

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – MARCH 10, 2008**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008, in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrew K. Webb, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Dean Buff; Michael Lavender; and Barry E. McPeters

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Carrie Padgett, Clerk to the Board; Ashley Wooten, Assistant to the County Manager; and Mike Conley, Reporter for THE McDOWELL NEWS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webb called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner McPeters and Commissioner Buff led with the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 and February 11, 2008 regular sessions were presented for the Board's approval.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve minutes of both meetings as recorded. Commissioner Buff seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Walker and a second by Commissioner Buff, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

At this time, the new Employment Security Commission Director, Marilyn Williams, was recognized. Ms. Williams replaced Mr. Patin Howard who had retired last year as director of the local ESC office.

Chairman Webb welcomed Ms. Williams to the meeting.

ADVERTISEMENT OF TAX LIENS

The County Manager stated the Tax Collector was recommending that tax liens for all unpaid 2007 real property tax bills be advertised on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. He said for a number of years the advertisement had been split between THE NEWS BULLETIN and THE McDOWELL NEWS and this was being recommended again this year with the Old Fort and Crooked Creek townships being done by THE NEWS BULLETIN and the remaining ones being done by THE McDOWELL NEWS.

Mrs. Sain explained this year's quote came from the Legal Advertising Department in Hickory for THE McDOWELL NEWS and their price was formally quoted as an estimate based on column inch price; however, it was possible to break this down to an approximate cost per name. Prices were quoted as follows:

	Total Estimated Entire List	Total Estimated Split List
THE McDOWELL NEWS	\$3,403.52	\$2,522.64
	Approximate Price per Name For Entire List	Approximate Price per Name For Split List
THE McDOWELL NEWS	\$1.79	\$1.70

A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the split list. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion and, with no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Webb acknowledged receipt of the Tax Collector's monthly report which was included in the agenda packet.

SALES TAX DISTRIBUTION REPORT

The County Manager explained the two methods county government has as provided by statutes for calculation of sales tax distribution (population basis or tax base method). He said sales tax is calculated each year by staff and the method of distribution we have been using (population) has always been in the County's favor. However, the trend has been moving toward a different outcome and this year it is clear the method which has been used no long financially favors the County, being more of a "break even" situation. He pointed out this year's calculations showed a significant difference, enough that he felt the need to report them to the Dept. of Revenue and, in fact, the State had in essence calculated what the County is doing. He noted the information included in the agenda were the State's calculations. He advised it now appears that doing the sales tax

calculations by a tax base formula would benefit the County to a greater degree, and this decision by statute must be done in April, which allows a little more time for preparation.

Mr. Abernathy pointed out the new formula would give a slightly over \$400,000 benefit to the County and a slightly over \$20,000 increase to the Town of Old Fort, with a deficit to the City of Marion, if the formula were changed. He stated he had forwarded the information to the City Manager and had spoken with Mr. Boyette today, assuring him he was confident the Board would communicate with the City and would listen and consider what that type impact would be to them.

Mr. Abernathy mentioned there are a number of creative things that cities and counties do in relationship to this issue, such as interlocal agreements with points of negotiation, etc.

A question was raised concerning the change related to the prison population. Mr. Abernathy addressed this, noting the impact to both the City and the County when this occurred. He noted other areas of annexation and development and what their impact has been and will be. He pointed out the County's tax base is growing much faster than the City's due to all the development that is happening in the County.

A general discussion followed, with a request being made for the County Manager to provide items which could be included in an interlocal agreement prior to the Board making a decision.

The current report was received as information.

AMBULANCE PURCHASE/COMPACTOR BIDS

In a brief introduction, the County Manager said the compactor truck was budgeted, with a payment included in this year's budget, and staff was recommending the low bid with an additional protection plan and warranty. Concerning the ambulance, he pointed out the County has typically purchased one unit per year with delivery in January. However, based on maintenance costs with a couple of our units as reported by the EMS Director, he thought it prudent to begin the process of the ambulance replacement sooner in order to have delivery in July instead of January. He said staff was recommending using the "piggyback" method of purchase which would essentially be approving the previous bid for purchase of another unit. Also, the financing documents were prepared for a combined purchase of the compactor truck and the ambulance.

Public Works Director Mike Gladden presented the following bids for the compactor truck:

Vendor	Bid	Ck/Bond	Delivery
Amick Equipment Co., Inc.	\$199,915.00	Bond	180
Carolina Environmental	199,206.00	Bond	120-180

Cavalier Equipment #1	177,794.00	Check	45-60
Cavalier Equipment #2	178,562.00	Check	120-150
Cavalier Equipment #3	194,610.00	Check	190-210
Cavalier Equipment #4	192,189.00	Check	210-240
Cavalier Equipment #5	181,525.00	Check	120-150
Mack Truck/Charlotte	177,708.56	Bond	120-220
Mack Truck/Charlotte #A1	185,543.56	Bond	170-220
Mack Truck/Charlotte #A2	177,482.00	Bond	90-110
Piedmont Peterbilt, LLC	185,476.00	Bond	200
Transource/Mack	178,992.00	Bond	200-210
Transource/Mack #2	178,055.00	Bond	260-270
Transource/Mack #3	188,221.00	Bond	190-200
Transource/Mack #4	187,829.00	Bond	190-200
Shealy Truck Center	182,331.00	Bond	180-200
Volvo and GMC Truck	190,094.00	Bond	180-210
Volvo and GMC Truck	198,900.00	Bond	180-210

Mr. Gladden advised he had chosen two low bids, the Mack Truck/Charlotte #A2 at \$177,482 and the Cavalier #2 at \$178,562, due to them having a six-month delivery date. He did point out the possibility that the first one could not be purchased because it might be subject to prior sale since it was ready on site.

A brief discussion followed.

EMS Director William Kehler proposed the purchase by “piggyback” method of a new 2008 Taylor Made Type I F-450 4 x 4 ambulance at a cost of \$138,038.00. The company will allow \$10,675.00 for trade-in of the old unit which will be deducted from the purchase price. Delivery will be after July 1st. Mr. Kehler addressed the difficulty they have had keeping two of their units on the road due to multiple mechanical problems. He said together these two units had been off the road 241 days during the past year and they had incurred almost \$18,000 in repair costs for them.

A general discussion followed.

Concerning financing bids, Mr. Abernathy advised RBC Centura had submitted the lowest rate of 2.72% for a four-year period, semi-annual payments in arrears for the purchase of an ambulance and compactor truck. Other responses were:

Suntrust	2.735%
BB&T	2.89%
First Charter	3.25%
Wachovia	3.46%
Carolina First	3.511%

Commissioner Walker made a motion to purchase the Mack Compactor Truck with the five-year warranty, the ambulance at the low bid of 2.72% with RBC Centura,

and to approve the *RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS*. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion with clarification that the protection plan was included with the motion. Commissioner Walker agreed, noting this was in the price. When put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING LGC FINANCING

At 5:30 p.m. as duly advertised, Chairman Webb declared the Board in public hearing regarding the Board's intent to finance approximately \$965,663 for the construction of an Old Fort Senior Center.

The County Manager briefly explained that bids were opened and presented to the Board last month to construct a nutrition center on property donated by Mr. A.C. Hogan in Old Fort, and the process of obtaining financing through the Local Government Commission is underway. The LGC will consider this application on April 1st. The public hearing is required by State law as part of the LGC application process, and they will receive a certified copy of the minutes and comments made by citizens both for and against the financing package are submitted to them.

Mr. Abernathy stated the architect had done a lot of additional work on whether the bid amount is appropriate or not. He noted the bid amount (\$965,663) does include two alternatives that are soil related that may not happen, but this will not be known until after the financing package goes to the LGC. The bid includes a contingency of \$47,190 in the architect's fees as well. Financing will be for a period of fifteen (15) years and RBC Centura was the low bidder with an interest rate of 3.51% and the annual payment will be slightly over \$96,000 beginning in the next fiscal year, none of which is yet budgeted.

Mr. Abernathy recommended that the addition be approved but not financed, noting that he felt the fundraising activities and grant writing efforts would be successful and that the County would be legally obligated should this not be the case. He also noted there are contingencies in the financing to hopefully handle such a situation.

Chuck Hamrick, from Holland Hamrick Architects, P.A., provided a general breakdown of the square footage costs for both heated and unheated space, specialized costs with contingency, signage costs, soil testing allowance, performance bond, grading and site development, etc. He advised there were six bidders, from both local and surrounding areas.

Chairman Webb opened the floor for comments from the public. Weyland Prebor, McDowell Senior Center Director, recognized Mrs. Sue Glover, member of the Focal Point Committee and chairperson of the Senior Center, Mrs. Shirley Arrowood, former Director of the McDowell Senior Center and chairperson of the current building committee, and Mrs. Mary Grindstaff, Director of the Old Fort Nutrition Site for over thirty years.

Mr. Prebor encouraged the Board to move forward with this project, noting that he felt the fundraising efforts would be successful for the addition. He advised this would enable them to plan for the future, would provide space for more programs for the seniors, and would also provide space as a community building for the Old Fort area.

Mrs. Glovier thanked the Board for what they have already done, not just for the seniors but for Old Fort in general. She stated this is truly appreciated and she could not say enough in praises for the nutrition program in Old Fort, noting the meals are nutritionally adequate, well prepared and attractively served. She stated this is something really needed by the senior population, not just in Old Fort but across the State in general.

Mrs. Arrowood stated the reason they are so desperate for the new facility in Old Fort is due to the condition of the building at the current location. She said there are many obstacles to keep people away, including inadequate parking, treacherous stairways, lack of space to accommodate the crowd, etc., and she felt having a facility on one level with adequate parking would enable them to serve more people who may have been turned away for obvious reasons.

With no further comment, Commissioner McPeters made a motion to go out of public hearing. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Walker commented on the subdivision growth in the Old Fort area with additional retirees moving in. He said he appreciated all the work this group had done with this project.

Commissioner Lavender stated he wanted to thank Mr. Hogan for the generous donation of land which had set this project in motion and the follow-up work by Chairman Webb and the County Manager. He said this would be a wonderful asset for Old Fort and the County in general.

Commissioner McPeters spoke of the pleasure it had been for him as an EMS employee to go to the Old Fort Nutrition Center to do blood pressure checks, etc. and visit with those citizens. He said this had been a long time coming and he wanted to express his thanks to Mr. Hogan for his generosity in doing what he has for the Town of Old Fort.

Chairman Webb stated Mr. Hogan had been the catalyst for this project and the need is very obvious, but he could sense the impact this would have on the community already and that he was pleased to have part in making it happen.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve bank financing with RBC Centura at 3.51% and to authorize the base bid with three alternatives as well as the associated documentation necessary to move forward. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion.

In discussion, clarification was made that the motion would include adoption of the *RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS*, and adoption of the *RESOLUTION* for the LGC application, and the execution of the contract and other documents as needed. Both Commissioner Lavender and Commissioner McPeters agreed.

When put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING SUPERIOR MACHINE INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

At 6:00 p.m. as duly advertised, Chairman Webb declared the Board in public hearing to receive public comment concerning economic development incentives being offered by McDowell County for economic development activities as authorized by Section 158-7.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Economic Development Director Chuck Abernathy made reference to the Board's closed sessions regarding this project, as well as a series of meetings with Mr. Cunningham of Superior Machine which had also involved the Department of Commerce, Dr. Bryan Wilson of McDowell Tech, Marilyn Williams of the local Employment Security Commission, and others. He said the MEDA Board had also discussed this project on several occasions and that it was very competitive. Mr. Abernathy pointed out the Board of Commissioners has always treated existing companies and their expansions consistent with what is done for new project locations.

Concerning the incentive package, Mr. Abernathy it is based on a small investment, but more importantly, on the creation of 39 jobs over the next 36 months. The proposed incentive amount is \$70,000 to be paid by McDowell County over a period of three years, beginning in July, 2008. He noted the County was in the process of applying for a One North Carolina grant in the amount of \$70,000 which requires a dollar for dollar match, unlike the Jobs Development Grant Program.

Dr. Bryan Wilson addressed the Community College's commitment in helping to support any local growth to the economy and the creation of jobs, although this has recently been a real challenge for them in attracting sufficient numbers of students to some of the critical areas such as welding and metal working for the particular industry in which Superior Machine is involved. He pointed out they were committed to expanding their welding program with \$300,000 in state funds already approved to renovate the facility and do an expansion of the Incubator Facility on campus which the Commissioners had approved recently. Also, they are in the process of putting together a \$250,000 grant to do energy for purposes of equipping that facility for the necessary training of graduates to supply the demands that will be created by Superior Machine's expansion. He pointed out that Superior Machine had been kind enough to go to some of their vendors and had gotten some equipment donated to support the process.

Mr. Cunningham expressed his appreciation to Mr. Abernathy and other agencies for their work toward this project, which had been a great effort. He said he has been in

McDowell County a little over 20 years, finds it a great place to live, and wants to retire here. He pointed out he serves on the Board of Directors for Superior Machine and when he heard about their plans for expansion, he had naturally “gone to bat” for McDowell County.

In a brief discussion, Mr. Cunningham pointed out they currently have 54 employees and their payroll to the community last year was \$2, 400,000. He said they were realistically using 39 employees; however, if all goes well, he hopes to have 60 new jobs.

Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Cunningham for listing the jobs with ESC and briefly described their involvement with the project.

With no further comments, Commissioner Walker made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

In general comments, Commissioner Lavender thanked Mr. Cunningham for his efforts in promoting jobs for McDowell County, and said he hoped they were successful with the 60 jobs he was hopeful in getting.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the incentive agreement as presented. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE OUT OF SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROJECT/SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

At 6:15 p.m. as duly advertised, Chairman Webb declared the Board in public hearing to receive comments from residents concerning the County closing out a 2005 CDBG-Scattered Site Housing Project. He asked Paula Kempton, Grant Services Assistant Manager with Isothermal Planning and Development Commission to give further details of this project.

Mrs. Kempton explained how the \$400,000 in CDBG funds had been used to provide financial assistance to several residents in the County who were experiencing substantial home repair needs. She stated that \$399,827.80 had been expended in this project to assist 14 families within the community.

Chairman Webb opened the floor for comments from the public; however, no one came forward to speak.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Walker then made a motion to approve the close-out of the 2005 CDBG-Scattered Site Housing Project as proposed. Commissioner Lavender seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Further, Mrs. Kempton gave a brief overview of the Single Family Rehabilitation Program, a program similar to CDBG in that homes are improved for low income households with moderate housing needs as opposed to severe, with certain criteria being met as stated in the required Assistance Policy.

In a brief discussion, Mrs. Kempton addressed how “moderate housing” would be determined.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the Single Family Rehabilitation Program as presented, including the *RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATORIES FOR SINGLE FAMILY REHABILITATION PROGRAM*. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF FIRING RANGE AT LANDFILL

Dr. Bryan Wilson, President of McDowell Technical Community College, came before the Board to formally ask for the Board’s approval on pursuing the idea of a new County firing range to serve the McDowell Sheriff’s Department, the College, Marion Correctional Institution, the NC Department of Corrections and possibly other agencies. He said the reason for making this request was in relationship to the relocation of the Forest Service facility, the result of which will necessitate either the abandonment or closing of the old firing range to satisfy the agreement with the Forest Service.

Dr. Wilson pointed out this would leave a variety of agencies without a place for training, noting the annual certification requirement for all law enforcement officers, in addition to the fact that the College does training in a six-county area for the Department of Corrections. He advised the County Manager had suggested that there might be a piece of property near the old Landfill for consideration of locating a new firing range. He advised individuals from the various agencies involved, as well as people from environmental services, had done an assessment to determine whether the property would be suitable for this use, and those efforts had resulted in the concept of what was being proposed. He pointed out the idea was to first establish a range, and then hopefully in the future be able to construct a building for storage, classrooms, restrooms, etc. which will benefit the Prison, law enforcement, and the College. He said the risk to the College by not having access to a firing range is that they could potentially lose the in-service program which they host in the County.

Discussion followed on first building a road through resources provided by County staff. The County Manager suggested having a memorandum of agreement written that could be brought back for the Board’s approval to get the initial work done to proceed and then continue with other work as things progress.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to authorize use of property as presented and to draft a memorandum of agreement to be brought back later. Commissioner Buff seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

In further brief discussion, the suggestion was made to have a staff person involved for purposes of the building, etc. Chairman Webb directed the County Manager to see that the proper person is involved in this process.

CJPP CONTRACTS

Representatives from the Criminal Justice Program came before the Board to request approval of Contracts and the proposed budget for CJPP for the coming year.

Linda Burleson advised they had relocated to the Suttles Building on Main Street where they share space with TASC.

Mrs. Burleson gave a brief overview of their budget which totaled \$74,074.

A brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the *RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING* and the related CJPP Contracts with the proposed budget amount of \$74,074 for 2008-2009 as presented. Vice-Chairman Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

GOLD FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Don Markum gave an overview of the upcoming Gold Festival to be held in McDowell County on April 18th and 19th. This event, beginning at noon on Friday, will be held at Tom Johnson's Camping Center Rally Park and will feature Juleigh Ed and Dixie Dawn Bank in concert on Saturday with a special tribute to veterans. Mr. Markum noted the Gold Festival has been held in McDowell County for five years and that a video had been produced which will be used at the Information Center on Tate Street as a promotional tool.

Mr. Markum requested the Board's approval of a *PROCLAMATION* in recognition of the Gold Festival in McDowell County, and asked that the Board consider a sponsorship for the Festival

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the *PROCLAMATION* as presented. Vice-Chairman Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Webb agreed to have some discussion about the financial commitment.

WATER LINE UPDATES

The County Manager presented the Proposal for Engineering Services Preliminary Site Evaluations Report, Lake James Raw Water Intake and Water Treatment Facilities from McGill Associates, and requested the Board's approval.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the document as recommended. Vice-Chairman Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Abernathy advised, as noted last month, that the NC Rural Center had provisionally awarded McDowell County a \$179,800 grant for the Sherwood Forest project. The County must now complete the application process in order to receive the funds. He presented the *AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT* for the Board's approval.

Ashley Wooten, Assistant to the County Manager, advised the County was stilling awaiting the final award notice for the \$200,000 in ARC funds for this project. He said after several months of review by staff in Raleigh, the application had been sent back to Washington for final approval and that hopefully, this should be known with a week.

Chairman Webb noted the letter of endorsement from the Congressman Shuler's office that had been received.

Commissioner Lavender asked the County Manager, assuming that everything with this project works out as planned, what direction the next project would be going. Mr. Abernathy said they would follow the grants and the plan that McGill had laid out ten years ago.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the *AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT* for ARC funding as presented. Vice-Chairman Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

TAX RELEASES AND REFUNDS

The usual listing of tax releases and refunds were presented for the Board's approval. They are summarized as follows:

Release/Refunds	Refunded amount of \$841.66
Releases/Over \$100.00	Released amount of \$10,440.75
Releases/Under \$100.00	Released amount of \$4,388.69

Motor Vehicle Releases/Under \$100.00 Released amount of \$427.47

Motor Vehicle Releases/Over \$100.00 Released amount of \$288.19

Motion was made by Commissioner McPeters to approve tax releases and refunds as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

With terms of John English and Jeannie Elliott on the Agricultural Advisory Board to expire in April, these two vacancies were considered on second reading. Mr. English had applied for another term but Mrs. Elliott had not. A new applicant was Casey McKissick.

The Board proceeded to vote, by written ballot, on the two applicants for the Agricultural Advisory Board. Results were a unanimous vote for both John English and Casey McKissick.

Terms of two members of the Planning Board had expired in February. These vacancies were presented on first reading.

Chairman Webb noted that terms of Ronald Harmon and Agnes Bailey had expired. Both had been serving as McDowell County ETJ representatives on Montreat's Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. These vacancies were presented on first reading.

In discussion of these vacancies, a suggestion was made that someone with the Inn at Mill Creek might be interested in serving on this Board. The Board directed that they be contacted to see if someone there would serve. Also, the Board felt it would be good to have THE NEWS BULLETIN run a brief notice of these vacancies to make residents of Old Fort aware of them as well.

TRAIL UPDATES

The County Manager explained that a committee comprised of representatives from the YMCA, the Corpening Center, the Hospital, and the County had interviewed consultants on producing a master plan. The committee's recommendation was Withers and Ravenal whose cost would be \$19,000. Mr. Abernathy stated he had suggested to the committee that the cost be shared three ways. Also, he said there had been discussion of having a joint meeting with the Hospital Board, the Board of Commissioners and the Corpening Board meeting with the company.

Mr. Abernathy requested the Board's approval for the County's participation. He advised applications would be made for grants and they would be exploring foundations, etc. as well. He pointed out the work would be done in two different phases.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to authorize a one-third cost share with the partners on this project. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wooten then gave an update on the Old Highway 70 project, noting that representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, the N.C. Department of Transportation, the McDowell Trails Association and other interested parties had met recently to jumpstart the establishment of a trail on Old U.S. 70 between Old Fort and Ridgecrest. Mr. Wooten pointed out the Forest Service was very interested in this project since the trail would transverse their property. Also, that D.O.T. had possession of enhancement funds in the amount of \$170,000 that would be used for the improvement of the old road.

The County Manager mentioned the question of who would do maintenance, etc. This was discussed.

ASSOCIATION 100 YEARS OF SERVICE RESOLUTION

With the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners celebrating 100 years of service this year, the County Manager advised that NCACC was requesting that each county in the State take action on a joint resolution in this venture. He presented a *JOINT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COUNTY UNITY IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ASSOCIATION'S CENTENNIAL* for the Board's approval.

Commissioner Lavender made a motion to approve the *JOINT RESOLUTION* as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion and, upon a unanimous vote, the resolution was adopted as follows:

Joint Resolution Celebrating 100 Years of County Unity in Recognition of Our Association's Centennial

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is an advocacy and service organization made up of all one-hundred (100) North Carolina counties; and

WHEREAS, the active participation and engagement of all 100 counties have directed, strengthened and enhanced our Association; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and talents of individual county commissioners and county staff have led our Association's success in advocacy, county-centered services and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, an informal agreement to form our Association was made by a handful of county commissioners who, at the behest of Craven County Commissioner C.E. Foy, met in New Bern in 1908, to discuss county issues of common interest; and

WHEREAS, the first session of our Association was held at the Atlantic Hotel in Morehead City on August 19, 1908, where C.E. Foy was elected as president; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act on March 8, 1909 establishing our Association on behalf of counties;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and each Board of County Commissioners jointly recognize and celebrate “100 Years of County Unity” in tribute to our Association’s Centennial.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association communicate its copy of this joint resolution to each Board of County Commissioners.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the McDowell County Board of County Commissioners communicate its copy of this joint resolution to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this day, March 10, 2008.

Attest:

Andrew K. Webb, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Carrie Padgett, Clerk to the Board

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Webb noted the Annual Public Hearing with D.O.T., scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on April 14th prior to the Board’s regular meeting. Also, the Gold Festival scheduled for April 18 and 19th at Tom Johnson’s Camping Center and Rally Park, the grand opening of Traditions Credit Union, on Tuesday, March 11th, and the Celebration of McDowell County’s Legacy, on Friday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Marion Community Building.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Pleasant Gardens resident Scottie Willis spoke briefly on a number of items, including the Gold Festival, the Amateur Flyer’s group of which he was part some years ago, etc.

Again, Mr. Willis requested that the memorial be restored as it was before.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Webb called for a motion to go into closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.4 and 5.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to go into closed session as requested. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

In his role as Economic Development Director, Mr. Abernathy briefed the Board on two economic development projects on which he was working.

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to go out of closed session. Commissioner McPeters seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

When back in regular session, Chairman Webb stated that as a result of the closed session just ended, there was no action to be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact, upon motion by Commissioner McPeters and a second by Commissioner Walker, the meeting was adjourned.

ANDREW K. WEBB, CHAIRMAN

CARRIE PADGETT
CLERK TO THE BOARD