

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – April 17, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioner’s Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

Tony G. Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board; Bobbie Sigmon, DSS Director; Alison Bell, Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

DSS Update

DSS Director Bobbie Sigmon presented updates to the Board.

In March, staff celebrated Social Worker Appreciation Month. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

In March, \$8,543,191.19 went back into the County from DSS and various assistance programs each month. Those programs are Medicaid, Food Nutrition Services, Special Assistance, Work First, and Emergency Assistance.

Medicaid Expansion is coming. Mrs. Sigmon has been informed that once the State budget has passed, there will be about a 45-90-day turnaround in Medicaid Expansion implementation. With the expansion comes new employees. To accommodate the new employees, Mrs. Sigmon intends to purge a file room by digitalizing documents and creating multiple cubicles in that space. There has been collaboration with Buncombe and Guilford counties for virtual training that the new Medicaid employees will need.

There continue to be complications with severe behavior in a few of the children in DSS custody. Vice-Chairman Walker asked Mrs. Sigmon how the Board could help with the many restrictions that DSS is having to deal with. After some conversation, Vice-Chairman Walker requested staff to set up a meeting with Burke County which will include the County Manager,

DSS Director, two of their commissioners, and Senator Warren Daniel to address restriction issues.

The Child Fatality Protection Team (CFPT) is a North Carolina General Statute mandated committee required in all counties. There are positions on that committee that need to be appointed by the Board such as EMS, one commissioner, and law enforcement.

Administrative Items

County Manager Ashley Wooten provided the Board with the following administrative updates:

- National Child Abuse Awareness Month Resolution – Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.
- There was a \$5,000 offer for the old EMS building – Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept the bid proposal, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.
- There were two CDBG project ordinances – Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the project ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Walker brought up a letter to the school board concerning the endorsement of the water project for West Marion Elementary. Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to request the School Board to send a letter of support for the water lines to West Marion Elementary School, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to draft a letter of support for the Town of Old Fort's ARC Grant and other funding sources for sewer extension to the property that is proposed to be developed around Camp Grier, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chairman Walker. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

Victoria Craig
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman