

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – OCTOBER 9, 2017**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., at the Historic Carson House, 1805 Highway 70 West, Marion, North Carolina. The meeting was duly advertised for the change in time and location.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Tony Brown; Matthew Crawford; and Lynn Greene

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager, Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Theresa Strickland and Tyler Smith, (Filming)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford, to approve the September 18, 2017 Work Session and September 18, 2017 Regular Session minutes as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Walker asked for additions to the agenda.

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

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Wooten reported he had met with NCDOT and is in the process of developing a transportation department. There must be a Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) established with representatives from various stakeholders in the community. Staff requested first reading of the board vacancies so advertising could begin for the vacancies. The TAB would help with the development of the department.

The Board took no action due to first reading of the board vacancies, and asked the Clerk to advertise the committee vacancies.

SHOOTING RANGE UPDATE

Mr. Wooten noted staff will be traveling to Raleigh to discuss the project and memorandum of agreement that will govern the development and operation of the range. NC Wildlife will conduct another sound test later this month. The County Manager will let the Board know when the test will be conducted.

COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The County Manager and Terry Depoyster, Facility Maintenance Director, met with Chuck Hamrick and his mechanical engineer to discuss the courthouse project scope. Plans are still to replace all of the windows, and install new HVAC system. Currently the courthouse has a steam boiler, staff would like to eliminate the boiler, relocate to ground level location and install natural gas.

GREENWAY TRAIL UPDATE

McGill Associates have met with staff to discuss the survey of the greenway. the layout of the trail and the associated facilities are being driven by the floodplain, the road access, and other factors. The expected completion date is August 2018. This segment will be part of the Fonta Flora Trail.

STACY HILL ROAD WATER LINE ENGINEERING CONTRACT

McGill Associates had submitted a contract for engineering and inspection services for the Stacy Hill Road Water project. The contract covered design (\$74,000), bidding (\$10,000), construction and post construction (\$83,000).

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve engineering contract with McGill Associates to construct Stacy Hill Road water line, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Wooten presented as a second reading a policy addition for emergency services personnel overtime to be added to the county personnel resolution. The addition reads:

If McDowell County deploys emergency teams outside of the county to support an eternal disaster, exempt employees will be compensated at time and a half for time worked over (40) hours during the disaster and recovery phase. Non-exempt employees will be compensated at the regular FLSA compensation policy. This process can apply to disasters within the county should a State of Emergency be declared and the severity of the disaster is one that qualifies for federal disaster aid.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve Emergency Services overtime policy for personnel, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten then presented a list of non-collectible EMS accounts. Most of the accounts were for deceased persons that died with no estate.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to approve write offs, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Next Mr. Wooten presented two late occupancy tax listings for late fee waivers. Discussion followed.

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

TAX MATTERS

Releases, Refunds, & Write-offs

MV tax refunds	\$ 768.36
Releases over \$100	\$ 1,816.46
Refunds	\$ 2,681.03
Discoveries	\$ 13,976.86

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

Mr. Wooten stated that GS 105-277.1D(e) provides that an application for property tax relief provided by this section should be filed during the regular listing period but may be filed after the regular listing period upon a showing of good cause by the applicant as determined and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Dennis Revis; Wayne & Brenda Roland; and Loretta Wilson requested late exemptions due to being unaware of the June 1st deadline.

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

ARC Grant Closeout Public Hearing

Chair Walker declared the Board in public hearing.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to go into public hearing, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Ms. Laurie Powell, with Western Piedmont Council of Government presented two grants for public hearing closeout. One was for Harmony Grove Road project for \$532,703; and the second one was for TQA project for \$140,500. Both projects are finished.

Chair Walker asked for comments from the public.

There were no public comments.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Nursing Home/Adult Care Committees vacancy was presented as a second reading with Leah Robertson as the only applicant.

Region C Workforce Development Board had a vacancy that must be filled by an applicant in higher education. Although it was a first reading, since the vacancy was for a specific position the Board voted to dispense with a second reading.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to dispense with a second reading, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote the motion carried.

The Clerk also announced a vacancy on the Planning Board as a first reading.

The Commissioners voted by written ballot. By unanimous approval, Leah Robertson was appointed to the Nursing Home/Adult Care Committees; and Dr. John Gossett was appointed to the Region C Workforce Development Board.

GLENWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE PERMIT

Mr. Wooten advised the Glenwood Ruritan Club had hosted a Christmas parade on US 221S on the Saturday after Thanksgiving for several years. Due to recent requirements from NCDOT the county is required to adopt an ordinance for road closure on the specific date, Saturday, November 25, 2017.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve *An Ordinance Declaring a Road Closure for the 2017 Glenwood Christmas Parade*, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Walker noted he and Vice Chair McPeters met with Sheriff Green in regards to last month's citizen comment. Vice Chair McPeters and Sheriff Green will meet with the business owners concerning the noise.

CITIZEN COMMENT

No one present wished to speak.

UPDATE ON CARSON HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Chair Walker noted the first meeting of the Commissioners, who were at the time Justice of the Peace, was held at the Carson House in 1843. Starting in August, 1991, the Board returned to the first seat of government. Due to the heat, the meeting was moved to October in 1992, and has met every October since then.

Chuck Abernathy, Board President, gave an update on the Historic Carson House events. Mr. Abernathy announced plans have started for the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the City of Marion and the county, September 23-29, 2018.

Amanda Finn, Director, welcomed the Board to the very room where seventeen Justices of the Peace met in 1843 to create the county of McDowell. She then gave an update on upcoming events at the Carson House.

Chair Walker stated his appreciation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, for the hospitality and graciousness of the Carson House Board.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to pay for the dinner tonight, second by Commissioner Greene. 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 Brown. By unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD