

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – MAY 9, 2016**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 9, 2016, 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; Van "Randy" Hollifield; Matthew Crawford, and Tony Brown

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager, Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Theresa Strickland, Public Information Technician (Filming)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Brown, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Vice Chair McPeters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield, to approve the April 11, 2016 Regular Session minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve and seal March 17 Closed Session minutes, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Walker called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Wooten stated Ms. Shelly Foreman was sick and unable to attend to give the mental health update.

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

SCHOOL STEM PRESENTATION

Ms. Pat Gross, GEAR UP Coordinator, and Ms. Melissa Smith, Math 3 teacher, from McDowell High School introduced Deanna Hensley and Madison Conley students from McDowell High who presented their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) project. The project was a miniature golf course based on an alien theme.

Commissioners thanked the students for their presentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS AND BUDGET UPDATE

Fee Waiver

Mr. Wooten presented a waiver request from the public library. The library is hosting a reading program this summer, and would like to give pool passes as a reward. They asked for a \$100 waiver to cover 50 passes.

Mr. Wooten also presented a garbage tipping fee waiver from the organizers of the Relay for Life event.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve fee waiver for Relay for Life and also the library. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Budget Amendments

Ms. Alison Morgan, Finance Officer presented the following amendments for approval:

Project Ordinance Amendments: Jail and Courthouse Project

Project Closeout Resolution: Scattered Site Housing Grant

GF 47 — Amends the general fund balance due to change orders for the jail and courthouse project.

GF 48 —Amends the general fund due to donations and transfer between line items in Cooperative Extension.

GF 49 —Amends the general fund to reflect loan proceeds for sheriff and EMS vehicles.

GF 50 —To amend the general fund due to additional funding received at DSS.

GF 51 —Amends the general fund in various departments due to additional costs.

GF 52 —Amends the general fund due to additional funding received at the Senior Center.

GF 53 —Amends the general fund due to grant funding for the ECU training program.

GF 54 —Makes several transfers between line items.

TP1— Appropriates the \$15,000 donation received for the trail project.

KBRCP1 —Makes adjustments in the Community Paramedic program budget.

ENT1 —Transfers between line items in the Enterprise Fund budget.

911F2 —Transfer between line items and appropriates 911 fund balance.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve Project Ordinance Amendment for Jail and Courthouse; Project Closeout Resolution for Scattered Site Housing Grant; GF47-54, TP1, KBRCP1;ENT1; 911F2; second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten spoke on the sales tax revenue and tax collections. Board expressed their appreciation for the work the tax collection department is doing.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chair Walker presented vacancies on the Adult Care/Nursing Home Advisory Board and the MTCC Board of Trustees as a first reading. Vacancies will be advertised and brought back at the next Board meeting.

TAX MATTERS

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

Write-offs \$ 2,198.20

Refunds	\$ 200.44
MV tax refunds	\$ 947.89
Releases under \$100	\$ 1,299.31
Releases over \$100	\$ 7,370.09
Discoveries	\$ 1,125.13

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

WOODLAWN ROADSIDE PARK UPDATE

Mr. Wooten stated he had received several inquiries about the condition of the Woodlawn Roadside Park on Hwy 221 N. The property is owned by the US Forest Service and is maintained by the county under a long-term lease. The water line serving the restrooms has been broken for several months and will require repair. USFS stated their fiscal year ends September, so they will not know their available funds to address the water needs until late summer.

Discussion was held on possibility of grant funds, due to trails located behind the park. Discussion was also held in regards to using the Bridge crew, or vocational classes at the high school or college to make the improvements to the park.

GREENWAY TRAIL UPDATE

Mr. Wooten stated the Board had previously authorized moving forward with the third phase of the river greenway. A related project is a nature trail that would be built in conjunction with the paved greenway.

The trail would be available for public use but would also be utilized for the high school cross country team for practice and meets. Mr. Wooten recommended submitting an application for a grant under the Recreational Trails Program to construct the trail. The grant requires a match, which would be met with existing funds from the main project. No additional county funds would be required for the project.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion to go ahead with application, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

911 BACKUP PLAN

Mr. Wooten stated the Board approved the 911 backup plan at the April meeting. The state has requested the county change the plan to eliminate any switchover time from the South Main Street location to Universal.

Recommendation was to have an agreement with Mitchell County so that our lines would transfer there temporarily until the backup location was activated at Universal. There was a request made for Mitchell County to approve the request as well.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve *Memorandum of Understanding with Mitchell County*. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

WATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Wooten reported both the Universal and Harmony Grove Road waterlines are being advertised for bid. The bid opening for both projects will be the end of May, with the goal of construction underway by the end of July on both projects.

Mr. Wooten advised county staff will begin visiting homes and businesses along the Harmony Grove Road corridor with sign-up information. He requested the Board to waive connection fees (minus account deposits) for a certain period after construction is complete (typically six months) to encourage more hook-ups from potential customers.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve waiver of tipping fees on water lines going to homes for six months, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

BLACK BEAR ACCESS AREA UPDATE

Mr. Ronald Harmon, Asst. County Manager, presented an update on the Black Bear Access Area. In previous years the county had discussed a potential lease of a large tract of land on Lake James adjacent to the Black Bear Access Area. The land is owned by Duke Energy, who is required to make land available for public access.

Duke Energy is proposing to construct a day-use area (picnic tables, fishing pier, etc.) and a tent camping area with a bathhouse and associated amenities. After construction, Duke would ask the county to maintain the areas in accordance with the terms on a lease.

The county had previously indicated to Duke that this arrangement would be beneficial for both parties. The park would be developed over the next two or three years based on federal approvals.

Discussion was held in regards to oversight of the camping facilities. Consensus of the Commissioners was favorable for the construction.

DREXEL UPDATE/GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Wooten stated the City has identified additional grant funding that might be a possibility for the Drexel cleanup project. The City has requested the county adopt a resolution in support of the application titled *AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY McDOWELL COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM*.

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

COURTHOUSE AND JAIL UPDATE

The County Manager explained Mr. Hamrick, the architect, had met with the court officials to review the design plan and to discuss possible revisions. The revised plan was presented with additional work including window replacement, HVAC, and office space renovation.

Mr. Wooten suggested beginning the design process with Mr. Hamrick's firm, and for him to bring back a finalized set of drawings. The anticipated time frame of design, bidding, and loan approval would be ten months or so, which would allow for the debt payment to be scheduled in July 2017 when there is debt coming off the books.

Discussion was held on using the same contractor that has done the work on the courthouse.

Parking issues were discussed due to anticipated construction taking several current parking spaces.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to put the architect under contract, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair Walker declared the meeting to be in public hearing according to NCGS 158-7.1.

Mr. Abernathy, MEDA Director, spoke on a proposed incentive for an existing company, Baldor. Baldor would add 22 jobs, at an average salary of \$45,000. The recommended incentive of \$66,000 (\$3,000 per job) would be paid out over two fiscal years starting in FY 2017.

Comments from the public were received, and discussion was held by the Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Vice Chair McPeters, to approve the recommended \$66,000 incentive. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public requested to speak.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wooten reminded the Commissioners of a meeting on Monday, May 16, at 6:00pm with the School Board at Central Office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Vice Chair McPeters and a second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, May 12, at 6:30pm at the William Harold Smith Building on the campus of McDowell Technical Community College in order to meet with the McDowell Fire Commission.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD

