

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION –MARCH 7, 2022**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 5:00p.m., at the Commissioner's Board Room located at 69 N Main Street, 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 Bell, Finance Officer; Anna Lee, HR Director; Lake Silver, Management Asst.; Terry DePoyster, Public Services Director; Maeva Hussani, LEAD Fellow

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Health Insurance

Mr. Wooten introduced reps from MedCost, the third-party administrator for the county plan to discuss cost saving measures for the County's health insurance plan. Brian Flynn and Leslie Bryant, broker representatives of One Digital, reviewed the claims received in the first six months of the fiscal year. Fourteen claimants had gone over \$45,000 in the first 6 months thru 1/31/22 compared to six claimants the same time frame last year. Only one of the claimants was Covid related. The County's stop loss is \$90,000.

The County's projected pharmacy plan savings of \$420,000 by switching from Blue Cross is still on target to achieve.

Currently there are 41 spouses on the plan which is driving up 14% of the cost. Spousal claims totaled \$626,024.53 for FY 2021, through February 28th spousal claims have totaled \$620,506.84 for this fiscal year.

Some of the options available for the upcoming fiscal years were increasing employee premiums to equalize the State's employee premium; freeze spousal coverage moving forward; and drop spousal coverage. Last year the County had a \$1 million deficit.

Representatives noted they could bring options back to the Board by their April meeting.

Waste Enterprise Fund

Staff recommended the following fee adjustments over the next two fiscal years:

FY2023: Discontinue the \$5 disposal fee at the Transfer Station and level out tipping fees so that vehicles crossing the scale pay the \$60 per ton fee. There were 20,000 \$5 tickets in FY 2021.

FY 2023: Begin charging for wood waste at \$30 per ton. This fee would generate around \$30,000 which would cover the annual grinding cost.

FY 2024: Begin the assessment of a solid waste availability fee on residential properties. There are two options: you can charge an availability fee across every single residential property in the county at the same level. Or you can only charge the fee to households that do not have City, Town, or private hauling contracts and then charge the City, Town, and private haulers the \$60 per ton fee at the scale.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 6:04pm, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the motion passed.

Attest:

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman