

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION – MAY 19, 2014**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in special budget session on Monday, May 19, 2014, at 11:30 a.m., Commission Board Room of the County Administration Building, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Van Randy Hollifield, Chairman; Joseph R. Kaylor, Vice-Chairman; Michael K. Lavender; and Barry E. McPeters.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Ashley Wooten, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and Theresa Strickland, Public Information Technician (Filming).

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hollifield called the meeting to order.

2014-15 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The County Manager presented a general overview of the budgeting process including the responsibilities of the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Abernathy credited Ms. Morgan and Mr. Wooten for their assistance in preparing the budget. He reviewed the budget schedule, recent accomplishments, and ongoing projects. He then presented the recommended budget and reviewed its impacts.

As part of the discussion, he reviewed past years to compare to the proposed budget. He indicated that the proposed budget does not include a property tax increase. He noted that McDowell County continues to compare favorably with other counties in the population group.

Mr. Abernathy noted that the fund balance percentage was 26.08% as of June 30, 2013. He said he felt that a percentage in that range was desirable and the recommendation is to level off the percentage at or around that level.

Commissioner Kaylor asked why the County did not use the available fund balance to purchase vehicles, etc. instead of using bank financing. The County Manager stated that the practice had been to finance vehicles. He said that it could be something to examine.

After a discussion of the two-step raise, Commissioner Lavender asked the County Manager to provide a list of full time employee salaries. He stated that he felt that several positions were underpaid compared to other counties.

He reviewed the new expenditure impacts including staff changes, new vehicle purchases, etc.

He also mentioned a reducing the general fund transfer of \$73,073 from Fire Department Workers Compensation (\$30,573), Supplemental Insurance (\$25,000), and Fire Association (\$17,500) and shifting those expenses to the Countywide Fire Tax by increasing it by \$.0099.

Mr. Abernathy then reviewed the education items including the public school system and community college budgets. He also reviewed the Universal project and its impact to the budget.

He also discussed several items that were not fully addressed by the budget recommendation. Chairman Hollifield stated that one of the items he would prefer would be to address the sealing of the parking deck.

Commissioner Lavender asked if there had been a look at the local teacher supplement. Mr. Abernathy stated that there has been a discussion at the education committee meetings.

Commissioner McPeters noted that there are significant other challenges facing the county. A general discussion of the supplement followed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner McPeters to adjourn to May 22, 2014 at 11:30 to continue the budget discussions and a second by Commissioner McPeters, the meeting was adjourned.

VAN RANDY HOLLIFIELD
CHAIRMAN

ASHLEY R. WOOTEN
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD