

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION – MAY 30, 2008**

ASSEMBLY

Andrew K. Webb, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-chairman; Dean Buff, Michael Lavender, Barry McPeters.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Norman Guthrie, Rutherford, Polk, McDowell Health Department; Buck Wilson, Health Director.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webb called the meeting to order and recognized Norman Guthrie and Buck Wilson with the Rutherford, Polk, McDowell Health Department.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Guthrie expressed his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and reviewed the budget request. The request focused on a small increase requested to fund the general operation of the Health Department and a series of fee increases requested by the Health Board. The general fund increase was requested to increase by 3%. This request was made primarily because McDowell County was falling slightly behind the other two counties in the annual allocation.

Mr. Guthrie reviewed the Health Department fund balance and explained that the fund balance had decreased for three years in a row. Also, Norman Guthrie explained that Medicaid was an unpredictable revenue to depend on and that there could be problems in the future with federal reductions.

The largest part of the discussion focused on the request to increase fees. The Health Department reviewed the fee requests. It was agreed that the establishment of the well inspection fee had been established in the Spring of 2007. There was significant discussion about the septic inspection fees. Rutherford and Polk counties had set the fee at \$300.00 per inspection. McDowell County had set the fee at \$200.00. Mr. Wilson discussed the need to have a consistent fee for the three counties and that the program was running a significant deficit.

There were substantial questions concerning the fund balance of the Health District, the ability to calculate the actual costs of the inspections and the value of being

in a district as opposed to a single county entity. Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Wilson and the Health Department representatives excused themselves.

The Board continued with a discussion regarding the fees. It was agreed that the County would further discuss the fee requests and would address the item in the county fee schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board adjourned to their next budget meeting at 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 2008.

ANDREW K. WEBB CHAIRMAN

CHARLES R. ABERNATHY
COUNTY MANAGER