

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECESSED SESSION –NOVEMBER 23, 2020**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the Universal Conference Room.

**Members Present**

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters; Brenda Vaughn

**Members Absent**

Tony Brown, Vice-Chair; Lynn Greene

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Ron Harmon, Deputy County Manager for Community Development

**Call to Order**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and declared a public hearing setting at 4:30pm., pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 153A-323 for the purpose of amending the Lake James Protection Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to go out of public hearing setting at 4:32pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote, of 3-0 the motion passed.

Mr. Wooten noted this public hearing was for the request that was received from the Board of Adjustments for the Board of Commissioners to consider amendments to the 2020 Lake James Protection Ordinance:

- Trees 2" in diameter and larger be considered protected vegetation and cannot be removed unless they pose a hazard to the home, dock, or accessory structures. Or cleared for the footprint of the home, accessory structure, septic or driveway.
- Amend the violation section that removes the warning, and violations are now subject to a fine as well as having to be brought into compliance. The fine would be \$500.

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to approve the amendments, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner McPeters asked if there was an update on the survey of employees regarding Christmas dinner vs \$15 gift card. Mr. Wooten noted the employees voted 221-44 in favor of receiving a

gift card for every employee this year. Staff will work with Ingles to obtain a \$15 gift card for all full-time, part-time, and retiree employees this year.

On the survey of receiving a service pin versus cash for years of service, the vote was almost a 50-50 split on employees receiving cash or service pins. The cash service gift would be taxed. Staff asked the Board for their preference on recognizing employees. Consensus was to present the pins/cash award to those with 20 years of service and above.

**Facilities Update**

Chuck Hamrick toured the Annex to see what space was needed and utilized, he thought it would be difficult to get all functions on the first floor, but would work on the needs. Expecting to see his input in a couple of weeks.

Regarding the Garden Street buildings, only one quote has been received. Two grading companies have looked at the site recently, and staff is expecting quotes soon from them.

Mr. Wooten also noted that Ms. Bobbie Young who owns property adjacent to the drive by the Courthouse was going to block off access to the county's six parking spaces the county owns. By blocking off access to the county property she would have more parking spaces at her building and property. After discussion she was offered two county spaces to go with her two spaces for a right of way to the county property. The county would pay for the paving.

**Water System**

Mr. Wooten contacted the School of Government Environmental Finance Center to look at the county's water system rates for advising how to grow the system. He has not received a response.

The county belongs to the NC Rural Water Assoc. which provides technical assistance by offering to look at the water system finances and make recommendations on best practices. Mr. Wooten has sent the water system financials to the Association for their recommendations.

**Burke County and McDowell County Boundary Lines**

Burke County has been assessing approximately 30 parcels that actually belong in McDowell County. When the Tax Assessor asked the Burke County Assessor about the issue she was told Burke County tried to correct the issue 18 years ago. According to county records there were some boundary issues that were corrected about that long ago on the lake, but not at this location in the Dysartsville area. Mr. Wooten noted there would be a conference call with the State Tax Assessor and the State would be the one to determine where the county line should be.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner McPeters made a motion to adjourn at 4:55pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

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Cheryl L. Mitchell  
Clerk to the Board

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David Walker  
Chairman