

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP – MAY 18, 2016**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met for a budget workshop on Thursday, May 18, 2016, at 11:30am, in the Commissioners Board Room, 60 East Court Street, Marion, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Barry McPeters, Vice-Chair; Matthew Crawford

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wooten gave a recap on the last two budget meetings.

Fire Commission Meeting

- Agreement on shift of general fund contribution to countywide fire district, providing additional \$374,376 to general fund.
- Rescue Squad submitted request for tax rate increase to 1.5 cents, and also requested meeting with the Board to discuss the request.

Mr. Wooten also stated he had met with Mr. Craig Walker who informed him there were several fire departments that had been receiving grant funds since 1985. Some of the departments recently received notification they would not be receiving the grant funds due to low funds.

The Board agreed to meet with the Rescue Squad concerning their budget request.

School Budget Presentation

- reduction of \$329,724.97 from state funding
- school requested increases for raises, supplement increases, benefit increases
- deficiency in what school board requested of \$400,705
- County budget recommendation of \$200,035 leaves a remainder of \$200,670 requested

Discussion was held on supplement percentages versus dollar amount; cost of living in surrounding counties; and retaining teachers.

Discussions held on funding operating expenses at budget recommendation of \$200,035 and add another \$200,000 for a total of \$400,035. In addition add \$84,000 over the next four years for funding teacher supplements.

The Commissioners asked to meet with the Sheriff's Department in addition to the Rescue Squad. Discussion was held on conducting a job study evaluation.

Mr. Wooten stated he would give a list of new hires and separations to the Board each month.

Discussion was held on full time position versus contract services in IT, Mr. Wooten stated he had asked the Finance Department for a breakdown of our IT receipts. Also, discussion on gas fund for veteran's van.

Mr. Wooten stated he would schedule a budget meeting for Monday, May 23rd to meet with the Rescue Squad and the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn to Monday, May 23rd, second by Commissioner Hollifield. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

DAVID N. WALKER
CHAIRMAN

CHERYL L. MITCHELL
CLERK TO THE BOARD