

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – June 19, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, June 19, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioner’s Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

Tony G. Brown, Chairman, Patrick Ellis

Others Present

Ashley R. Wooten, County Manager/Deputy Clerk to the Board; Bobbie Sigmon, DSS Director; Alison Bell, Finance Director

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

DSS Update

DSS Director Bobbie Sigmon presented the Board with Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) updates. She referenced the number of children in foster care, which according to Ms. Sigmon is proportional to the surrounding counties. She noted 15 children were adopted out in the past year.

There was a general discussion of the cost of foster care. Commissioner Greene noted the significant increase from July to May. Ms. Sigmon noted that the cost is related to the type of care the children are receiving. She noted that 40% of the children in care are teenagers.

Ms. Sigmon also noted that there are several of these teenagers that require specialized attention and care that can be above and beyond what would typically be expected.

A general discussion followed regarding the number of adult wards. Ms. Sigmon noted that are currently approximately 90 wards in the custody of the County.

Ms. Sigmon also noted that the child support caseload continues to be higher, so she plans to reclassify a clerical position as a child support agent. She did note that collection rates could improve if the bill related to parents of children in foster care is adopted in the General Assembly since those cases would be removed as being collectible.

Ms. Sigmon also noted that the agency is being requested to perform home studies for non-County adoptions. She asked if the Board would allow a fee of \$300 to be set for this home study request.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to allow staff to present a policy that would govern private home studies, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Ms. Sigmon noted in closing that she has 4 vacancies across the agency, which is a great reduction from when she assumed the position in January.

FY 2024 Budget Discussion

The County Manager noted that the FY 2024 budget recommendation was delivered to the Commissioners on June 1 and also that the required public hearing was held on June 12. He noted that the Board was authorized to now adopt the budget. However, the consensus of the Board was to defer the adoption in order to have Chairman Brown and Commissioner Ellis if at all possible.

Recreation Center Discussion

The County Manager reviewed the recent Recreation Center bid opening results with the Board, noting that the approximate deficit of cost over available grant funds was \$6.4 million. Mr. Wooten noted that the low bidder Hickory Construction has agreed to hold the bid pricing for now. Since there is a possibility of additional state funding being awarded for this project, Mr. Wooten recommended deferring a decision on how to proceed at least until the June 30 meeting.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to defer any action on the Recreation Center Project until no sooner than June 30, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Budget Amendments

The County Manager presented project closeout resolutions, two project ordinance amendments, and budget amendments:

- GF 74 – Transfers between line items under \$3000 in various departments.
- GF 75 – Transfers between line items and appropriates donations in Emergency Services.
- GF 76 – Transfers between line items in the Library.
- GF 77 – Transfers between line items and appropriates revenue in the Animal Shelter.
- GF 78 – Appropriates revenue due to waste contract labor.
- GF 79 – Appropriates Walmart grant revenue for the Sheriff's Office.
- GF 80 – Appropriates revenue and transfers between line items in DSS.
- GF 81 – Appropriates grant revenue for the Senior Center food purchases.
- GF 82 – Appropriates sales tax reimbursement due to audit.
- GF 83 – Appropriates sales tax reimbursement due to park needs.
- GF 84 – Appropriates current year taxes due to waste disposal needs.

- GF 85 – Appropriates revenue for vehicle purchases for Transit and the Sheriff's Office.
- GF 86 – Appropriate revenue for the ongoing paving projects.
- DSO1 – Allocates funding for the debt service fund for the McDowell House loan.
- SP3 – Amends the School Project Fund for various project costs.
- ENT4 – Amends the Enterprise Fund to adjust for increased disposal costs.
- NWENT1 – Allocates revenue in the Nebo Water Fund.
- 911F2 – Transfers between line items in the 911 Fund.
- UENT2 – Transfers between line items in the Universal Fund.
- TF1 – Allocates revenue in the DMV Trust Account.
- SI2 – Increases the Stop Loss payout and increases Claims.
- EMS Base Construction Project Ordinance Amendment 1
- Universal Industrial Park Project Ordinance Amendment 2

Commissioner Allison made a motion to accept the amendments, resolutions, and ordinances, seconded by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Resolution Donating Equipment

The County Manager presented a *Resolution Authorizing Sale of County Property*, which would authorize the donation of election equipment to Caldwell County. The Board of Elections staff indicated that the equipment is surplus and was no longer needed.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Recess

Commissioner Greene made a motion at 12:23 p.m. to recess to June 30th at 11:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's Board Room, seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

Ashley R. Wooten
Deputy Clerk to the Board

David N. Walker
Vice Chairman