

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – April 23, 2026**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 23rd, 2026, in the Services Building Board Room located at 60 E. Court Street.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Madalyn Robinson, Clerk to the Board;

Call to Order

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

USDOJ Grant Overview and Approval

Mr. Wooten presented the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Grant for approval from the Board. Freedom Life received authority in March to submit a grant to assist justice-adjacent youth. They are not able to submit a grant under that program due to a limitation from the State. An additional grant opportunity more aligned with their transitional housing program has been identified. The grant would be for \$1,000,000. The County would act as the fiscal agent for the funding, but Freedom Life would do the work with clients. Freedom Life has proposed funding in the grant for the County to hire a part-time employee over the life of the grant to support reimbursement requests, etc. There is no County match.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve participating in the USDOJ Bureau of Justice Grant and funding for the position to be taken from the grant money that is being sought after. Commissioner Ellis asked for clarification on whether the County would be handling the money only. Commissioner Walker's motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Greene. Mr. Wooten stated that the County would essentially

have a contract with the organization, so the organization could do the work and the County would have the opportunity and choice to hire a County staff member to work on the grant or leave this to Freedom Life to hire an employee for the grant. Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Ellis agreed that it should be a County employee handling the grant. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Freedom Life Project Bids

Mr. Wooten presented the Freedom Life project bids to the Board. Bids for on-site improvements and sewer work for the Freedom Life project are ready for award. These bids help the project get started, and the housing component bids will follow. Staff recommends awarding the site development bid to CRW Land Services LLC for \$3,236,142 and the sewer bid to TEP/Piedmont Utility Group for \$1,342,222.63.

Site Development Bid Tabulations:

CRW Land Services, LLC for \$3,236,142.00

Sewer Bid Tabulations (6 in total):

TEP / Piedmont Utility Group: \$1,342,222.63

Father and Son Enterprises LLC: \$1,899,269.90

Double R Utilities, INC: \$1,960,064.24

TP Howard's Plumbing Co.: \$1,972,300.00

CRW Land Services: \$2,189,649.00

Buckeye Bridge, LLC: \$2,089,948.30

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept the bid awards as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn at 5:13 pm, with a second by Commissioner Garner. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.