

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF McDOWELL
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADJOURNED SESSION- June 20, 2012**

ASSEMBLY

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned session at 11:30 am on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, in the Commissioners' Board Room, the usual place of meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David N. Walker, Chairman; Andrew K. Webb, Michael Lavender, Josh Dobson.

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Allison Morgan, County Finance Officer; Bill Warren, Manager McDowell Christian Ministries, several board members of the Christian Ministries and Mike Conley, McDowell News Reporter.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walker stated that the purpose of the meeting was to finalize the budget process and to handle year-end matters. The amendments were presented by County Finance Officer Allison Morgan as follows:

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|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| GF 65 | Transferred funds to Foothills Pilot Plant and the Water Fund |
| GF 66 | Amends Salaries and Benefits for overtime and self-insurance |
| GF 67 | Amends the Juvenile Housing budget |
| GF 68 | Allocates funds for the EMS Kids Camp |
| GF 69 | Allocates funds for Senior Travel |
| GF 70 | Transfers funds to handle travel |
| CP-2 | Increases the Planning line item in the County Projects |
| FHPP4 | Amends the Foothills Pilot Project |
| NWENT1 | Amends the water Enterprise Fund |

A motion to approve amendments GF 65 through NWENT1 was made by Josh Dobson and seconded by Andy Webb. A question on the self-insurance amendment was addressed by staff. The motion to approve the amendments was unanimously approved. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2012 was made by Josh Dobson and seconded by David Walker. The motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

The County Manager briefly reviewed the status of the budget process and noted that there were three items to finalize including the McDowell Mission budget, the sales tax distribution to the City of Marion and the MTCC capital budget. Bill Warren reviewed the heating and air system bidding process for the Mission and noted that the Mission Board was recommending Pyatt Heating and Air in the amount of \$48,791. When asked, Mr. Warren explained that the low bid was submitted by Morris Heating and Air in the amount of \$47,800. The recommendation was made to approve Pyatt Heating and Air because this vendor was more familiar with their needs and facility. Board member Becky Cross noted other problems that needed addressed.

Board members discussed different amounts to consider for an increase. The consensus was to allocate \$22,000 in county funding. A motion was made by Andy Webb and seconded by Josh Dobson that a one time \$22,000 appropriation be approved. The Board unanimously approved the motion with Mr. Lavender noting he would agree to fund more. The Mission Board thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support.

The next item discussed was the capital budget for McDowell Tech. Commissioner Dobson stated he would like to increase the amount recommended to \$100,000. Commissioner Lavender said that he supported this suggestion and that the use of equipment funds for capital outlay was diminishing the ability to fund much needed equipment. He pointed out that the \$69,000 in equipment needs that would be used for the roof should be used for these needs. Commissioner Webb pointed out that this was the reason the General Assembly gave discretion to local Trustees. There was considerable discussion on the use of grants for the College's needs and that the President seemed satisfied with the staff recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Josh Dobson to increase the capital outlay line item to \$100,000 and the motion was seconded by Michael Lavender. The motion failed to pass with a 2 to 2 vote. Commissioner Dobson and Lavender voted for the motion and Chairman Walker and Commissioner Webb voting against.

The next item discussed was the sales tax reimbursement to the City of Marion. The Board agreed that the positive relationship with the City needed to continue. The County Manager had suggested reducing the retainage by the County to the City in the amount of \$5,000 providing some relief for the City. Commissioner Lavender expressed concern over the recommendation but said he would go with the consensus pointing out that he felt they kept up with their infrastructure better than the County was able to do.

Josh Dobson made a motion to lower the retainage to \$395,000 which would increase the City share by \$5000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Webb and passed unanimously.

Michael Lavender suggested adding 50,000 for renovations to the courthouse. The County Manager reviewed that the County was constructing a new handicapped access ramp, renovating restrooms and would have an architect design an elevator for the upstairs courtroom. David Walker stated that he agreed with the current staff

recommendation and Commissioner Webb and Dobson agreed as well to not change this item.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items to discuss the Board agreed to adjourn to finalize the budget on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 11:30 am.

David Walker, Chairman

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager