

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED MEETING – MAY 18, 2015**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in adjourned session on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 11:30 a.m., Commission Board Room of the County Administration Building, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Tony Brown; and Van “Randy” Hollifield.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; and Ashley Wooten, Deputy Clerk to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The County Manager noted that the public hearing for the budget had been advertised for June 1, 2015 at 4 pm.

Mr. Abernathy discussed several proposed changes to the budget ordinance that was presented previously. He noted that three fire departments (Hankins, North Cove, and Crooked Creek) had each asked for a two-cent increase, which he said he would include in the ordinance unless the Board stated otherwise. Several commissioners expressed a desire to revise the process for any future fire tax increases.

A brief discussion of the One to One program followed, with a consensus that increasing the county contribution by \$25,000 over the initial recommendation.

The County Manager then reviewed the community college budget request. He suggested transferring \$50,000 from the Universal fund to cover the paving needs at the college campus.

A general discussion of capital needs at the college campus followed. The consensus of the board was to budget the \$50,000 for the paving, with the funds coming from the Universal fund.

Mr. Abernathy also discussed the budget request from WNC Communities. He noted that they had been receiving \$2,300 but he was requesting that the funding increase to \$2,500 due to the work they have done to recruit a beef processing facility to the region.

The County Manager presented several recommendations on several fee increases for the health department. The fee increases would help ease some of the pressure that the district faces as they restructure their operations.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

A general discussion of the transition of the county manager position from Mr. Abernathy to Mr. Wooten followed. Mr. Abernathy reminded the Board that he had an employment agreement and strongly suggested that Mr. Wooten have a similar agreement as well. Mr. Wooten noted that he would bring a proposed agreement to the Board for their consideration at a future date. Several details of the proposed agreement were discussed including items such as civic club dues. The consensus of the Board was that the manager was fulfilling part of his duties by belonging to civic clubs and therefore agreed that the county should pay the dues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to transact at this time, upon motion by Commissioner Hollifield and a second by Commissioner Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

ASHLEY R. WOOTEN
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD