDA Director, presented the Universal Walking Trail proposal. He highlighted the rules and operations sign, the trail markers, and fence around the water intake. The cost estimate proposed for the trail work would be less than \$10,000.

Ms. Lisa Robinson, Principal of McDowell Early College, was present and stated the MTCC Early College had \$2500 set aside for disc golf course, and a fishing club. If the trail were to be finished by August, students at the college could start the new clubs.

The Commissioners expressed how beautiful the area was, and looked forward to the public being able to utilize the property. Mr. Wooten asked for endorsement of the project.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to move forward with the project, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

McDOWELL HOSPITAL / HCA HEALTHCARE UPDATE

Ms. Carol Wolfenbarger gave an update on the new HCA Healthcare buyout of Mission Hospital. She gave the Board an engraved brick with “Commemorative Brick from The McDowell Hospital 1983-2018 in appreciation of your service and support to our community.”

Discussion on the hospital followed with:

- If the buyout occurred, would any hospitals be closed?
For a period of time, HCA is committed to keep facilities open.
- How many days has the hospital been at maximum capacity:
Mission McDowell has 25 in-patient rooms and 5 birthing suites for a total of 30 beds. The hospital has been full since March 9th when it was occupied. Transports are higher since moving into the new facility.
- How is the behavioral health issue being met?
The hospital has held as many as nine behavioral health patients, which is more than they prefer, but it takes time to get the patient to the right level of care.
- How many hospitals does Mission own:
Mission Health has 5 rural hospitals

STACY HILL ROAD WATER LINE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted there was a pre-construction meeting with builders this week. He suggested a groundbreaking ceremony before the work begins.

GREENWAY PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted there was concern due to the Alberto flooding that possible storm debris may affect the design of the project. If the damage was significant the county may seek FEMA funding to restore to its prior condition.

VOLUNTEERS at the ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Wooten advised Attorney Coats had recommended a minimum age of 18 years old to volunteer at the shelter.

Commissioner Brown would like to see the volunteer age lowered, and would like to see the age revisited in a year. Vice Chair McPeters agreed with Commissioner Brown, and would like to see 16 year olds eligible.

Mr. Wooten suggested revisiting the policy in 6 months if the board approved the policy.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the volunteer policy for 6 months and then review the volunteer age requirement, and lower the age if possible, second by Commissioner Greene. Discussion followed. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

POLICY REVISIONS

State Treasurer’s office recommended changes in the Credit Card Policy, Purchasing Policy; and Conflict of Interest Policy. The policies were drafted from models from the State, and were presented as a second reading. The Travel Policy had also been revised due to inflation.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the policies as presented, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DHHS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The General Assembly passed a law that requires counties have an annual Memorandum of Understanding with the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Staff had met and reviewed the targets and noted the deficiencies. An action plan has been set up to address the issues.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Wooten presented a request from Christina Grant for fee waiver of lost materials due to a fire in their RV. The fee total was \$385.59 for books and a DVD.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to grant the fee waiver, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Budget Amendments

Mr. Wooten presented the following Project Budget Ordinances for approval:

Project Budget Ordinance: Stacy Hill Water Line Project

Project Budget Ordinance: Catawba River Greenway Phase III Project Amendment 1

Project Budget Ordinance: Catawba River Greenway Phase III Project Amendment 2

Project Budget Ordinance: Courthouse Renovation and Addition Project

Commissioner Greene made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve the ordinances. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented the following amendments:

GF 57 –Records loan proceeds

GF 58 – Appropriates sales tax for the Stacy Hill and Reval funds

GF 59 – Appropriates donations and transfers between line items in EMS

GF 60 – Transfers between line items in Facility Maintenance

GF 61 – Appropriates revenue in the Sheriff's Office budget

GF 62 – Appropriates venue and transfers between line items

GF 63 – Amends the budget under \$3000 in various departments

GF 64 – Appropriates funds and transfers between line items for health insurance

GF 65 – Amends the budget for anticipated revenue

GF 66 – Appropriates revenue at the Senior Center

GF 67 – Transfers funds for the Alberto event

GF 68 – Allocates funds in the EMS department for youth programs

GF 69 – Appropriates fund balance due to bridge repair and stream stabilization

- GF 70 – Appropriates asset forfeiture funds for radios
- GF 71 – Appropriates homeowner recovery fees
- GF 72 – Transfers between line items in facility maintenance
- GF 73 – Appropriates the Teen Court Grant
- GF 74 – Appropriates jail revenue
- GF 75 – Transfers between line items under \$3000
- GF 76 – Transfers the budget due to vehicle purchase
- REVF2 – Appropriates fund balance due to revaluation contract
- FD1 – Allocates estimated tax collections for the fire/rescue departments
- SP3 – Amends the School Project Fund for school projects
- ENT3 – Allocates grant revenue and loan proceeds
- ENT4 – Allocates electronic management revenue and loan proceeds
- NWENT3 – Allocates revenue in the water fund
- 911F6 – Transfers funds between line items in the 911 Fund
- UENT2 – Amends the budget to transfer funds to the Universal Fund
- SI3 – Allocates revenue for self insurance fund

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

TAX MATTERS

Mr. Wooten presented three property owners appeals that were presented to the Property Tax Commission in Raleigh. The tax value was lowered from \$175,000 to \$17,500 for the following property owners:

Kathryn J Bates Revocable Trust c/o Kathryn Bates – 1 parcel
 Queens Crown Tract LLC c/o Devin McCarthy – 1 parcel
 McDowell Queens Gap LLC c/o Devin McCarthy – 3 parcels

Releases, Refunds

Refunds	\$ 2,146.11
MV tax refunds	\$ 514.26
Releases under \$100	\$ 98.08
Releases over \$100	\$ 4,270.66
Discoveries	\$ 1,210.23
Write-off	\$ 2,222.87

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene to approve the refund for overpaid tax with interest, and also tax releases, refunds, and write-offs. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair Walker presented as a second reading two vacancies for the Library Board of Trustees and two applications: Charlotte Moore and Shearon Cline; also one vacancy at MTCC Board of Trustees as a second reading. The Clerk had received one application from Randy Hollifield.

By written ballot the vote was unanimous for Charlotte Moore; Shearon Cline; and Randy Hollifield.

Chair Walker then presented a request from the NCACC for a voting delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference in Catawba County on August 25, 2018.

Commissioner Greene made a motion for Commissioner Vaughn to be the voting delegate, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wooten noted the Public Works transfer station would be closed Saturday, June 16, 2018, so repairs could be made to the floor. All other convenience sites would be open.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, motion was made by Commissioner Brown to adjourn, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD