

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION –April 18, 2022**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 11:30a.m., at the Commissioner’s Board Room located at 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Morgan, Finance Director; Anna Lee, HR Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

DSS Update

Ms. Jennifer Morgan, Children’s Program Administrator, gave an update on the Foster Care Program which currently has 111 children in foster care. There is currently one youth that is in PRTF that requires two DSS workers to stay with the child.

Ms. Jennie Millsaps, Licensing Foster Care Social Worker, reported there are 41 foster homes- 21 of those have been with the agency over two years. Four of the homes are relative placement.

Discussion was held on the construction of the Ebenezer’s Children Home in Old Fort, and would there be an opportunity for DSS child placement at the facility.

Ms. Millsaps continues to use social media and the press, as well as local festivals to advertise and recruit for the foster care program.

Vaccine Policy

Mr. Wooten requested the Board move the proof of vaccination date to June 30, 2022 for the Vaccine Incentive Program for County employees.

Vice Chair Walker made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Building Facilities Update

Mr. Wooten requested approval for waiting on leasing out the current Administrative Annex Building. Since there are state funds for renovating the Services Building’s second floor available now, it would be easier to make the extensive upgrades to the second floor if it was vacated. He suggested moving staff to the Annex once the current staff have moved to 69 N Main, and begin renovation on the Services Building. The goal is to have Probation and Parole Offices on the second floor, and Extension move into their vacated space.

Consensus of the Board was to proceed with the move.

Vice Chair Walker noted that some department heads had been doing their own pay scale studies, and to be fair for all departments, a professional pay scale study needed to be done with job descriptions.

Vice Chair Walker made a motion to proceed with a pay scale study done across all county staff, funds to be identified at a later date to fund the results of the study, upon recommendation from the staff, second by Commissioner Allison. Commissioner Allison asked if the previous quotes for a pay scale study from the vendors were still valid or would they have to be reapproved.

Vice Chair Walker amended his motion in include if the study was greater than previously presented to bring back quotes to the Board for approval, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Closed Session

Chair Brown announced the Board needed to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss an economic development matter.

Vice Chair Walker made a motion to go into Closed Session at 12:04pm, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Vice Chair Walker left the meeting as 12:48pm.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to go out of Closed Session at 1:05pm, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Recess

Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to recess at 1:06pm to Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00pm, second by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman