

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RECESSED SESSION-FIRE COMMISSION – MAY 13, 2021**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Recessed Session on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at the William Harold Smith Building with the Fire Commission.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chairman Tony Brown

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and thanked the Fire Commission for the invitation to hear updates from the local fire departments. Chairman Joe Washburn welcomed the Board and called on each department in attendance to give an update:

Ashford-North Cove Fire Department—Chief Brad Washburn reported 23 members with 8 paid staff including part-time working 24/7; 214 calls in 2020; currently working on a training grounds so their firemen will not have to go out of the county for training; purchased a UTV for rescues; currently has a Class 6 rating

Dysartsville Fire Department—Chief Nick Washburn and 1st Asst. Chief Tony Finley reported 35 members with 1 paid staff working Mon-Fri; 522 calls; working on plans for a substation to serve the Grandview Peaks development that has 900 lots; and also working on response plans for the new State Park; currently has a Class 6 rating

Glenwood Fire Department—Chief Donnie Tipton reported 33 members with 3 juniors and 7 EMT, 1 fulltime and 5 part-time employees providing 7 days a week-12 hour a day coverage; 476 calls in 2020, have had 201 calls the 1st quarter of 2021; purchased a 14 ft. boat for rescues; replaced 22 air packs through a FEMA grant

Hankins-North Fork Fire Department—Chief Travis Long reported 21 members with 3 part-time employees working Mon-Fri, 8 hours a day; 224 calls; one bay added to the station; Class 9 rating

Marion Fire Department—Chief Ray McDaniel reported 12 fulltime staff with 1 part-time administrative, and 6 part-time staff; and 13 volunteers; 1061 calls in 2020; 17 members are water rescue certified; purchased a 14 ft boat for rescues; received a FEMA SAFER grant, Norfolk Southern grant, and a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter grant; City has a Class 5 rating; and Marion Area has a Class 6 rating

Nebo Fire Department—Asst. Fire Chief Robert Kirkpatrick reported 32 members with 1 fulltime and 3 part-time employees; 427 calls; have applied for a fire boat through a federal grant and are waiting to hear if approved; ordered a new 1500gpm engine

Old Fort Fire Department—Chief Ron Richardson reported 30 members with 6 part-time employees working 7 days a week; 808 calls; Town and fire district has a Class 4 rating; also received a FEMA grant for equipment; purchasing a 2001 fire engine next month

PG Fire Department—Chief Neil Settlemire reported 1 fulltime and 5 part-time employees, and 47 volunteers; purchased 2300-gallon tanker for use with mutual aid; construction has begun on their new fire station

Sugar Hill Fire Department—Chief Joe Washburn reported 31 members and 8 part-time employees staffing Mon-Fri; 428 calls; opened new SHFD Substation; have a new 2250gpm tanker; received a FEMA grant for equipment and a NCDOT grant; a NC Forest Service grant; applied for a SAFER grant; plan is once the substation is paid for to build a new fire station; property has already been obtained for the new station and is shovel ready; SHFD has a Class 5 rating

Woodlawn Fire Department—Asst. Chief Luke Davis reported 350 calls; property has been purchased to build a new fire station; has 1 paid staff; department has a Class 9 rating

McDowell Rescue—Chief Brian Gentry reported 1522 call; 6 full-time; 16 part-time; and 25 volunteers; debt retired on the heavy rescue truck; plans on renovating or rebuilding current building

Emergency Management—Director William Kehler noted his appreciation for the support of the fire departments during the pandemic. Also, the importance of first responders in each fire district for the public during emergencies. Deputy Director, Craig Walker expressed his appreciation to the fire departments in their commitment to lower their district's fire rating.

Chief Joe Washburn gave a report on the Fire Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

David Walker
Vice Chairman