

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION – MAY 20, 2019**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 12:25p.m., at the DSS Conference Room, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Chair; Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn

Members Absent

Lynn Greene; Barry McPeters

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director; Terry DePoyster, Public Services Director; Chuck Hamrick, Engineer with Holland and Hamrick

Solid Waste Fee Discussion

Mr. Wooten noted most counties charge a solid waste fee that goes back into their Enterprise Fund. McDowell County's non-residential waste users of the transfer station pay a tipping fee based on the actual tonnage, currently \$50. Staff recommended the fee be increased to \$60 a ton. The increase would generate approximately \$225,000 in additional revenue for the non-residential waste. The total disposal amount is expected to increase next year, which means the general fund contribution will also need to be increased since a large portion of the waste is not being charged the tipping fee.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to go to \$60 effective July 1, 2019, second by Vice Chair Brown. By a vote of 2-1, the motion passed.

Vice Chair Brown; Commissioner Vaughn –Yes
Chair Walker --No

Courthouse Update/Public Defender

Beam Construction submitted their pricing for the basement up-fit of \$395,000 for the Public Defender space. Mr. Hamrick had asked the contractor for ways to reduce the cost, if any savings are found they would be deducted from the estimate. The additional charges for access controls and IT cable were \$16,000.

Discussion followed on the current leased space, parking issues and no room for growth at the current Public Defender location.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion based on the staff's recommendation to proceed and set aside \$400,000 for the project in next year's budget, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Chicken Plant Proposal

Mr. Wooten noted there had been different county departments that had expressed interest in the former small animal processing plant. One of which was the Recreation Dept. Recreation has maintenance responsibilities for 12 ball fields, 2 swimming pools, the Woodlawn Roadside Park, Recreation Center facilities, and 7 different facility locations. The equipment necessary for all this maintenance could be housed at the plant. Parking is an issue at the Rec Center, moving the department vehicles would free up needed space. Also, there would be space at the former plant to service the equipment instead of hiring the services done. The maintenance department has 3 fulltime employees and the plant would have office space for the employees.

Mr. Chuck Hamrick stated due to the custom design of the building he would not recommend doing any renovations on the building other than using it for storage. He added most inside walls were insulated and had concrete curbs and walls half way up. The facility has a couple of offices.

Vice Chair Brown asked if there was room for Soil and Water Dept. equipment in addition to the Recreation equipment. Mr. DePoyster believes there would be room for the storing of Soil and Water Dept. equipment, but not enough room for their staff.

Discussion was held on adding a rolling garage door to the facility for ease of storing the equipment, and also possible storage locations at the Universal property.

Vice Chair Brown requested a cost estimate of work that would have to be done on the facility to relocate the department. Chair Walker requested options for potential usage of the former processing facility, other locations where equipment could be located, and an update of when big debt items would be paid off.

Courthouse Lawn

Mr. Wooten noted the Charters of Freedom dedication would be June 28th at 10:00am. The ceremony would also recognize the relocation of the flagpole and the Veterans wall.

Mr. DePoyster gave an update on the courthouse renovations and noted the contractors are waiting on pricing for sheetrock. He added Judge Pool refused to hold court without pews; chairs were unacceptable for him, so they are waiting on the pews to ship.

Announcements

The Board was invited to the Senior Games Banquet. Due to the Board of E & R meeting at the same time, Vice Chair Brown would attend the banquet and bring greetings on behalf of the Board.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to adjourn at 1:28pm, second by Commissioner

Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

David Walker, Chair

Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board