

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JUNE 12, 2017**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 12, 2017, 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; Matthew Crawford, and Lynn Greene

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 Vice Chair McPeters, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Crawford.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greene made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve the May 8, 2017 Budget; May 8, 2017 Regular Session; May 11, 2017; May 19, 2017; May 22, 2017; May 30, 2017; and June 5, 2017 minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

EMS SAFETY CAMP

Mr. Kehler introduced Ethan Parker, an intern, who had done a three week internship with EMS and other departments in the county. He then made a presentation on the EMS Safety Camp that will be held June 20-22, 2017, for ages 6-14. The camp is designed to increase awareness and knowledge on various safety topics through hands on demonstrations and break-out sessions. He also recognized Sgt. Johnsie Parker, Administrative Officer, who organized the safety camp, and secured the presenters. Discussion followed on the camp.

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Kehler for the presentation.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Mr. Marlan Brinkley gave a presentation on the summer reading program the public library is offering. The program is observed across the nation, and is for all ages, including adults. Mr. Brinkley requested the Board to waive fines for late fees on children's books during the program.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to grant waiver for late fees on children's cards for the next two months, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

TRAIL PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Wooten reported staff had recently received qualification statements from several engineer/design firms for Phase III of the greenway. After review, McGill Associates were chosen as the most qualified. Work has also begun on a contract proposal that would basically cover the design and engineering of the greenway and associated improvements. The engineer would also quote optional work of designing a future bridge that would cross the river toward Tom Johnson Camping as well as future trail extensions to the east. Mr. Wooten will ask for a representative of McGill to be present at the July meeting, to present their proposal. The county has the funds available for the first part of Phase III.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair Walker presented as a second reading one vacancy at MTCC Board of Trustees. The Clerk had received two applications from James Washburn and Robert Puett, Sr. There was also one opening on the Jury Commission, and one application was received from Larry Lytle.

Commissioners voted by written ballot. The unanimous vote was for James Washburn for MTCC Trustee, and Larry Lytle for Jury Commission.

The Focal Point Advisory Committee had two openings, and read as a first reading. Two applications had been received from Diane Saccone and Fred DeViney. The committee had approved the nominees and requested the Board's approval.

The MEDA Board also had two terms expiring in July, and as such was presented as a first reading. The Clerk will advertise the vacancies and bring applications to the July meeting.

COURTHOUSE ADDITION UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted the engineer had begun work on the bid drawings for the courthouse expansion. Indications were it will take several months for the drawings. Since a large portion of the work will need to be financed, the financing will need Local Government Commission approval. The LGC stops accepting financing requests at the end of August. Since the drawings will not be complete and bids received by August, it will be late fall before the bidding begins, and financing approval in January.

Chair Walker noted staff would be ready with bids as soon as possible in order not to hold court up, while making sure everything was handled properly.

SHOOTING RANGE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten reviewed the process for the shooting range to this date, and noted the Wildlife Commission was very receptive to the Ashworth Road property, and they are looking at access to the property. There has been a lot of interest from the Wildlife Commission in handling the design, permitting and construction oversight of the range, and the county would operate the facility.

TAX MATTERS

Mr. Wooten presented a request from Penny Gross and Mary Morgan for a late filing waiver, due to the fact they were unaware of the June 1st deadline.

Releases, Refunds

Refunds	\$ 204.42
MV tax refunds	\$ 947.86
Releases under \$100	\$ 130.15

Releases over \$100 \$6,051.09

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene to approve the request for late filing waiver, and also tax releases and refunds. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Chairman recognized Mr. Wooten and asked him to review the budget process. Mr. Wooten noted that the budget ordinance was prepared over several months after meeting with department heads and several outside agencies. He also noted that the public hearing had been advertised in The McDowell News as required by NC General Statute 159-12 and a draft ordinance had been available for public inspection in the Clerk to the Board's office. Mr. Wooten stated the budget included cost of living adjustments for employees at 1.25% in July and 1.25% in January, 2018. He advised the recommended budget was \$40,562,169., a 0.70% decrease from the 2017 budget.

Mr. Wooten then presented a request for a position for an IT department. He reported over the past five years the county had spent an average of \$66,470 a year for IT issues. Discussion followed on the savings by adding the position, and making sure the person can do the work for all departments.

The Chairman then declared the meeting to be in public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed FY 2018 budget.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to go out of public hearing, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve the creation of an IT Position, and re-evaluate in one year, second by Commissioner Greene. Discussion followed. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve the FY2018 budget, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

Budget Amendments

Mr. Wooten presented the following ordinances for approval:

Project Budget Ordinance: Jail and Courthouse Addition/Renovations

Project Budget Ordinance: Community Food and Health Hub

Project Budget Ordinance: Universal Water Line

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

Mr. Wooten presented the following amendments:

GF 64 — Allocates 4-H and educational funds

GF 65 – Allocates additional revenue and transfer between departments in Emergency Services.

GF 66 – Transfers between line items in the Finance Dept

GF 67 – Transfer funds between line items in the Facility Maintenance Dept

GF 68 – Allocates additional revenue for the Register of Deeds

GF 69 – Allocates additional revenue in the Sheriff's Dept

GF 70 – Allocates additional revenue and transfers between line items in Soil and Water

GF 71 – Allocates additional revenue in the Tag Office function.

GF 72 – Allocates additional revenue for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

GF 73 – Appropriates fund balance for the chiller replacement at MTCC

GF 74—Allocates additional revenue in various departments

GF 75 – Allocates additional revenue and transfers between line items at Recreation.

GF 76 – Allocates additional revenue for the Jail/Courthouse Project

REVF1 – Appropriates revaluation fund balance for the Pictometry program

FD1 – Allocates estimated tax collection to the fire and rescue departments

DS1 – Appropriates fund balance for additional interest charges

ENT1 – Transfers within the Enterprise Fund budget

NWENT2 – Allocates revenue in the Nebo Water budget

911F5 – Transfers between line items and allocates additional funding in the 911 Fund

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

STACY HILL ROAD WATER LINE

Mr. Wooten noted he and the county's engineer had been working with EPA to go through the permitting process for the Stacy Hill road water line. After speaking with the grant provider the county was notified the grant would be extended an additional 12 months. Mr. Wooten was hopeful bids would go out in August. The approximate cost of the project was \$1.2M, with \$400,000 in EPA funds available.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL APPROVALS

Mr. Wooten presented for approval the annual plan, funding plan, and certification.

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

PAVING ESCROW APPROVAL

The subdivision ordinance allows for a paving escrow agreement to assure the subdivision will be paved. The Peninsula developer submitted a paving escrow request. Once the paving has been done, the county would release the funds.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve the paving escrow agreement, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wooten announced an invitation to participate in the 4th of July parade in Marion. He also asked for the Board to meet on June 30th at 11:30am to review end of the year budget amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, motion was made by Commissioner Crawford to adjourn to June 30, 2017 at 11:30am, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD