

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION – April 13, 2026**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 13th, 2026, in the Commissioners' Board Room, 69 N. Main Street, Marion, NC.

Members Present

Chairman, Tony Brown; Vice-Chair, Lynn Greene; Patrick Ellis, Trisha Garner, and David Walker

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Madalyn Robinson, Clerk to the Board; Fred Coats, County Attorney; Cathy Moore, Waiting for the Train Old Fort; Steve Pierce, McDowell Trails Association; Aikman Kazee, Parks and Recreation Director;

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Commissioner Walker led the group in prayer. Commissioner Ellis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the March 9th and March 16th Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Mr. Wooten asked to include the Fire and Rescue Department Funding discussion in the County Policy Item Section of the agenda. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Waiting for the Train

Cathy Moore from Waiting on the Train Old Fort spoke about grassroots efforts to restore passenger rail service to McDowell County and WNC. Mrs. Moore is Old Fort's representative on the Rail Committee, focused on improving rail connections for Western NC. The Rail Committee's mission is to improve and expand freight service, support excursions, and reestablish passions for rail connections between Asheville and Salisbury. Mrs. Moore is a member of the team that opens the Old Fort Train Depot and Museum to the public once a month.

In 2023, a group from Burke County started Waiting for the Train. Mrs. Moore worked with the Burke County group to establish a McDowell County group. With Helene, the County suffered a lot of damage, and the train tracks between Old Fort and Ridge Crest were destroyed. There was concern surrounding the cost of restoration for this project. In May of 2025, Norfolk Southern enlisted R J Corman as the primary contractor to restore the old Fort Loops and provided monthly progress reports. Restoration work included 500 linear feet of piles driven and 140,000 tons of aggregate, including gravel and crushed stone. With the restoration work nearly completed, Norfolk Southern is ready to return the line to service. Mrs. Moore invited the Board of Commissioners to attend the Welcome Back Norfolk Southern rally in Old Fort on April 18th, 2026, at 10 am.

On March 18th, there was a Railroad and Regional Economic Development Conference in Morganton about the return of passenger rail. Federal funds in theory are supposed to pay for 80% of the project. The third and fourth steps of getting passenger rail were highlighted for viewing. Mrs. Moore discussed the 133 million in funds to complete the third and fourth steps of returning passenger rail to Western North Carolina. Mrs. Moore asked that the City of Marion, the Town of Old Fort, McDowell County, and McDowell County Economic Development come together and have these conversations to show the state legislators the importance of bringing passenger rail back to McDowell. The Board thanked Mrs. Moore for her presentation.

Universal Trail Development

Steve Pierce from the McDowell Trails Association discussed the proposal to make improvements to the park area behind the Universal building. Mr. Pierce discussed the ribbon-cutting at Universal Park. The MTA, in conjunction with Barefoot Baby Foundation, hosted the Bear Hunt Family Hike in 2025. The purpose is to build Universal Park into an outdoor recreation and trail system that benefits residents of Marion and Central McDowell County and increases tourism opportunities. Stakeholders include MTA, MTCC, McDowell County, Parks and Rec, Destination McDowell, the City of Marion, and MEDA.

Mr. Pierce provided letters of support to the Board. Potential users include hiking, mountain biking, fishing, disc golf, MTCC, early college, citizens, and tourism. Mr. Pierce added that the location to I-40 is great and there is opportunity to connect the

Peavine Rail Trail, the Thermal Belt, Wilderness Gateway Trail, and Fonta Flora State Trail.

The pool of potential users is wide, including outdoor recreation opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and disc golf. The Universal park Vision includes a family-friendly “Two Ponds” loop, perimeter trail, multi-use trail, mountain bike trails, disc golf, pond access for fishing, a picnic shelter, and an amphitheater. Mr. Pierce noted that phased development is being looked at for this project. Phase I Development involves a Duke Energy Foundation Grant, T-Mobile Grant, work with MTCC’s Sustainable Trail School, and addresses parking, traffic flow, and access issues.

Mr. Pierce asked that McDowell County set aside Universal Park for Outdoor recreation purposes, approve in principle the vision and plans to further develop Universal Park, and partner with MTA and Universal Park Stakeholders in developing the park. Commissioner Walker asked if the industrial component would be above the designated park. Mr. Wooten stated that the ponds need to stay in place for fire suppression in parks, and this would not affect the industrial area due to the need for the ponds to remain. Vice-Chair Greene asked if there is any money involved currently for the request to be approved, and Mr. Pierce stated that they are not asking for any funds, and the work will be completed through grant funds and fundraising opportunities. Vice-Chair Greene moved that they grant the request with a second by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed. Commissioner Walker added that the possibilities of that site will be great for the County and thanked Mr. Pierce for his presentation.

Parks and Rec Fee Proposal

Parks and Recreation Director Aikman Kazee discussed revising several fees that will affect summer-related activities, such as the swimming pools. Mr. Kazee gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Department and the Youth Football League proposal.

Parks and Recreation Update:

- Maple Leaf Playground: The vault toilet at Maple Leaf is complete and is fully ADA-accessible. The project was fully grant-funded and the park will be open from dawn to dusk.
- Parking at Hemphill Park has been renovated, with potholes fixed and an entrance and exit added to help with traffic flow. An overflow lot was added behind the T-ball field.
- Bank Erosion and Pipe Remediation project at the Greenspace is underway.
- Babe Ruth League began play on Saturday with 72 teams, 857 participants.
- Paving projects are planned at the Greenspace.
- Onboarding Lifeguards for the 2026 Pool Season has begun.

- Black Bear Campground has 22% increase in revenue YTD compared to 2025.
- The McDowell County Shooting Range has served 1149 patrons YTD (As of 1 April)

Mr. Kazee presented the new proposal for MCYFL (Youth Football). The proposal provides a clear age cut-off. Any child playing Middle School or JV League Football will not be allowed to play Rec League. The proposal includes age divisions of 12U, 10U, and 8U. This will provide flexibility by County, no Limit to Rosters, and MCYFL could do a countywide draft (not limited to East vs. West). McDowell Teams will play together each weekend instead of being split in multiple locations, benefiting families. Practice Schedules (Non-Contact) are driven by MCYFL, not by the overall League

MCYFL:

Divisions with Age Cut-off by 8/31/26 | Weight Limits:

- 12U (Must be 12 or under by 8/31/26) | Weight Limit-165lbs.
- 10U (Must be 10 or under by 8/31/26) | Weight Limit-135 lbs.
- 8U (Must be 8 or under by 8/31/26) | Weight Limit-95 lbs.
- Programs Confirmed: Avery, McDowell, Mitchell & Yancey

Mr. Kazee presented the new fee proposals to the Board. The average admission price in WNC, based on 12 public pools across Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, and Rutherfordton Counties, is as follows: \$4.33 Adults, \$3.75 for Students (includes children), 4.00 for Seniors (55+). As the data shows, we charge \$1.33 less per adult, \$1.75 less per student, and \$2.50 less per senior. Mr. Kazee proposed the following for McDowell County:

Pool Admission

- Adult \$4.00 (\$1.00 increase)
- Student \$3.00 (\$1.00 increase)
- Senior/Child \$2.00 (\$0.50 increase)
- Lap Swim/Sensory Swim \$2.00 (New)
- Individual Pass (no change)
- Family Pass \$125 (\$25 increase)
- Marion Pool Rental - \$200 (\$50 increase)
- Old Fort Pool Rental -\$150 (no increase)

Gym Rental

- Gym Birthday Party - \$150
- Gym Only - \$20
- Tournament Rental - \$350 daily

- Tournament Rental (MCYBL) - \$50 daily

Complex Rentals

- 1 Field - \$300 (each field adds \$50)
- Portable Scoreboard - \$10
- Lights - \$10 per hour
- Single Field Rental - \$20 for two hours

Commissioner Ellis moved to accept the fee proposals as presented, seconded by Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Walker added that the fee increase is still below the rates for surrounding counties. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Road Renaming Public Hearing

Mr. Wooten presented the Road Renaming Public Hearing. All of the property owners on Ralph Thomas Road (NCDOT Secondary Road 1831) in Nebo have requested that the road be renamed Adkins Drive. The proper contact has been made with NCDOT, and the hearing has been advertised as required by statute in the newspaper and in two public places in the township. The property owner was required to pay the hearing notice and payment for the new signage per standard procedure.

Chairman Brown declared a public hearing at 5:47 pm. There were no comments from the public related to the road renaming. Commissioner Walker made a motion to go out of public hearing at 5:48 pm, with a second by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the road renaming request, with a second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE N. C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO APPROVE A REQUEST FOR A ROAD NAME CHANGE (Ralph Thomas Road to Adkins Drive)

WHEREAS, property owner Ralph Adkins has submitted a petition to rename the road which is currently named Ralph Thomas Road (SR 1831); and

WHEREAS, the McDowell County GIS Department has reviewed the petition and determined it to be valid and in accordance with the County's ordinance for naming and renaming streets, adopted April 12th, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on April 13th, 2026 in accordance with General Statute 153A-239.1, and voted to approve the street name change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners that the North Carolina Department of Transportation is

requested to change the name of SR 1831, Ralph Thomas Road, to Adkins Drive.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 13th day of April, 2026.

Water System Project Updates

Mr. Wooten presented the water system updates to the Board.

Nebo:

- The East End Project began on August 4. This project is scheduled to be completed in April 2026. Some sections of the work are completed and certified.
- Nebo Phases 2 A & B are complete.
- The small extension project near Exit 90 is more or less ready to bid, with one more procedural hurdle (the environmental review) needing to be completed. There is no scheduled start or end date at this time.
- Phase 3 (Randolph Road) will start construction within the next month. The complicating factor is that the contractor working on the East End was also the successful bidder on this project, so they will need to work to coordinate the work on two projects at once.
- The master meter on US 70 has been moved to the location immediately west of the Beaman Road intersection. There is ongoing discussion with the City regarding the transfer of these customers and the operation of this section of the pre-existing water line.
- A grant/small loan combination was received for the extension of a line from the end of Randolph Road over to Fairview Road, terminating at NC 226 South at the City's system. This project would also fund the construction of a water storage tank. The award notification has been received, but not the award documents, contracts, etc.

Providence Area/West Marion Elementary Area:

- The engineer has provided the 90% plans to staff for review.
- The State Historic Preservation Office has directed that a historic site evaluation be completed for this project. The field evaluation has been completed, and there is a bit of lab work yet to be done.
- Additional funds have been received under the State Revolving Fund program through the NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure. That application was in the amount of \$3,538,500. A small portion of the funding is a 20-year loan, with the majority being a principal forgiveness loan with 0% interest. The award notification has been received, but not the award documents, contracts, etc.

Asset Inventory and Assessment Project:

The Asset Inventory and Assessment Project is now underway. The first steps involve doing a complete inventory of the County's water assets and updating the mapping. The GIS mapping process is nearing completion.

Water Connection Grant

The North Carolina Community Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to connect low-income households in the Nebo area to the water system. The grant will pay for the plumbing work and connection costs except for the customer deposit. The application and a press release have been issued.

County Policy Discussion and Approvals

Mr. Wooten presented the County policy discussion and approvals to the Board. Firstly, Mr. Wooten discussed the McDowell County Employee Service Recognition Policy. For many years, employees have been recognized for their years of service by receiving a commemorative pin or an equivalent monetary compensation. This recognition has occurred after employees have worked at least 5 years and then after they work an additional 5 years (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.). The draft policy was revised from the original proposal to include language allowing retiring employees to count accumulated leave time towards their service award. The Board asked in previous discussions if the policy is retroactive or looks forward. Vice-Chair Greene added that he thinks the policy should look forward and not be retroactive. Commissioner Ellis asked if other County governments do this, and Mr. Wooten stated that this is relatively common. Commissioner Walker stated that he believes if an employee has worked that long and earned the time, they should receive a pin retroactively if they choose. Mr. Walker is in favor of the policy as it stands and suggests sending a letter out to previous employees if they'd like the pin. Brown added that if they're looking back, there needs to be a time limit for retroactive pins.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the McDowell County Recognition Policy as presented, and staff will send a letter out to previous employees, and verify their employment. Commissioner Walker amended the motion to include a notice in the paper for this. The motion by Commissioner Walker died for lack of a second.

Mr. Wooten asked if the policy could be approved as it stands currently, and the red additions removed. Vice-Chair Greene made a motion to approve the policy without the additions of a retired employee using sick or vacation leave to reach a service milestone. The motion by Vice-Chair Greene died for lack of a second.

Chairman Brown made a motion to make the current practice into a policy, seconded by Vice-Chair Greene. By a vote of 4-1, the motion passed.

Yeas:

Chairman Brown

Vice-Chair Greene

Commissioner Ellis

Commissioner Garner

Nays:

Commissioner Walker

Mr. Wooten presented the Nepotism policy. There was a discussion at the March 16 meeting about making changes to the nepotism policy to allow more flexibility in recognition of the tight labor market. The proposed policy language allows for the employment of relatives in departments as long as a close relative does not supervise another close relative, and the department head can certify that the close relatives would not have frequent contact with each other.

Vice-Chair Greene moved to approve the Nepotism policy as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Wooten discussed the McDowell County Fire and Rescue Department Funding Policy. The Board of Commissioners set a service district tax rate. Everyone in McDowell County pays a fire tax in addition to other taxes. About 5 years ago, a draft policy was created out of COVID and was not presented to the Commissioners at that time. Commissioner Walker asked for the draft Fire and Rescue Department Funding Policy to be presented to the board. Mr. Wooten suggested that this policy not be implemented in the current year, and this be the first reading, and wait until the next year to pass the policy. Mr. Wooten has discussed this policy with Mr. Washburn, Chairman of the Fire Commission. Commissioner Walker asked that the Fire Chiefs take a look at this before accepting the policy so they can review and have input. Mr. Wooten will take this to the fire chiefs at the meeting in mid-May for their review and comments.

Recycling Grant Award and Approval

Staff recently received notification from NCDEQ that a Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant application was approved at essentially the full application amount of \$580,000. This grant will be used to buy compactors at the convenience sites for recyclable materials, as well as a roll-off truck that will move the compactors to and from the sites. Mr. Wooten asks that the board approve the receipt of the funding.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the receipt of the funding and allow staff to sign off on the necessary documents, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Digital Accessibility Requirements

Mr. Wooten provided information on the recent law change for digital accessibility. The United States Department of Justice is in the process of implementing new rules under the Americans with Disabilities Act that will require improvements and enhancements to our websites, social media pages, and YouTube videos. The County needs to make sure our website is compliant, the video is compliant, and ensure that we implement closed captioning for videos. Mr. Wooten provided information on this recent change because this may be an area the County has to spend money on in the future to avoid potential legal issues.

Fire Inspection Updates and Approvals

Mr. Wooten presented the Fire Inspection updates and approvals to the Board. Mr. Wooten is asking for both to be approved by resolution. There have been discussions with the City of Marion about formalizing understandings with several fire inspection-related dues, including inspection of schools and approval of fireworks (pyrotechnics). Two resolutions are proposed to be adopted to formalize these situations. In addition, the fire inspector position for the County is being moved from the Inspections Department to Emergency Services under the fire marshal, which is typical in many counties. This change would be effective July 1, though there will be a transition over time.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the resolution per the request of the County manager, with the deletion of the interlocal agreement language, seconded by Vice-Chair Greene. By a motion of 5-0, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION DELEGATING FIRE INSPECTION DUTIES TO THE CITY OF MARION

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute § 115C-525 requires regular fire inspections of public school buildings and allows for such inspections to be conducted by local fire officials or other authorized inspectors; and

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute § 115C-525 authorizes a county to delegate fire inspection duties to a municipality by agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marion maintains a qualified Fire Department with personnel certified to perform fire inspections in accordance with the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code and applicable statutes, including N.C.G.S. § 115C-525; and

WHEREAS, McDowell County desires to promote efficiency, coordination, and consistency in fire inspections, including those required for public school facilities, by delegating such duties to the City of Marion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marion has agreed to accept and perform these duties within the agreed-upon jurisdiction and in accordance with applicable laws and standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Delegation of Authority

McDowell County hereby delegates its authority and responsibility for conducting fire inspections, including those required under N.C.G.S. § 115C-525, and related statutes, to the City of Marion Fire Department.

2. Scope of Duties

The City of Marion Fire Department shall perform fire inspections, re-inspections, and related enforcement activities, including inspections of public school facilities as required by N.C.G.S. § 115C-525, in accordance with the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code and all applicable state and local laws.

3. Jurisdiction

This delegation shall apply to those areas of McDowell County inside the corporate limits of the City of Marion, unless otherwise specified in a separate agreement between the parties.

4. Agreement and Administration

The County Manager is hereby authorized to execute any required interlocal agreements or memoranda of understanding with the City of Marion setting forth the specific terms, conditions, reporting requirements, and any compensation associated with this delegation.

5. Liability and Compliance

The City of Marion shall carry out all delegated duties in compliance with applicable laws and shall be responsible for the actions of its personnel in performing such duties.

6. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective on April 13, 2026.

ADOPTED this the 13th day of April, 2026

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MCDOWELL COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY OF
MARION TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR THE USE OF PYROTECHNICS
PURSUANT TO N.C. GEN. STAT. § 14-413(a1)**

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-410 prohibits the use and discharge of pyrotechnics within the State of North Carolina except as provided by law;

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(a) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of any county to issue permits for the use of pyrotechnics in connection with the conduct of concerts and public exhibitions, including fairs, carnivals, shows of all descriptions, and public celebrations;

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(a1) authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a resolution granting to a city the authority to issue pyrotechnic permits for use within the corporate limits of that city, and provides that such authority shall remain in effect until withdrawn by a subsequent resolution of the Board;

WHEREAS, the City of Marion is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina and lies wholly within McDowell County;

WHEREAS, the City of Marion has requested that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners delegate to the City of Marion the authority to issue pyrotechnic permits within the corporate limits of the City for the purpose of facilitating concerts and public exhibitions that benefit the cultural, recreational, and economic well-being of the community;

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners finds that granting such authority to the City of Marion is in the best interests of the public and is consistent with the intent of Article 54 of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(b) requires that, prior to the issuance of any pyrotechnic permit, the local fire marshal or the State Fire Marshal must certify that adequate fire suppression will be used at the site, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(d) requires proof of insurance in the amount of at least five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or the minimum amount required under the North Carolina State Building Code pursuant to G.S. 143-138(e), whichever is greater;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of McDowell County, North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1. Delegation of Authority. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(a1), the McDowell County Board of Commissioners hereby delegates to the City of

Marion the authority to issue permits for the exhibition, use, and discharge of pyrotechnics at concerts and public exhibitions, as those terms are defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-410(c)(1), occurring within the corporate limits of the City of Marion.

Section 2. Scope of Authority. *The authority granted herein authorizes the governing board of the City of Marion, or such officer as the City of Marion may designate by ordinance or resolution, to receive and act upon applications for pyrotechnic permits in accordance with the standards and requirements set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413 and all other applicable provisions of Article 54 of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes.*

Section 3. Compliance with State Law. *The City of Marion, in exercising the authority delegated hereunder, shall comply in all respects with the requirements of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413, including but not limited to: (a) obtaining certification from the local fire marshal or the State Fire Marshal that adequate fire suppression will be used at the site of the display; (b) requiring proof of insurance from the display operator in the minimum amount required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(d); and (c) confirming that the display operator has secured a valid display operator license issued pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-82A-3.*

Section 4. Duration. *This delegation of authority shall take effect upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until withdrawn by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners by adoption of a subsequent resolution expressly withdrawing this authority, as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-413(a1).*

Section 5. No Transfer of Liability. *Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to transfer, assign, or otherwise delegate any liability of McDowell County to the City of Marion or to relieve any party of obligations otherwise imposed by state law. The City of Marion shall be solely responsible for the proper exercise of the permit authority granted herein.*

Section 6. Certified Copies. *The Clerk to the Board is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the City of Marion and to the McDowell County Fire Marshal.*

Section 7. Severability. *If any provision of this Resolution is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.*

ADOPTED *by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners at a duly noticed regular meeting, by a majority vote of the Board, this 13th day of April, 2026*

Gold Rush 5k Road Closure Approval

Mr. Wooten presented the road closure for the Gold Rush 5k in Glenwood. The Glenwood Ruritan Club has scheduled its annual Gold Rush 5k for Saturday, June 6. They have asked that a section of Polly Spout Road be closed for the event.

Appropriate signage and coordination have taken place with NCDOT and other required parties.

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE 2026 GOLD RUSH RUN 5K

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners are supportive of events held by various community groups; and

WHEREAS, the Glenwood Ruritan is planning to hold the third Gold Rush Run 5K race on Saturday, June 6, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners recognizes that this Run requires approximately one- and three-quarter hours to install signing and traffic control, hold the Run and for the removing of signs, traffic control, and litter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-169 that they do hereby declare a temporary road closure during the day and time set forth below on the following described portion of a State

Highway System route:

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Time: 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Route Description: 1250 SR 1781 Polly Spout Rd to 3000 Polly Spout Rd.

This ordinance to become effective when signs are erected giving notice of the limits and times of the event, and implementation of adequate traffic control to protect participants and to guide vehicles around the event route.

Adopted this 13th day of April, 2026

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the ordinance as presented, with a second from Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Commissioner Board and Committee Appointments

The Clerk to the Board presented the Commissioner Board and Committee appointments to the board. Three applications for the Transportation Advisory Board were presented for the first reading, and no action was taken. One application was presented for the McDowell Tech Board of Trustees as a first reading, and Ms. Robinson noted that a board member from the McDowell Tech Board of Trustees has resigned effective immediately, and a seat is vacant. An application was received to fill the vacant position. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve Amy Dowdle for the vacant position on the McDowell Tech Board of Trustees and reappoint Brenda

Vaughn due to her term limit pending expiration. This motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Greene. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Budget Update and Approvals

Mr. Wooten presented the Budget Update and Approvals to the Board. There are project budget ordinances and budget amendments, including McDowell Water System Project Amendment 1, Golden Leaf Project Closeout, and GF 40 (Allocating grant revenues for a Cooperative Extension building project at the Ag Center).

GF 41 - Allocates grant revenue to cover winter storm response costs.

GF 42 - Allocates donations to cover renovations and supply costs.

GF 43 - Transfers between line items at the Sheriff's Office.

GF 44 - Transfers between line items at DSS.

GF 45 - Allocates revenue and transfers between line items for Parks and Recreation.

GF 46 - Allocates general fund revenue to cover costs in the waste enterprise fund.

GF 47 - Allocates revenue to cover self-insurance costs.

GF 48 - Allocates ARPA revenue to pay for the \$100,000 GREAT broadband match.

REVF1 - Allocates revaluation fund balance for contract costs.

SP4 - Amends the school project fund for various school projects.

ENT3 - Transfers between line items and appropriates revenue in the waste fund.

911F2 - Appropriates grant revenue in the 911 fund.

SI1 - Allocates revenue sources for the self-insurance fund.

Vice-Chairman Greene made a motion approve as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Administrative Items for Review and Approval

Mr. Wooten presented the administrative items for review and approval. EMS Transport Write-offs total \$46,267.16 of fees requested to be released. There are Water System Leak Waivers of \$19, \$100, \$20.74, \$20.74, \$26.43, \$51.27, \$168.92, \$170.70, \$26.97, and \$71.58.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Property Tax Releases, Refunds, and Discoveries

Mr. Wooten presented the property tax releases, refunds, and discoveries for approval.

Releases Over \$100: \$212.42

Releases Under \$100: \$0

Refunds: \$0

Motor Vehicle Refunds: \$1,604.15

Discoveries: \$0

Vice-Chair Greene made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Citizen Comment

Daniel McMahan on the inpatient treatment facility on Goose Creek. Mr. McMahan provided a signed petition expressing concern for the inpatient treatment facility that is to be opened.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to send a letter to the facility owners expressing concern and including the signed petition provided by the community members on Goose Creek, seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to charge the County manager and the County attorney to research what is legal for the County currently and talk to Mr. Harmon before sending this to the planning board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Commissioner and Staff Reports:

Commissioner Ellis asked if the upcoming budget reviews would involve meeting with the non-profits that receive funding from the County. Commissioner Walker asked if there could be a policy that includes what is expected and required of non-profits that receive County funding. Mr. Wooten stated that they do have a non-profit policy in place. Commissioner Walker asked for this policy to be sent to the Board.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Greene made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 p.m., with a second by Commissioner Ellis. By a 5-0 vote, the motion passed.

Attest:

Madalyn Robinson
Clerk to the Board

Tony Brown
Chair