

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 14, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Board Room, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Tony Brown; Van "Randy" Hollifield; and Matthew Crawford

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 Crawford, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Hollifield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford, to approve the October 10, 2016 Regular Session, and November 1, 2016 Emergency Session minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Walker asked for corrections or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Wooten requested to add Dr. Gossett-MTCC President to the agenda.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Brown to approve the agenda with the addition. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

McDOWELL TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. John Gossett, President of MTCC, noted due to the passing of the bond referendum in the NC elections, MTCC would be receiving \$4.6 million for new buildings or repair and renovations. The college plans on building a new cosmetology building. Chair Walker noted the county is responsible for the building and grounds of the campus. Dr. Gossett requested the county sign the college's request for the maintenance of the new building.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve McDowell Tech's request, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. William Kehler gave a power point presentation on his department's experience serving in the eastern part of the state in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. He recognized the three teams that were deployed, and praised his department for their work and dedication.

Mr. Kehler then presented an update on the 911 Backup Center. He requested an appropriation of 911 funds of \$87,068, receive 911 grant, and permission to file for funding reconsideration in the amount of \$38,995.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve all three items, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Kehler then presented an amended inter-local agreement request from Mitchell County 911 Backup Operations.

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

Mr. Kehler presented an update on the fire ratings of Nebo, Glenwood, and Marion Fire Departments. Mr. Craig Walker gave an overview of the fire rating process, noting all the time and work that goes into the process.

Chief Donnie Tipton of the Glenwood Fire Dept spoke on the process of receiving a Class 5 rating for the Glenwood District.

Chief Rick Simmons, Nebo Fire Dept, also received a Class 5 rating for the Nebo District.

Mr. Walker reported for the Marion Area Fire District, which received a Class 6 rating.

Mr. Kehler presented a request to add Steve Wilkerson, Physician Asst. as an assistant medical director for the McDowell EMS System. Currently Dr. Edward St. Bernard is contracted to provide all aspects of medical direction. With the addition of Mr. Wilkerson there would be assistance to the Community Care Division, and providing online medical control to the agency when Dr. St. Bernard is out of the office or on vacation. The proposed contract for Mr. Wilkerson was \$625 quarterly, to be paid by grant funding for the next two years. Mr. Kehler also requested approval of Dr. St. Bernard's updated contract for \$3,000 quarterly.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve both contracts, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Kehler gave an update on the wildfires in the surrounding areas.

Mr. Wooten presented a request to allow banning within 100 feet of a structure. The Fire Commission requested a temporary ordinance to ban burning within 100 feet of a dwelling. Request was for a temporary appointment of Deputy Director, Craig Walker to fill the position of County Fire Marshall, to enforce the ban.

Consensus was to have the Planning Board, with the option of assistance from the Fire Commission, draft an ordinance at the same time they are looking at the Illegal Burn Ordinance.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to ban temporary burning within 100 ft of a house, and authorize Deputy Director Walker to enforce, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Brief recess was declared at 5:45pm to set up power point for next presentation.

Chair Walker called the meeting back in session at 5:48pm.

PACE PROGRAM

Mr. Weyland Prebor and Ms. Martha Zimmerman presented information on PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly). PACE is a managed care program for older adults. The program features comprehensive service delivery system, and an integrated Medicare and Medicaid financing. Mr. Prebor requested a letter to let the Asheville CarePartners' PACE program know there is an interest in McDowell County.

Chair Walker expressed his approval for helping the aging population to stay in their homes longer. The entire board expressed their approval for the program.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to go ahead and mail a letter stating the Board's support, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

PICTOMETRY MAPPING PROGRAM

Mr. Chad Phillips, Tax Assessor, noted the current GIS mapping program allows one angle from the top down view of the property. He introduced Mr. Bradley Robertson, District Manager with Pictometry, who gave an overview of the program. He noted Pictometry with ChangeFinder software generates sharp scalable 3-D images viewable from five different angles. The program reduces time of personnel making actual visits to the property.

Mr. Robertson noted the single flight option was \$114,305.50; and the multi flight option was \$94,191.75, with the first flight scheduled for 2017, second for 2023 would cost \$95,254.25. Each option would be available for no interest/no finance charges payable over a three year period. All training and software would be provided, and there was also a free disaster flight assessment available within 2-3 days of a disaster.

Mr. Wooten noted since this product was certified in the actual appraisal process, there would be funds in the appraisal revaluation fund to cover the cost.

Discussion was held on the program.

Vice-Chair McPeters made a motion to purchase program as referenced by staff as part of the revaluation process and funds that Ashley said were available for use in the program. He then amended his motion to add, pending contract, second by Commissioner Brown. Chair Walker added the board would review the contract, and also the county attorney would review the contract before it was signed. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

COUNTY MARKETING PLAN

Mr. Steve Bush, Executive Director, McDowell Chamber, presented a unified county marketing plan. The plan would be based around an interactive website designed and maintained by Rocket Sled Marketing and Design, based in Old Fort. Chris Allison, owner of Rocket Sled Design was also present. The total cost of the marketing proposal was \$13,000. Mr. Bush requested \$4,500 from the county.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve request, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

NO WAKE ZONE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Walker declared the Board in public hearing consistent to NCGS 75A-15.

Mr. Wooten noted he had received request for a No-Wake Zone designation at the point of land on Lake James between Waterglyn Cove and the Wildlife Club Property Cove; and a No-Wake Zone designation in the vicinity of the Marion Moose Center including Gaddy Cove.

Chair Walker recognized those who wished to speak:

- Wayne Wheeler, Chairman of the Dock Committee supports the no-wake zone
- Steve Hudson, lives in Waterglyn, request the buoys
- Greg Barksdale, supports the no-wake zone
- George Johnson, endorses the no-wake zone
- Suzy Johnson, in support
- Debra Smith, in support
- Dennis Whitson, in support

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

Discussion was held by the Board. Mr. Wooten stated he had spoken with Mr. Al Reel, with Marion Moose, and they were in agreement to pay for the buoys.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to request rulemaking for these areas, second by Vice Chair McPeters.

Yea-Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Hollifield, Chair Walker, and Vice Chair McPeters
Nay- Commissioner Brown

LAKE JAMES PROTECTION ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Walker declared the Board in public hearing pursuant to NCGS 75A-15.

Mr. Harmon discussed the recommended changes to the current Lake James Protection Ordinance from the Planning Board.

The Board took the following public comments:

- Mr. Wheeler asked if the restrictions would be retroactive, and Mr. Harmon said no.
- Gwen Straub supports the changes.
- Ron Shuping supports the changes.
- George Johnson spoke on behalf of Lake James Environmental Association. He asked for clarification on shoreline measurement; and storm water management and erosion control.
- Scott Lewis – supports changes and would like the Board to consider storm water management.
- Ann Costello supports changes and thanked the Planning Board and the Commissioners for their work.
- Susanne Johnson thanked the Commissioners for their leadership and the Planning Board for their work to make the changes. She added she would like the 150 ft. measurement defined. Mr. Wheeler stated he would have an issue with point to point lot measurement.
- Sam Anabu supports the changes, and appreciates the work of both Boards.

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

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve the revision and implementation of the Lake James Protection Ordinance as requested from the Planning Board, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Chair Walker called for a brief recess at 7:12pm, and declared back in session at 7:20pm.

WATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Wooten gave an update on the Universal and Nebo water projects, which are both under construction. The Nebo project was 75% complete. The engineer is providing a cost estimate at no charge for expansion of the water line.

DSS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted the committee had met on this date for the first time to establish the purpose of the committee. The committee is comprised of the County Manager, DSS Director, HR Director, and Commissioners Brown and McPeters. The committee will meet individually with staff to receive feedback.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted the architect had looked at building needs, floor plans, and utilizing space in the building next door. He is currently studying the parking deck to determine if an expansion can be supported on the existing structure. Mr. Wooten added discussion has been ongoing for relocating the EMS base. Chair Walker asked for a cost and timeline of construction needs since budget work would begin in the coming months.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Sidearm/Badge Donation

Mr. Wooten presented a request from Sheriff Greene for Lynn Greene to receive his badge by means of donation upon his retirement. The request was also to allow him to purchase his duty weapon for \$1.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to table this item, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Sale of County Owned Property

Mr. Wooten noted the antique beams from the renovation at the McDowell House had been stored at no charge by the contractor for the last 18 months. Mr. Mike Lucas, tenant in the McDowell House would like to purchase the beams for \$1,000. Discussion followed on the type and size of the wooden beams. Mr. Wooten noted he would get pictures and more detail on the beams for the members.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to table this item, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Tipping Fee Waiver

Mr. Wooten noted the construction on the 911 Backup Center is underway, and the contractor is requesting waiver of tipping and building permit fees.

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

Budget Amendments

Mr. Wooten presented the following amendments and resolutions for approval:

Project Budget Ordinance: Harmony Grove Road Water Line Extension-Amendment #2

Project Budget Ordinance: Jail and Courthouse Addition/Renovations-Amendment #6

Project Budget Ordinance: Community Food and Health Hub

Project Budget Ordinance: Kate B. Reynolds Community Paramedic Expansion

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 54

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 36

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 43

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 49

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 64

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve close outs and amendments, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented the following budget amendments:

GF 1 — to appropriate anticipated sales tax reimbursement

GF 2---Emergency Services- appropriate grant and donated revenue

GF3—Finance/Tax Audits- appropriate sales tax reimbursement per audits performed

GF4—Public Works-appropriate donations and loan proceeds

GF5—Library-appropriate fund balance due to designated funds

GF6—Register of Deeds-appropriate fund balance for book scanning

GF7—Social Services-appropriate fund balance for designated programs

GF8—Senior Center-appropriate fund balance for designated programs

GF9—Sheriff's Dept-appropriate inmate housing revenue

GF10—911 Communications-appropriate funds to cover prior year adjustment

GF11—EMS and Sheriff's Dept-appropriate funds from prior year unexpended loan proceeds and inmate housing

GF12-Jail and Courthouse project-appropriate fund balance to complete the jail/courthouse project

GF13—Emergency Services-appropriate donations and 911 fees

Amendment 911F1—911 Fund-appropriate from prior year balance adjustment

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve GF1- GF13 and 911 Fund, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

TAX MATTERS

Mr. Wooten presented the following exemptions, releases, refunds, and write-offs:

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

MV tax refunds	\$ 1404.95
Releases under \$100	\$ 952.80
Releases over \$100	\$ 80.06
Refunds	\$ 3,234.29
Discoveries	\$ 7,616.65
Write-offs	\$ 1,021.23

*The North Peak POA- 3 properties- no written reason submitted

*Katherine Brown- unaware of deadline for exemption

*Theodore Styles- unaware of deadline for exemption

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve the three exemptions and releases and refunds second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

COUNTY POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. Wooten noted he had met with the HR Director to review the county policy. Recommendations were sent to the Board in regards to shared leave policy, bereavement policy, inclement weather policy, educational leave policy, and employee request of sick time. Mr. Wooten asked the Board to review the recommended changes and offer feedback. Mr. Wooten noted a decision at the December meeting, would be effective January, 2017.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Susanne Johnson- proud of Nebo Fire Department and EMS of the work they had done in lowering the fire ratings. She also noted fishermen like still waters to fish.

Gwen Straub- updates on pet spay and neuter program in the schools.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Walker expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Hollifield for the work he had done on the board. He noted Commissioner Hollifield was very thorough, and listened to the voters and researched all issues. He added he would miss serving with him.

Vice Chair McPeters expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Hollifield for his service to the county and the veterans, and for bringing the Vietnam Memorial Wall to the county. He also appreciated his availability to attend meetings, and appreciation of his friendship.

Commissioner Brown stated he appreciates Commissioner Hollifield's friendship; and hopes he will always show his love for being a Commissioner as well as Commissioner Hollifield has done.

Commissioner Crawford wished him the best, and thanked him for all the work he had done.

Susanne Johnson also expressed her appreciation for Commissioner Hollifield.

Commissioner Hollifield noted how much he enjoyed working with the Board. He added he will continue working with the American Legion, and building wheelchair ramps with his church. He noted it had been a joy to serve as Commissioner.

Chair Walker presented Commissioner Hollifield with a wooden plaque of appreciation.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Walker called the meeting to order to discuss a personnel matter in closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318.11(6) for employee matters.

After closed session, Chair Walker called the meeting back in regular session.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve and seal closed session minutes, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Vice-Chair McPeters, second by Commissioner Hollifield, by unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD