

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF McDOWELL  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ADJOURNED SESSION-FEBRUARY 9, 2011

**ASSEMBLY**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the current health insurance situation, the McDowell County revaluation and centralized dispatching discussions.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry E. McPeters, Vice-Chairman; Michael Lavendar, Andrew K. Webb, and Joshua R. (Josh) Dobson.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Ashley Wooten, Assistant to the Manager; Alison Morgan, Robbin Silvers, Jim Rasmussen, Insurance Consultant; Tom Ebert, Revaluation Consultant; various members of the tax assessing staff and members of the general public.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman David Walker called the meeting to order and reviewed that the Board was in an adjourned session and he also reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE**

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the status of the county self-insurance fund and the future potential impact of the newly adopted health care reform legislation.

The County Manager and Finance Officer reviewed the financial status of the plan noting that the plan was projected to be well over \$200,000 in the red. An amendment would be prepared to address the issue. The issue was reviewed from a historical standpoint as well as current increases in the cost of medical care. Robbin Silvers reviewed the status of the new insurance plan adopted by the Board in June, 2010. New hires are now required to use this plan instead of the plan that was retained for longer term employees. It is hoped that the transition to the new plan will bring the county costs down. Finally, there was considerable discussion and questions over the impact of the new Health Care Reform legislation approved by the federal government in 2010. The impact to counties will begin in July, 2011 with the removal of "claim caps." Considerable frustration was voiced by the Board members over this impact.

## **DISCUSSION OF REVALUATION**

The Board next received an overview on the status of the County Revaluation by consultant Tom Ebert. The Board has previously expressed an interest in limiting the increase as much as possible for residential property owners and have previously stated their desire to lower the base points used to calculate the value for homes. IVIr. Ebert reviewed the process and stated that the mailing should be ready by early March. He also stated that the increase expected for residential owners would average 5.29%. This percentage increase included the average increase in value as well as the increase in property due to additions or improvements. Therefore, the value increase was less than the 5.29%. Board members expressed that they would like to see the impact of lowering the base point calculation further and to see raw numbers of residential increases by percentages. In other words, how many homes will decline, how many will increase by 5% and 10%, etc. It was agreed that this information would be provided prior to a mailing taking place.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was agreed that since the meeting was so lengthy that the communication update would be provided at a later time, A motion was made by Barry McPeters and seconded by Andrew Webb to adjourn the meeting.

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David N. Walker, Chairman

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Charles R. Abernathy, Acting Clerk