

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION – NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2017, 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; Matthew Crawford; and Lynn Greene

**Others Present**

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

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Walker recognized all veterans present in the room.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene, to approve the October 9, 2017 Regular Session, October 30, 2017, and November 3, 2017 minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Walker asked for deletions or additions to the agenda. Mr. Wooten asked that item - C be deleted, due to Chuck Abernathy was unable to attend due to another commitment.

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

**Economic Impact of Veterans**

Doug Gouge, McDowell County Veteran Services Officer, spoke on the Analysis of Statewide VA Expenditures Report from 1996 to fiscal year 2016 and economic impact of veterans on McDowell County. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Weyland Prebor, Senior Center Director, and Mr. Wooten for the support extended to the Veteran Services program.

**Lake James State Park 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Supt. of Lake James State Park, Nora Coffey, and Bob Hunter, Vice President of the Friends of Lake James State Park, gave a presentation on the history of the Lake James State Park in honor of the Park's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In 2014 Lake James State Park was named State Park of the Year. The park also averages 600,000 visitors per year. There will be a ground breaking in the spring for a new visitor center at Paddy's Creek.

Chair Walker expressed the Board's desire to meet with Burke County Commissioners and work on projects to benefit both counties.

Mr. Hunter presented an original wooden replica of Lake James to the Board on behalf of the Friends of Lake James State Park.

### **Fonta Flora State Trail Grant Request**

Mr. Frank Dean and representatives of the McDowell Trails Association (MTA) announced they had received a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. The grant would be for the planning and design of 20+ miles of the Fonta Flora State Trail from Lake James to the McDowell House, a Fonta Flora State Trail website, and an interactive map for trail users. The total cost of the project is \$48,300. The Foundation awarded MTA \$27,000; the Burke County Commissioners have committed \$16,000 toward the project. MTA asked the Board for the remaining \$5,300.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve \$5,300, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **Transportation Department Update**

Mr. Wooten noted he had been working with assistance from Lisa Sprouse, and Randall Conley, on the policies for the new Transportation Department with help from the state. He asked for the policies to serve as a first reading. The Clerk is continuing to receive applications to serve on the Transportation Advisory Board. Mr. Wooten noted he was hoping to present the new director at the December board meeting, and approve policies at that time also.

### **Shooting Range Update**

Commissioner Brown, Ronald Harmon, and Mr. Wooten traveled to Raleigh, to meet with representatives of NC Wildlife concerning the proposed shooting range. The Wildlife has hired a private company to conduct a sound test later this month. A public hearing will be held in a couple of months. A draft MOU was presented from the Wildlife for the Board to review.

Commissioner Brown noted one of the benefits of the partnership with the Wildlife was the Wildlife would bear the cost on major repairs, once the range had been built.

### **Courthouse Project Update**

Mr. Wooten noted the Board had voted to replace windows, HVAC, and add a third courtroom. He added the renovations will disrupt the work of staff, and he is in discussions now as to the best plan to minimize the impact on staff.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Mr. Wooten presented two leak adjustments:

Jan Lokie for a faulty meter, amount of water lost was undetermined, staff would take the average from the last three months and bill for that amount.

Lynn Watson ask for an adjustment of \$48.83

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve the two leak adjustments, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

### **Budget Amendments**

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

Project Budget Ordinance: Kate B. Reynolds Community Paramedic expansion

Project Budget Ordinance: Ethan Allen Building Reuse

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 35

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 36

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 38

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 41

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 46

Project Closeout Resolution: Project Fund 54

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve budget ordinances and close outs, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented the following budget amendments:

GF1 — Sales Tax - to appropriate anticipated sales tax reimbursement

GF2—Various Loan Proceeds - to appropriate fund balance for prior year loan proceeds and current year loan proceeds

GF3—Emergency Services - to appropriate NC Forest Service Funds, SMAT funds, donations and transfer between line items

GF4—Library-to appropriate fund balance for unspent funds FY17

GF5—Sheriff-allocate grant and asset forfeiture

GF6—DSS-allocate fund balance for unexpended funds FY17

GF7—Senior Center-allocate fund balance for unexpended funds FY17 and donations

GF8—Soil and Water-allocate fund balance for unexpended funds FY17

GF9—Transportation – allocate grant funds

GF10—Recreation – transfer funds between line items

Amendment SP1- School Project – to amend the School Project Fund for school projects

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve GF1- GF10 and Amendment SP1, second by Vice Chair McPeters. 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	\$	666.75
Releases under \$100	\$	441.95
Releases over \$100	\$	957,289.84

Refunds	\$	1,832.62
Discoveries	\$	1,258.36
Write-offs	\$	908.51

\* Rachel Wheeler - unaware of deadline for exemption

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve the elderly exemptions and other tax matters, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Clerk presented a vacancy for the Planning Board. Written ballots were distributed to the Board. After tallying the votes, the vote was unanimous for Chris Allison. The Clerk then presented written ballots for an alternate member for the Planning Board. After tallying the votes, the vote was unanimous for Terry Young.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

No one requested to speak.

### **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Wooten reminded the Board of the retirement reception for Everette Clark, former City of Marion Mayor and current City Council member. The event will be from 3:00-5:00pm at City Hall.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Brown, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

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DAVID N. WALKER  
CHAIR

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CHERYL L. MITCHELL  
CLERK TO THE BOARD