

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSOINERS
SPECIAL MEETING-May 8, 2013**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in a specially called meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in the Commissioners Board Room of the County Administration Building, for the purpose of receiving the annual fiscal year 2013-14 budget recommendation.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry E. McPeters, Vice-Chairman; Michael K. Lavender; Randy Hollifield; and Joseph R. (Joe) Kaylor.

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 receive the annual budget recommendation from the County Manager.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

The County Manager provided an overview of the budget recommendation. He began by going over the packets of information that had been provided to the board including a packet addressing revenues, a copy of the presentation and a detailed line item copy of the budget. The manager next reviewed the accomplishments realized in the current fiscal year, the budget process and an overview of county departments and agencies receiving funding.

The budget presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes. The recommended budget increase was in the amount of \$1,667,199 or a 4.69% increase. The recommended budget total was \$37,210,920. The County Manager reviewed the increase in relationship to the Department of Social Services and noted that the non-DSS budget related funding reduced the increase to half of the aforementioned amount.

The County Manager spent time reviewing a history of budget totals, a history of the tax rate, tax base and collection rate, a comparison of budgets and other information with 24 other counties. The fund balance was reviewed and it was noted that a fund

balance of 26.5% was the highest in twenty-five years. Revenues were reviewed including the growth in the property tax revenue, delinquent tax collections, EMS Revenue and DSS Revenue. Sales tax was recommended at the same level. The Manager expressed concern about having to appropriate \$299,000 from fund balance to balance the budget.

The County Manager next reviewed recommended increases to expenditures. These recommendations included a 3% increase to the public schools, a 3% increase to the Community College and a 2.5% salary adjustment for county employees. Additional impacts or recommendations included increases to Health Insurance, Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance. The Health Department was recommended to receive \$37,234 in new funding due to a budget shortfall being experienced. The budget recommended funding for a new dumpster truck, a new ambulance, three new sheriff's cars, a building inspection vehicle and \$44,585 new dollars for the water filtration plant process.

Several new positions were recommended including a Medicaid position, a clerical position for the Sheriff, an Animal Control attendant and increases in part-time hours in several departments.

The County Manager continued by reviewing funding to the public school system, the Enterprise Fund, fire departments, self-insurance and debt service. The presentation was concluded with the concerns that funding to purchase the water filtration plant site was not fully in the budget, that the fund balance allocation was high and significant uncertainty with DSS program mandates.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman thanked the County Manager and asked if there was any discussion. Discussion did occur on the meeting schedule with agencies and departments receiving funding. The Board referenced meeting with DSS, the tax department, and the Nebo Fire Department. There being no further business the Board adjourned to their next budget meeting which would be held on Thursday, May 9th in the Board Room.

David Walker, Chairman

Charles R. Abernathy
Acting Clerk