

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – APRIL 30, 2018**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 5:00pm, at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chair; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Tony Brown; Lynn Greene; and Brenda Vaughn

OTHERS PRESENT

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order.

LGFCU Presentation

Ms. Ashton Turnage, Membership Development Officer, with LGFCU gave a presentation on the benefits of membership with the Credit Union. She highlighted specifically scholarships, and debit cards for the fire departments. Chairman Walker suggested she make a presentation to the Fire Commission also.

REVIEW OF BUDGET PROCESS AND STAFF CONCERNS

Mr. Wooten gave a review of the budget process, and reviewed some of the budget challenges in the 2019 Fiscal Year

Facilities—

Several departments are facing space issues;
more room for Register of Deeds;
additional space needed for Probation Parole;
EMS is in planning stage for replacement facilities

Salaries---

Department heads have asked for more salaries for their employees in order to retain and recruit quality employees;
Tax Collection has significant turnover due to employees training and then going to higher paying jobs;
Some department heads noted they do not receive salaries comparable to their peers in other counties

SALARY STUDY

Mr. Wooten presented a salary comparison from counties west of I-77 with similar populations. McDowell County positions range from 1.77% to 33.07% below average pay.

Mr. Wooten suggested a COLA of 2 ½%. There was discussion of increasing salaries of key positions in the county, and also increasing salaries by brackets.

Chairman Walker pointed out the school system and MTCC have always been paid, even though revenue was low.

DISCUSSION OF KNOWN BUDGET IMPACTS FOR FY 2019

- Big impact this year will be the courthouse project, an increase of 1 ½ cents has already been approved by the Board;
- EMS overtime;
- another position at 911 center;
- \$1 ½ million out of fund balance for windows and HVAC for courthouse
- a large reduction in sales tax revenue to do shifting of monies to the fire departments

Discussion was held on possible solutions:

- 6 cents increase on property tax would break even;
- look at building inspector fees; and garbage tipping fees;
- sales tax increase of ¼%;

Mr. Wooten added the latest property tax revenue estimates for next year show small increases over the current year. He also added that the business listing information was incomplete at this time.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to adjourn to Friday, May 4th, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.

David N. Walker
Chairman

Cheryl L. Mitchell
Clerk to the Board