

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET REQUEST AND PRESENTATION – June 6, 2019**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 8:30 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 60 E Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Barry McPeters

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Officer; Terry DePoyster, Public Services Director

**Call to Order**

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Courthouse Update**

Mr. DePoyster reviewed the progress of the courthouse renovations. Vice Chairman Brown and Chairman Walker had looked at the paneled walls; some were wavy in the public areas and on the third floor. Price quote was received on doing certain walls on the third floor. The quote was for \$17,000. Discussion was held regarding painting the paneling as a more economical fix, if upstairs needed to be addressed it could be done at a later date. Mr. DePoyster recommended finishing the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with drywall, and continue the rest of the renovation with paint. Some of the electrical, and HVAC wiring had been attached to the paneling and would have to be reconnected when replaced with drywall. Vice Chairman Brown noted due to having the additional cost of providing space for the Public Defender he would suggest going the more economical route.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with drywall for \$17,000, and the rest with painted paneling, second by Vice Chairman Brown. Discussion followed. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

**Fire Department Request**

**Marion**

Mr. Bob Boyette, City Manager, presented a request for a 0.02 cent increase for the Marion Fire Department. The additional increase will go toward additional fire personnel. The current Marion Area tax is 0.06 and the request would put the fire tax at 0.08 cents. The Marion Fire Department serves the City of Marion as well as a service district that encircles the City called the Marion Area, which is covered by the service district tax.

Chairman Walker made a motion to approve the two cent increase, second by Commissioner Vaughn.

Discussion followed on the expenses of running a fire department, and the ratings of the service districts. Consensus from the Board was since there would be a new fire chief taking over the county would see improvements in the district. Also, the Board would like for the fire department to lower their rating in a timely fashion. By a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

### **Old Fort**

Chief Ron Richardson, Old Fort Fire Dept. (OFFD) presented a request for a fire tax increase. The OFFD also serves the Town of Old Fort and a service district around the Town call Old Fort County. The Town of Old Fort does not provide funding to OFFD. Town residents pay 0.04 cents and out of Town/County residents pay 0.06 cents. The request was to increase to 0.06 cents inside Town of Old Fort, and 0.09 outside the Town.

Vice Chair Brown made a motion to approve the request, second by Commissioner Greene. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

### **Budget Discussion**

Mr. Wooten noted he had not had any negative feedback from his budget proposal from Department Heads. He also noted several employees had expressed their appreciation to the Board for the COLA proposed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the May 13, 2019 Closed Session minutes, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion carried.

### **Closed Session**

Chairman Walker declared the Board in Closed Session for personnel matters according to NCGS 143-318.11 (6) at 9:03am.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to go into Closed Session, second by Commissioner Vaughn. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Commissioner Greene made a motion to go out of Closed Session at 10:01am, second by Vice Chair Brown. By a vote of 4-0 the motion passed.

Chairman Walker declared the Board back in open session at 10:02am.

Mr. Wooten advised he had met with Ms. Bell, Chairman Walker, Vice Chairman Brown, Sheriff Buchanan, and Chief Deputy Nathan Mace to review the Sheriff's budget. Currently the Sheriff's budget has five patrol positions open, with an additional position budgeted in 2019-2020. The Sheriff's Department is pursuing qualified patrol officers for the positions.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Mitchell announced the Charters of Freedom Dedication Ceremony would be on Friday, June 21, 2019 at 10:00 on the Courthouse Lawn. Discussion was held on participants for the event.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Vice Chair Brown and a second by Commissioner Greene, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Attest:

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DAVID N. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN

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CHERYL L. MITCHELL  
CLERK TO THE BOARD