

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Crawford to approve the water release. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented the monthly sales and property tax reports to the Board. He stated the sales figures continue to be monitored, but there is no control on how much revenue will be generated from sales. He noted last year's budget was finished in the red. Mr. Wooten stated a quarter cent sales tax increase was discussed at last month's meeting, and at Board request he was giving an update on the sales tax. Commissioners determined any further discussion concerning sales tax increase was tabled until a full board was present. Mr. Wooten stated he would continue to monitor the figures and legislature and report on both at next month's board meeting.

JAIL/COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The County Manager informed the Board that the jail/courthouse project is still ongoing.

- * The construction of the corridor in the basement corridor has taken longer due to the complexities of the project and the age of the courthouse.
- * The electrical upgrade process has begun.
- * The elevator work is soon to proceed.
- * There have been some unforeseen issues with the jail project, but it is pretty much on schedule.

EMERGENCY SERVICE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Mr. Wooten stated William Kehler, Director of Emergency Management had requested authorization to purchase four cardiac monitors / defibrillators with Wi-Fi transmission capability and a Stryker Stretcher. The funds for the equipment were included in the EMS budget.

Alison Morgan, Finance Officer, recommended that the Board approve the financing bid of BB&T who responded with a term of 1.87% over four years with eight semiannual payments beginning May 2016. Other banks that responded were:

Asheville Savings Bank - 3.45%;

BOA - No response;

PNC - No response;

Fifth Third - No response;

Wells Fargo - No Response;

SunTrust Bank - 2.13%;

First Citizens Bank - No response;

Capital Bank - No response;

BB&T - 2.34%.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, with a second by Commissioner Hollifield, to approve the Cardiac Monitors from Southeastern Emergency Equipment for \$104,442.12; and Stryker Stretcher from Power Pro Stretcher for \$14,420.96 with approval of financing from Carolina Alliance Bank, and adopt RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS, which authorizes the County to enter into a debt financing arrangement with Carolina Alliance Bank at an annual percentage rate of 1.87%. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF FUND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Craig Walker, Deputy Director McDowell Emergency Management, addressed the Board concerning appointments needed on the Firefighters Relief Fund Board of Trustees. Mr. Walker presented the recommendations from each fire department for board member trustees as follows:

Woodlawn FD—Mr. Lucas Davis, Mr. Dusty Boone
 Sugar Hill FD—Mr. David Parker, Mr. Paul Baker
 Pleasant Gardens FD—Mr. Wayne Silver, Mr. William B Ledbetter
 Old Fort FD—Mr. Frank Gibbs, Mr. Wayne Stafford
 Nebo FD—Mr. Robert Kirkpatrick, Mr. Shane Harris
 Marion FD—Mr. Billy Martin, Ms. Juanita Doggett
 Hankins FD—Mrs. Rhonda Wilkerson, Mr. Ronnie Holmes
 Glenwood FD—Mr. C Hugh Proctor, Mr. Charles England
 Dysartsville FD—Mr. James Washburn, Mr. Cory Webb
 Crooked Creek FD—Mr. Randy Vess, Mr. Fred Lytle
 North Cove FD—Mr. Michael Wyatt Mr. Dennis J Barrier

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the appointments of board member trustees for the Firefighters Relief Fund as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT

Mr. Wooten reported the Senior Housing Study is well underway. James Jones, Project Manager, hosted a public input session at the Senior Center on Tuesday, August 11, which was well attended. The consultants outlined the project timeline and what their end product would be. Once the survey is complete there will be another public meeting with the final report.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE/ADULT SERVICES PLAN

Ms. Lisa Sprouse, DSS Director, presented a Special Assistance In-Home Waiting List Policy that is required by the state. The waiting list will be used to ensure prompt provision of services, as well as to respond to inquiries about the program.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the SA-IH Waiting List Policy. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Ms. Sprouse then presented the Locally Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. The plan was developed with the assistance of Isothermal Planning and Development. With the adoption of this plan, McDowell County will once again be able to obtain funding for vehicles. It is a 90/10 program; 90% of funding will come from Federal funds, with 10% coming from county funds.

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield to approve the Locally Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan as presented. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Ms. Sprouse also presented a public transportation study update. After several meetings, and years of waiting on a feasibility study, a consultant has now been named to work with McDowell DSS. Ms. Sprouse announced DSS has received Rural General Public Transportation funds of \$67,000. Ms. Sprouse expressed appreciation to the Board for their insistence of getting this study done from DOT.

SURPLUS LAND UPDATE

Mr. Wooten stated the Forest Lake Heights Drive property the county had received a bid deposit for, did not close. Therefore the county will retain the bid deposit of \$9,871.50. Since the purchase did not close, Mr. Wooten ask the Board to reauthorize the advertisement of the property. The total tract measures 65.81 acres and has a tax value of \$169,790. The property was listed for \$197,430.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to re-advertise the Forest Lake Heights property, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Commissioner Brown suggested listing at same price as the first listing; other Board members were in agreement.

ABANDONED BUILDING ORDINANCE/PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Wooten stated the Planning Board had looked at the Abandoned Building Ordinance in regards to being updated. The Planning Board did not think there needed to be any changes made. If the structure was causing safety issues they requested the matter be sent to Building Inspections. Commissioners agreed with the decision of the Planning Board.

PRESENTATION OF POW/MIA FLAG

Alan Mainer, Commander of Local American Legion, presented the county with a POW/MIA flag. Mr. Mainer requested the county fly the flag on the courthouse lawn on Friday, September 18, 2015, which is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Commissioners gave unanimous consensus to fly the flag for one week starting on Friday, September 18th.

BILLBOARD LEASE

Mr. Wooten reported there is a billboard owned by Lamar Advertising on a small section of the Universal property. The agency is interested in maintaining the billboard on the property with county approval. If the county chooses not to lease the site, they will remove the structure. Mr. Wooten presented a lease from the agency for the Board to review. The lease would pay 20% of the collected revenue to the county. Lamar will also allow the county to advertise on the billboard when there is a period of time without a paying customer.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield to approve the lease agreement with Lamar Advertising. Vice-Chairman McPeters, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Hollifield, voted aye, Commissioner Brown voted nay.

PUBLIC HEARING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Vice-Chairman declared the meeting to be in public hearing to receive input on proposed incentives for Key Wood Specialties. Mr. Wooten presented an economic development project concerning proposed incentives for a local company called Key Wood Specialties. Key Wood is committed to hiring nine full time employees over the next three years. The incentive from McDowell County would be \$27,000 (\$3,000 per job over three fiscal years). Mr. Kirk Duncan, owner of Key

Wood, gave the history of his business. Mr. Duncan stated the company is growing, and he is looking forward to expanding.

Comments from the public were received, and discussion from the Commissioners. Commissioner Crawford made a motion to go out of public hearing, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Brown, to approve the incentive package for Key Wood Specialties for \$27,000 over three years. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Mitchell presented the second reading for the Adult Care Home Advisory Committee-Nursing Home Advisory Board vacancy which had been advertised. Only one application received from Benny Stamey as a reappointment.

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield to appoint Benny Stamey to the Adult Care Home Advisory Committee and Nursing Home Advisory Board. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ms. Mitchell also presented the second reading for the Library Board vacancy in the Glenwood community, which had been advertised. Only one application received from Anne Allen as a reappointment.

Commissioner Hollifield made a motion, second by Commissioner Crawford to appoint Anne Allen to the Library Board. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

TAX MATTERS

Mr. Wooten presented the monthly tax releases, rebills, and refunds. A summary of the tax matters:

MV Releases	Released amount of \$1522.38
Releases Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$43,382.94
Releases Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$449.78
Refunds	Refund amount of \$9,311.74

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Brown to approve the tax 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.

The list of applicants who qualify for Elderly Exemption who are asking for exemptions with reason:

Completed applications:

Charlotte Beverly McDaniel-Did not receive notice due to her mailbox being vandalized.

Clara Andrews-Was not aware she had to fill out and turn in the application on time.

Gladys Hall-Husband past away about a year ago, and she was unaware of what needed to be done.

Jeanette Grindstaff - Was in the hospital when the notices were mailed and didn't know to fill out application.

Geneva Ledwell - Called and asked what the notices were but didn't get an answer and didn't try a second call or leave a message.

Kathryn Willis - Didn't receive a notice about the exemption.

Linda Reed - May or may not have gotten notices- if she did she didn't think she had to fill it out since she did one 10 years ago.

Ruth Jackson - Did not receive or misplaced notice from Tax Office.

Helen Beam - Did not receive forms from tax office.

Ida Brooky - Does not remember getting the notice from the tax office.

Daisy Lanning- Is 91 and does not remember getting the notice.

Lucy Evans - Doesn't remember getting a notice, and didn't know she had to fill out the application.

Incomplete applications:

Georgia Lavender - Did not provide required income information or letter to the Board for late application.

Barbara Freeman - Application was complete, didn't supply letter to the Board for late application

Virginia Condrey - No proof of income submitted. Did not see any notification that an application was needed.

Coy Edwards - No proof of income submitted. Tax department received approval from the VA that he meets the requirements for disabled veteran after the deadline for property tax exemption.

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield to grant exemption for filing deadline for Elderly Exemption. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Wooten presented a tax matter where the tax payer was billed for 80 acres, after having land surveyed there was only 40 acres. Due to staff error of number of acres, and staff error on present use value, Mr. Wooten asked the Board to compromise the bill.

Commissioner Brown made a motion, second by Commissioner Hollifield to compromise the bill. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wooten stated the Commissioners had been invited to an event hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution on Saturday, October 24 at Glenwood Baptist. The RSVP date is October 10.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Susan Menard spoke regarding tethering law of animals in the current animal ordinance. She asked for proper tethering specifications to be added to the animal ordinance so the officers will have proper direction.

Marilyn Foreman, co-director of Paws and Claws Outreach, spoke on spaying and neutering. She ask for a spay/neuter policy for the county.

Gwen Straub spoke about an education program that has started in 4th grade in all elementary schools on proper care of animals. She asked the Board to consider strengthening the animal laws.

Ken Buckner, spoke on dangers of pit bull dogs, and animal satety.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wooten stated the Board would adjourn to the McDowell Senior Center for a Called Meeting on September 28, at 5pm for the purpose of recognizing Law Enforcement.

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Crawford, and a second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

BARRY MCPETERS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD