

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF McDOWELL  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED SESSION – BUDGET**

**ASSEMBLY**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in adjourned session at 11:30 am on Monday, May 22, 2012 in the Commissioners Board Room, the usual place of meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the budget process.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Bill Warren, McDowell Mission Director; Kathy Evans, Chairman of the McDowell Mission; Mark Goldstein and Chris Ansbury with the “Communication Mark grant writing company and Mike Conley, the McDowell News.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a brief remark from the County Manager. The County Manager introduced the two appointments. The McDowell Mission members were present to discuss funding and the company contracted by the County for grant writing services was also present.

Bill Warren was recognized and thanked the Board for their previous support. This support included both a one time allocation for the roof as well as the annual allocation. The McDowell Mission has raised \$17,000 for upgrading the facility. The primary need is to secure funding for the new air conditioning and heating. A total of \$69,000 is needed. The Mission is also looking at obtaining pro bono work. The Mission had requested \$20,000 from the City of Marion and \$40,000 from the County.

Board members asked a variety of questions. Andy Webb asked about transportation and the amount of giving by individual churches.

A discussion of writing grants for their needs ensued. In response, Bill Warren stated that a total of \$69,000 was needed for the heating and air system, \$31,000 for plumbing and \$20,000 for asbestos removal. The grant writers commented that to focus on this agency for possible funding was logical but that the heating and air was on a quicker time-frame.

Mark suggested that the grant process could focus on the asbestos removal and the plumbing. A general discuss followed.

David Walker asked about the process used by the McDowell Mission to obtain bids and was the low bid generally accepted. Bill Warren answered that the low bid was not necessarily accepted but that the most complete bid was accepted. Further discussion elaborated on the need for a formal bidding process.

Bill Warren summarized his comments by stating that the need for \$40,000 was significant and necessary.

The Board next discussed possible projects with the grant writers. It was suggested that each member express their interest in areas that might be pursued following a presentation by the grant writers.

Josh Dobson raised a question regarding the viability of grant funding for the Gym Floor at the Recreation facility. Mark stated that this would be a difficult funding effort.

Michael Lavender stated he would support pursuing grants for the Housing Coalition and the McDowell Mission.

Andrew Webb stated that he would support grant funding for the Housing Coalition and the McDowell Mission.

Chairman Walker supported the McDowell Mission, the Housing Coalition, Parks, Senior Center and the Library. A brief discussion on the potential of replacing the elevator in the Court House took place.

Barry McPeters stated that he would also support grant funding for the Housing Coalition and the McDowell Mission. He also stated that he would like to look into drainage needs at the Maple Leaf Parks and Recreation facility.

Josh Dobson stated he would support the Housing Coalition and the McDowell Mission since the gym floor is less likely to receive funding.

To conclude, the Board discussed funding for the McDowell Mission and the consensus was that some additional amount would be allocated. However, this additional amount would be tied to a formal bid process and the specific amount was not determined. The County Manager overviewed that the Board could tie its funding to a formal and open bid process and that the Building Inspection office could be asked to provide a list of possible vendors. The Board also discussed impressing upon the Mission the importance of energy efficiency. These two items were to be communicated to the Mission.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned to the next budget meeting scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at 11:30.

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David Walker, Chairman

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Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager