

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION-June 14, 2012**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned session at 11:30 am on Thursday, June 14, 2012, in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry E. McPeters, Vice-Chairman, Michael Lavender and Josh Dobson.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Allison Morgan, Finance Officer; Ashley Wooten, Assistant to the County Manager; Mike Conley, reporter, the McDowell News.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss finalizing the 2012-13 fiscal year budget, to consider budget amendments and to approve several sets of minutes. Chairman Walker noted that since Commissioner Dobson had to leave early several issues that he had would be discussed first.

A motion was made by Josh Dobson and seconded by Michael Lavender to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2012 and the June 8, 2012 adjourned meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Officer Allison Morgan reviewed budget amendments for the fiscal year 2011-12. It was explained that there would be an additional set to approve at the final meeting. The amendments include:

- GF 61 Transfers \$16,000 in Fuel and Maintenance/Emergency Management
- GF 62 Allocate donations and transfer funds in the Library totaling \$1,600.
- GF 63 Allocates additional grant and tax revenue in miscellaneous areas.
- GF 64 Allocates additional revenue and transfers funds in DSS.
- PART F1 Transfers \$32,000 in the Part F Grant.
- ENT 3 Allocates funds for the loan for the Wheel Loader
- 911F2 Allocates the 911 Fund Balance in the amount of \$25,000
- SI1 Allocates \$20,000 in the Self-Insurance Fund

A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to approve the amendments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Walker next turned the discussion to the remaining budget issues. Commissioner Dobson suggested increasing the funding for the Community College roof project and suggested an increase from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Commissioner Lavender stated that he would be supportive of this suggestion. Commissioner Walker and McPeters expressed concern that other needs were not being addressed and would not support the suggestion.

Michael Lavender raised an issue regarding the need for increasing local funding to the Community College current expense line item because of the possibility of a raise for State employees. A discussion ensued regarding the savings that the College was realizing by contracting out the cleaning services. The County Manager explained that the County has to provide sufficient funds for local operations but is not responsible for granting raises to locally funded State employees.

Commissioner Dobson suggested that the recreation budget be increased between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for basketball goals for youth players. The goals would basically fit over the existing goals so that the rims would be lower. Discussion took place that the item might actually cost less than \$1,000 and it was agreed that a number would be confirmed.

The County Manager next reviewed a number of items that were previously discussed with the Board of Commissioners during the budget deliberations. The Board agreed by consensus to increase the fire tax rate for the Glenwood Fire Department to 6.5 cents and to increase the rate for the Old Fort outside rate to 6 cents. The Board also agreed to establish a new district in the Town of Old Fort Town Limits of 4 cents with the understanding that the Town would lower their municipal rate by an equivalent 4 cents.

A discussion next took place on the request from the McDowell Christian Mission. The Mission had requested \$60,000 to replace a heating and air system. The City of Marion was going to budget \$10,000 and bids would be opened on the following Monday with actual costs. A discussion took place on an amount to place in the budget as a starting point and \$15,000 was the agreed upon amount.

The next budget item discussed was the One to One initiative recommended by the School Board. The County Manager stated that he had spoken to both the Superintendent and Pat Cabe with Golden Leaf and an approach of budgeting \$50,000 a year for four years would not be a liability. Chairman Walker stated that he supported the initiative. Commissioner Lavender made a motion for staff to draft an agreement with the School Board to obligate McDowell County for \$200,000 to be paid over four fiscal years. The motion was seconded by Barry McPeters and the vote was unanimous.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Lavender asked a series of questions concerning various budgets and two items (a \$900 payment and computer maintenance in the tax office) would be followed up at the next meeting. Additional discussion occurred where Mr. Lavender suggested additional funds for courthouse renovations.

Chairman Walker asked if there was any further discussion on any matter and there was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board agreed to adjourn to Wednesday, June 20th at 11:30 am to complete the 2012-2013 budget.

David N. Walker, Chairman

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager