

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 19, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Board Room, 60 E. Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

Members Present

David Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chairman; 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. The invocation was given by Commissioner Greene, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Commissioner Vaughn.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the October 8, 2018 Regular Session, minutes, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Walker called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

Recognition of David Morgan

The Board recognized David Morgan for his 50 years of service to the Glenwood Fire Department.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve *Proclamation to Honor David Jay Morgan Volunteer Firefighter for Glenwood Fire Department*, second by Commissioner Vaughn. 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 around the point at the end of Hunt Camp Drive, within 50 yards of the shore from a point at 35.75194 N, 81.92229 W, southeast to a point at 35.74914 N, 81.91732 W.

Chair Walker recognized those who wished to speak:

Todd Bell-President of Lake James Environmental Association was in favor of the zone. He noted boats are larger and more sedimentation is now evident.

Ellen Cotnoir –was in favor of the zone due to the speed of the boats causing safety issues

There were also three statements received via email in favor of the No-Wake Zone

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

Discussion was held by the Board.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to table decision until next meeting so the site could be visited, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Emergency Update/Grant Request

Mr. William Kehler, Emergency Services Director, announced the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission had been awarded an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to fund the Workforce Wellness Project. The ARC would contract with EM Community Care Paramedic Program (CCP) to offer clinical services at local industrial sites. The grant would fund one full time employee with the CCP, a fully equipped SUV, and other operating expenses related to the CCP working in the industrial setting for 24 months. With approval the program would begin by January 1, 2019, and the total amount of the grant was \$267,045. The program would be the first of its kind in the state and potentially in the US.

Mr. Kehler gave an overview of the successes of the Community Care Paramedic Program.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the expansion of the Community Care Program expansion through the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission ARC grant, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Kehler then gave an update on the status of the Hurricane Florence, Tropical Storm Alberto, and Tropical Storm Michael federal declaration request.

Mr. Kehler then recognized the following individuals for a lifesaving event that happened on October 11, 2018. Due to Tropical Storm Michael a car had been swept off the road by raging water, and a lady was pinned by a tree against a vehicle in the middle of Crooked Creek.

Personnel were able to extricate the lady from the raging waters and transport her to an ambulance. The victim, Joy Inabinette and her husband, were present at the meeting.

Crooked Creek Fire Department: Randy Vess; Frank Seaman; Tyler Young

McDowell Emergency Mgmt: Chad Robinson

McDowell 9-1-1: Ann Marie Reel; Jessica Pittman

EOC: Amberlie Buff; Craig Walker; Andrew Pressley; Sam Robinson; Adrienne Jones; Steve Hancock; Angie Wright; Johnsie Parker; William Kehler

McDowell Rescue: Ricky Wright

The Board thanked the men and women who put their lives in danger to save others. Mr. Kehler also noted there had been 18 swift water rescues made this year.

2019 Property Revaluation

Tammy Wylie, Tax Assessor and Tim Cain, Consultant, presented the 2019 Schedule of Values for the Board's review. A copy of the schedule will be in the Tax Assessor's office for public review. Staff requested a public hearing be scheduled for November 29th at 6:00pm to receive public input.

NCDOT Project Scoring Process

Stephen Sparks, P.E. Division 13 Corridor Development Engineer, gave a presentation regarding scoring of transportation projects under the new Strategic Transportation Investments process.

Discussion followed on striping secondary roads, and the different paving methods. Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Sparks to review Henry McCall Rd for a guardrail, and Vice Chair McPeters also asked for consideration of guardrails along Hwy 226A.

Reentry Council Presentation

Mr. Danny Hampton, Executive Director of Freedom Life Ministries, gave an update on the new support system for recently released former offenders, probation or incarcerated individuals. The council works to lower barriers for offenders returning them to be productive in society. The average cost to the county is \$30,000 to house an inmate, if there are no major health issues.

He noted the Kate B Reynolds Foundation is hiring UNC-A to research substance abuse in the county for the next 3 years. The Reentry Council will identify barriers such as housing, employment, stigma of abuse, transportation, and addiction. He added the State of NC has also established a State Reentry Council.

Mr. Hampton recognized Freedom Life board members in attendance.

Strategic Employment Plan Initiative (SEPI)

Chuck Abernathy, Jerry Broome, Steve Lockett, and Brandon Ruppe gave a presentation on statistics of the workforce in the county.

There were four major recommendations in the areas of:

- Transportation
- Child Care
- Workforce Migration
- Substance Abuse
- McDowell County Schools
- McDowell Technical Community College
- DSS
- Senior Center
- Probation/Parole—Court System
- NCWorks Career Center
- Industry Partners/Employers

A letter of support will be sent to Region C WDB in support of hiring someone to implement the plan.

DaVita Dialysis Lease Request

Mr. Wooten requested direction for a request from DaVita Dialysis for an additional 5-year option. The Board previously approved the lease request through 2025 for \$53,330 beginning in 2020. The request was to extend the lease option to 2030, to cover the cost of adding stations to meet the needs of the county.

Discussion followed regarding the amount of the lease during the extended 5 year lease option.

Consensus was for staff to renegotiate.

Board Appointments

Request was presented for the Board to designate a voting delegate for the 2019 Legislative Goals Conference.

Commissioner Brown made a motion for Commissioner Greene to be the voting delegate, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

One vacancy was presented as a second reading for the Planning Board. Van Boyd and Alpo Portelli applied for the vacancy.

The Clerk tallied the written ballots:

For Van Boyd – Commissioner Greene; Commissioner Brown; Chairman Walker; Vice
Chair McPeters

For Alpo Portelli – Commissioner Vaughn

Van Boyd was reappointed to the Planning Board.

Tax Matters

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

Write- offs	\$ 442.36
MV tax refunds	\$ 311.38
Releases under \$100	\$ 431.50
Releases over \$100	\$ 7,862.93
Refunds	\$ 3,071.69
Discoveries	\$ 849.76

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve tax matters as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Catawba Greenway Bid Approval

Baker Grading of Old Fort presented the lowest base bid of \$594,957.19 and also the lowest for Alternate 4A for \$70,128.70 that would provide a 10ft wide pavement.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to move forward with the project awarding Baker Grading of Old Fort, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Administrative Items

Leak waiver

Request was presented for waiver due to a water leak on Nebo Water System from Brandon Walker for \$48.30.

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

Write-offs

Request was presented for write-off of non-collectible EMS accounts totaling \$421,662.91 because of the 10 year roll off rule.

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

Project Budget Ordinance

Request to approve *Project Budget Ordinance Crane Resistoflex* presented.

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

Budget Amendments

GF 2—Appropriates reserved funds in the Clerk of Court line item for furniture.

GF 3—Transfers salary and benefits to contract services under Economic Development.

The assistant position was made an employee of MEDA, Inc and not McDowell County

- GF 4—Appropriates reserved funds and donations for Emergency Services
- GF 5—Appropriates fund balance for the greenway bridge repair.
- GF 6—Appropriates animal shelter donations and transfers between line items at Public Works
- GF 7—Appropriates reserved funds for vehicle purchases and other miscellaneous transfers.
- GF 8—Appropriates reserved fund balance for DSS expenditures
- GF 9—Appropriates reserved fund balance and donations for Senior Center expenditures
- GF 10—Appropriates revenue for executions and inmate housing
- GF 11—Appropriates reserved fund balance Emergency Services expenditures
- GF 12—Appropriates funds for the Fort Street property purchase, appropriates ABC funds, and makes various transfers
- GF 13—Makes various transfers under \$3,000
- FD 1—Allocates estimated sales tax revenue for the fire and rescue departments
- 911F 1—Appropriates 911 reserve funds and transfers between line items

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

Health Dept Fee Request

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District Board requested to increase environmental health fees for McDowell County to match those charged in Polk and Rutherford. The Health Director indicated the fees increase would help with hiring efforts.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the increase fee schedule to match Rutherford and Polk, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Lake James Ordinance Request from Planning Board

The Planning Board requested they be able to review and unify the penalty aspects of the three Lake James Ordinances.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to have the Planning Board review the Lake James Ordinance, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

SRO Funding Agreement with City of Marion

The School Board received a grant to help with coverage of a School Resource Officer in the schools.

There are two schools in the City of Marion, and Marion Police Dept has been covering both schools with shared officers as time allows. In order to provide 100% coverage at both of the schools, approximately \$32,000 would be needed for the remainder of the school year to cover staffing costs. Staff and the Utility Committee suggested the county and city to split the cost 50/50 for the remainder of the school year.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve City and County cost share for the remainder of the school year for the two schools, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Citizen Comment

Suzy Johnson spoke in favor of the No Wake Zone due to safety issues. She also asked if something could be done about the garbage and erosion at the lake.

Reports and Communications

Mr. Wooten reminded the Board there would be a public hearing for the Old Fort School construction, and Schedule of Values on Thursday, November 29th.

Adjournment

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Greene to adjourn to November 29th at 5:00pm, second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

Cheryl Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David Walker
Chairman