

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION –JANUARY 25, 2021**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., at the Universal Conference Room.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

Members Absent

Tony Brown, Chair

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Lisa Sprouse, DSS Director; Tammy Wylie, Tax Assessor; Shannon Lowery, Business Tax Appraiser

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 11:32am.

Property Tax Appeal

Ms. Tammy Wylie, Tax Assessor; and Ms. Shannon Lowery, Business Tax Listing, presented appeals from the following:

HCA, Inc Appeal

Brian Williams, Sr. Manager, Tax Dept of HCA presented an appeal for HCA listing via phone. Due to an internal audit by the Tax Dept. of HCA they discovered their failure to include inventory accounts on the 2020 listing for the hospital. The request was for a waiver of penalties related to the unreported property totaling \$834.61.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion not to allow the appeal, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Ryan, LLC Appeal

The national accounting firm of Ryan, LLC appealed on behalf of Advance Auto Parts, Southeastern Grocers (Bi-Lo), Bealls (Burke's Outlet), Dollar Tree Stores (Family Dollar and Dollar Tree) and Progressive Leasing. The appeal was for the business personal property (cash registers, shelves, etc). The appeal amount was for \$1,655 and the basis for the appeal was the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion not to allow the appeal, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed

DSS Update – Economic Services

Chairman Walker expressed his sympathy to DSS employees for the death of DSS employee, Lance Neighbors.

Ms. Sprouse spoke about Mr. Neighbors and the impact he had on the agency as well as the children in his short tenure with the agency. He was 28 years old and had worked 18 months in Child Welfare, which currently has 142 children. He was a good employee and the staff will miss him and the impact he had on the lives of the children.

Ms. Sprouse gave an update and distributed the agency reports. A copy is with the agenda materials.

Ms. Christina Arrowood, Economic Services Supervisor, gave an update on her department which has 40 employees with three supervisors.

She reminded the Board of the Medicaid Transformation that will go into effect July 1, 2021, and the management of individual care will be switched to private insurance. There are five different providers, and each individual will need to make a choice of provider. Information will go out to the individuals March 1st.

Also, there will be a Medicaid Expansion that could increase the program up to 4,000 individuals. The added participants would increase the need for additional staff at DSS by 8-10 employees.

Administrative Items

Mr. Wooten noted the notice to lease warehouse space at Universal to Auria had been advertised in the paper. Request was made for formal approval to lease to Auria.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) asked for a Commissioner to serve on their board to replace Commissioner Lynn Greene. Commissioner Vaughn volunteered to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to appoint Commissioner Vaughn to the JCPC Committee, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

69 N. Main Street Building Update

Chuck Hamrick, Architect with Holland and Hamrick gave an update on the proposed floorplan for the N. Main Street building. The proposed floorplan is with the agenda materials.

Mr. Hamrick advised the projected timeline for the project would be a year before able to occupy the space. The estimated cost of the project would be \$1,478,000 to \$1,848,000.

Vice Chairman Walker advised all the Board to review the plans and bring feedback to the next meeting.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 12:09pm, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David Walker
Vice-Chairman