

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED SESSION – JUNE 5, 2017**

**ASSEMBLY**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned session on Monday, June 5, 2017, at 5:00p.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Walker; Barry McPeters; Tony Brown; Matthew Crawford; and Lynn Greene

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Walker called the meeting to order, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Wooten.

**REVIEW OF DISCUSSED BUDGET REQUESTS**

**Fire Departments**

- Pleasant Gardens FD – request of 2 cent tax increase

Discussion was held by the Commissioners on department needs- base, equipment, community facility needs.

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to approve 6 to 8 cent tax rate for PG Fire Department, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- Sugar Hill-Montford Cove FD—request of 3 cent tax increase.

Discussion held by the Commissioners noting the department had lost over \$50M in taxable base. They will also add a substation on the Zion Hill side, where 60% of the firemen live.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve request of increase from 6 to 9 cents, second by Vice Chair McPeters. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- Woodlawn-Sevier FD—request of 5 cent tax increase.

Discussion followed.

- the department does not own the building
- new members trying to secure needed equipment
- the department will never lower insurance rating until they get new equipment

- first engine out is over 20 yrs old
- need to find land to build a new building

Vice Chair McPeters made a motion to move to 11 cents based on the need, second by Commissioner Crawford. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **Others**

- McDowell Mission--\$12,000 budgeted--Mission requested \$30,000.  
Discussion:
  - only 50% of men in the shelter are from McDowell
  - 3 out of 4 of the surrounding counties do not have a men's shelter
  - comparing salaries of Mission to county staff, there are county employees making less; county is building a new courtroom, new EMS building, and improving administration building, and county budget is tight.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to leave the budget at \$12,000, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- Register of Deeds  
Discussion:
  - several county positions are not up to state comparison
  - when you run you know what the pay is

Commissioner Brown made a motion to leave pay at the original recommendation, second by Commissioner Greene. Discussion followed on the improvements that had been made in the ROD office and the need to look at the salaries of all employees. Also, noted Ms. Hampton is being given a 3 step raise this year. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **OTHER ADJUSTMENTS**

IT Director position –Mr. Wooten advised he had looked at adding an IT position for several years. He also pointed out McDowell is one of a small number of counties that does not have an IT department.

After discussion, Mr. Wooten was instructed to research who and how much had been paid out for contract service over the past five years; how many people in other departments are currently doing IT work for their department; what would be the proposed salary for the position; and a job description.

Animal Shelter position—request to add a third staff position to be in compliance with state, and also to improve operations at the shelter.

After discussion the Board asked for a job description for each position, cost associated with the new position and specific need of the shelter.

Building Inspections Dept—Mr. Wooten reported the chief inspector will retire July, 2018. If there is qualified staff for the position they will hire internally and have them train with Mr. Silvers from January to July. Then staff would fill the regular inspector position. If there is not an internal staff person to fill the chief inspector position staff would like to hire someone in January, 2018. The chief inspector position must be a certified level 3 inspector.

Commissioner Brown stated he would not let the Inspections Department get in the shape of the Health department, due to lack of enough employees to perform the inspection needs of the county.

Mr. Wooten noted there would be a \$27,000 budget impact if the position was filled in January. Mr. Silvers has also agreed if needed he can come back to help with department needs.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve keeping the position in the budget, second by Commissioner Brown. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Water Rates—The county rates have not been raised since the county started buying water from the city. The city has increased their rates every year. The current rate is \$4.73 per thousand gallons plus a \$12 base fee, outside the city pays 2 ½ times the rate inside the city limits. The county manager recommended a 5% increase in the water rates.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion to increase water rates five percent, second by Commissioner Greene. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Crawford made a motion, second by Commissioner Greene to adjourn. By unanimous approval, the motion carried.

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David N. Walker, Chair

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Cheryl L. Mitchell, Clerk to the Board