

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION – MAY 31, 2018**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Adjourned Session on Thursday, May 31st, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., at the Dogwood Building of the MTCC Campus, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Tony Brown; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order.

Stacy Hill Water Resolution

Mr. Wooten presented a corrected financing resolution for the water lines, due to an error in the resolution approved at the May 21st board meeting. BB&T was approved for the water line extension financing of \$450,000.00 at 3.01%, semi-annual payments for four years.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve *Resolution Approving Financing Terms*, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Senior Center Usage/Fee Waiver

The Mountain View and Hudgins High School classes requested use of the Senior Center for a reunion. The group requested a waiver of the \$300 rental fee, but was agreeable to paying the \$200 refundable cleaning deposit.

Discussion was held on the Senior Center usage policy. The Board would like to have time to review the policy and suggest any revisions, due to this being the first time they had seen the policy. Consensus from the Board was to use the Senior Center for county functions, and not approve fee waivers. Request was made for Attorney Fred Coats to also review the usage policy.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to deny the \$300 fee waiver and allow the group usage of the building, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to freeze usage of the building for anyone other than county employees until Board has time to review the usage policy, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

Facilities Update

Public Defender -- currently McDowell County does not have a Public Defender, the State proposed budget has funds allocated for McDowell and Rutherford. The estimate is for six full time staff in McDowell County. The county will be responsible for providing space for this agency.

EMS Station Planning-- Chuck Hamrick, architect, looked at the current EMS building and estimated \$600,000 to renovate and bring up to code. He also looked at the Brooks building and renovations were estimated at \$400,000. Consensus from the Commissioners was to identify and remove damage from the Brooks building, and assess the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC needs. Options were then discussed for the Brooks building, renting the facility once renovated vs facility needs for several outside agencies, such as, GAL; probation; and Public Defender.

Register of Deeds—discussion of relocation to EMS base, the earliest the facility would be available might be the end of 2022. A suggestion was to look for an alternative facility that could accommodate the function earlier and at a lower cost. Staff discussed several buildings currently on the real estate market as options worth examining. One building noted was 35 West Fort Street. Mr. Wooten stated that he had researched the building's recent use and learned the Administrative Office of the Courts had used the building for training until fairly recently. He noted that the facility was renovated for that tenant. An evaluation of the property had revealed that the roof is 15-20 years old, that there are nine (9) parking spaces with the building. Several Commissioners discussed their familiarity with the building and its general condition. Commissioner Vaughn stated that she had attended training in the building and remarked on its apparent excellent condition.

Mr. Wooten reminded the Board once the courtroom addition was completed, all court operations will be moved into the new addition while the courtroom HVAC and windows are renovated. Without an alternative location, this would mean the Register of Deeds office would vacate the current space and return once the renovation is complete. Chairman Walker noted that it would be more prudent to relocate the function once and to renovate the space at that time for the District Attorney, which he also stated as a longtime goal of the commissioners.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to offer a minimum of \$230,000 and a maximum of \$299,900 for the 35 West Fort Street building, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Budget Review

Mr. Wooten reviewed some of the major funding request totals not included in the budget recommendation. He asked if there were any concerns. The Board discussed the request from the Friends of Lake James. They had requested \$5,000 for a blower attachment for a tractor for use at the State Park.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to give \$2,000 for blower attachment, second by Vice Chair McPeters.

Aye: Commissioner Brown and Vice Chair McPeters
No: Commissioner Greene; Commissioner Vaughn; Chairman Walker
By a vote of 2-3 motion was denied.

Discussion was held on School Resource Officer in each school. Currently fulltime deputies are helping to cover the duties of SRO in each school.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn to Friday, June 1st at 3:00pm in the Commissioner's Board Room, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD