

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – JULY 14, 2014**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 14, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., Commission Board Room of the County Administration Building, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Van Randy Hollifield, Chairman; Joseph R. Kaylor, Vice-Chairman; Michael K. Lavender; and David N. Walker.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Ashley Wooten, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and Theresa Strickland, Public Information Technician (Filming).

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hollifield called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Lavender, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Chairman Hollifield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kaylor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender, to approve the June 9, 2014 Regular Session and the June 26, 2014 Adjourned Session Minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lavender made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaylor, to approve the agenda as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE AND FINANCE MATTERS

The County Manager presented an update on the county's expenditures and revenues through this point in the fiscal year, and the close out of the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Kaylor asked several questions related to the tax releases, rebills, and asked for clarifications.

The County Manager reviewed the Project Ordinance for the McDowell House project. Commissioner Lavender motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to

approve the McDowell House Project Ordinance. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mr. Abernathy also reviewed the financing of two EMS vehicles. The Board had previously approved the purchase.

Ms. Morgan recommended that the Board approve the financing bid of BB&T who responded with a term of 2.03% over four years with eight semiannual payments beginning February 2015. Other banks that responded were Carolina Alliance Bank with 2.25%. PNC and Wells Fargo also responded but with unfavorable financing terms. Bank of America, Fifth Third, SunTrust, and First Citizens did not respond to the RFP.

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Lavender, to approve the ***RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS***, which authorizes the County to enter into a debt financing arrangement with BB&T at an annual percentage rate of 2.03%.

Commissioner Lavender lamented that more banks were not quoting lending terms.

By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mr. Abernathy presented a list of non-collectible EMS bills that were presented for write-off. Ms. Morgan noted that many of the bills are over the ten-year collection limit. She provided an explanation of the numerous attempts to collect the debt.

A general discussion of the collection process followed.

Commissioner Lavender motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to write-off the EMS non-collectibles. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

The County Manager reviewed a request from Brent Rumfelt, who has retired from the McDowell Sheriff's Office, to authorize the sale of his sidearm.

Commissioner Kaylor motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to authorize the ***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY***. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

Mr. Abernathy reviewed two fee waiver requests. The first covered wood waste disposed from the Universal building and the second was the disposal of burned debris from a home.

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Lavender, to waive the two fees. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

POLICY FOR NON-PROFIT REPORTING

The County Manager reminded the Board that they had received a draft of a revised non-profit funding policy. He stated that much of the change would result in an increase in reporting by the entities. He praised the work of intern Randall Conley.

Commissioner Kaylor motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to approve the Policy on Non-Profit Reporting.

Commissioner Lavender expressed a reservation to Number 8 in the policy that references external audits.

By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DISCUSSION

The County Manager provided an overview of the existing public transportation for McDowell County. He noted that the Board had previously requested a study in 2011 of the transportation opportunities for the County.

Mr. Abernathy advised that due to change in state law, there would need to be action taken by the County in order to continue to receive state funding for vehicles.

He suggested that the Transportation Planning Board be involved in the transitioning process.

DSS Director Lisa Sprouse mentioned that NCDOT would need to complete their transition study that was requested previously before any changes could be made locally.

A general discussion of the transition study and the process followed.

Commissioner Kaylor motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to authorize the **RESOLUTION** that requested a study of public transportation in McDowell County. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROCLAMATION

Cooperative Extension Director Molly Sandfoss presented a Proclamation recognizing the centennial of the Cooperative Extension program in North Carolina.

Commissioner Lavender motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to approve the proclamation as presented by Ms. Sandfoss.

A general discussion of the benefits of the Cooperative Extension followed.

Ms. Sandfoss invited the Board and the public to the centennial celebration that will be held on August 2 at the Agricultural Center. She also introduced Heather Peek, a new agent who will focus on improving children and adult nutrition.

DOT RESOLUTION AND INFORMATION

Jim Edwards, the director of Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, presented the Board an update on the recent law changes concerning transportation funding in North Carolina.

He reviewed the projects for the county and the region and their priority scores. He suggested that the Board members come to a public meeting on July 15 with NCDOT to give input on the law change.

A general discussion of the fairness of the program followed. Mr. Edwards stated that he felt that many rural areas are generally upset with the early results of the program.

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Lavender, to approve the motion ***RESOLUTION TO OFFER COMMENTS ON THE NORTH CAROLINA TRANSPORTATION NETWORK (NCTN) AND DRAFT RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS***. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

SENIOR CENTER MEDICARE PRESENTATION

Dawna Ledbetter of the McDowell Senior Center presented an overview of the SHIIP initiative. She specifically discussed the Medicare Low-Income Subsidy for persons that are recipients of Medicare Part D. She stated that there are over 2,000 persons who qualify for the program who are not enrolled. She encouraged the Board and the public to direct individuals to the Senior Center if they feel they may qualify or if they have questions.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER UPDATE

The County Manager presented an update on the crisis center project. He noted that the center had been funded by the grant agency. Mr. Abernathy suggested holding a workshop to discuss the issues surrounding the mental health entities.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Kaylor, to appoint Joe Tisdale and Ben Talbert to the Library Board of Trustees. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

PROPERTY UPDATES

The County Manager provided a quick update on several property items. He mentioned that the property at Fern Avenue still has some deed issues that need to be cleared up.

Mr. Abernathy also mentioned that the property that had been deeded to McDowell Animal Outreach several years prior had reverted to the county. He stated that the deed had been recorded and the property is now available to be used for the Saddle and Bridle Club.

He also discussed property long Forest Lake Heights that the county had previously purchased for the water treatment plant. He suggested perhaps placing a sign on the property advertising for bids at \$4,000 per acre.

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Kaylor, to authorize advertising the property for sale with the understanding that any approval would need to come back before the Board. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

MCDOWELL HOUSE/NPS AGREEMENT

Mr. Wooten provided the Board an update on the recent McDowell House activity. He noted that the Board had earlier in the meeting authorized the Project Ordinance for the McDowell House project. He stated that the agreement before them between the National Park Service and the County meant that NPS would be providing \$50,000 to match \$15,000 in local funds in order to begin the restoration of the house. He informed the board that this was the first in a multi-stage process to restore the house and that it would take additional time and money.

Commissioner Walker motioned, with a second by Commissioner Lavender, to authorize the agreement with the National Park Service. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

TAX MATTERS

The monthly listing of tax releases and refunds were presented for the Board's approval. In summary they were:

Releases Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$384.31
Releases Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$4,021.87
Motor Vehicle Releases Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$269.19
Motor Vehicle Releases Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$606.90
Release Refunds	Refunded amount of \$89.31

The NCVTS Pending Refund report showed a refund total of \$3,356.83.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lavender to approve the tax releases and refunds as presented. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

POLICY MAKERS MEETING

The County Manager encouraged the Board to attend the Kate B. Reynolds Trust Policy Makers meeting on July 23 at the Community College. He felt that the attendance at this meeting is extremely important to show the appreciation the Board felt for the assistance KBR had provided to the county.

NCACC VOTING DELEGATE

Commissioner Kaylor motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to appoint the Chairman as the Voting Delegate at the annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners meeting in Buncombe County in August. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No one from the public requested to speak.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Lavender motioned, with a second by Commissioner Walker, to go into closed session via 143-318 section 3. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

No action was taken following the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Kaylor and a second by Commissioner Lavender, the meeting was adjourned to August 4, 2014 at 11:30 for the purposes of having a workshop on mental health.

VAN RANDY HOLLIFIELD
CHAIRMAN

ASHLEY R. WOOTEN
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

