

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION – MARCH 28, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 11:30a.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Tony Brown, Vice-Chair

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; William Kehler, EM Director; Adrienne Jones, EM Deputy Director; Steve Hancock, EM Logistics Officer; Alison Bell, Finance Director; Chuck Hamrick, Architect with Holland and Hamrick; Terry DePoyster, Public Services Director

Call to Order

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 11:33am.

Emergency Services Update

William Kehler, EM Director, gave several reasons why the current Emergency Services (ES) location no longer meets their needs:

- due to being built in 1978 for station wagon ambulances the door height had to be adjusted
- can't open doors of the units in the bays
- can't park all vehicles inside
- bathrooms and closets have been converted to offices
- not enough beds for 24 hr shift
- takes longer to reach calls coming from downtown
- not enough space

Mr. Kehler presented a blueprint for a new ES building; copy is with the agenda materials. Due to 80% of calls are outside of the five mile radius of downtown, the proposed site would be located at the county owned Barnes Road property. The new construction would have approximately 26,000 sf of heated space, and 760 sf of unheated space. Total projected cost range from \$6,384,000 to \$7,170,000. The building would allow for growth for the next 30-40 years, and allows for expansion of the Community Care Program. It would be a four bay base.

ES also requested a substation on the northern end of town. The substation would be approximately 3,000-3,500 sf. Several sites have been looked at for the new construction, and staff had talked with an individual about their property but the request was too much. Staff had looked also at the old vacant Credit Union building on Hwy 221N, and had spoken with Great Meadows Corporation about property. Great Meadows was not interested in selling any of their property.

Commissioner McPeters asked if the EOC location and 911 Center could be moved to the new site. Mr. Kehler noted the 911Center has to be one mile away from the base. He added the current EOC is unique, and a valuable asset to having everything under cover away from the elements.

Mr. Wooten noted he and Ms. Bell had met with representatives from USDA regarding funding for public facilities such as the new ES base. USDA offers lending for up to 40 years. There is a 17 point loan process which would add another layer of paperwork for architects. Holland and Hamrick have worked with USDA financing and are familiar with the process. USDA financing for a 40 year loan the annual payment would be approximately \$485,000 with 7.1% interest. The loan would also be subject to LGC approval, and also approval in DC due to it being a federal loan. Mr. Wooten noted it would take one year to break ground if started today.

Mr. Kehler added NC DOT offers paving from the state highway to the pad for ES. He also noted there could be opportunity for corporate funding for naming of training rooms.

Consensus from the Board was agreement for building the main base and substation, and liked the blueprint.

The substation could be financed separately, and the downtown base would remain open until the northern substation was functioning.

Consensus from the Board was for staff to meet and talk with owners and come back with recommendations for the north end substation.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to move forward with USDA funding, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 4-0 the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve and seal the March 11, 2019 Closed Session minutes, second by Commissioner McPeters. By a vote of 4-0 the motion carried.

Adjourn

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to adjourn at 12:19pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

David Walker
Chair

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board