

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF McDOWELL  
ADJOURNED MEETING-June 14, 2013**

**ASSEMBLY**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in an adjourned meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 14, 2013 in the Commissioners Board Room of the County Administration Building, for the purpose of continuing budget deliberations for the annual 2013-14 budget.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David N. Walker, Chairman; Barry McPeters, Vice-Chairman, Michael K. Lavender; Randy Hollifield; and Joseph R. (Joe) Kaylor.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles R. Abernathy, County Manager; Alison Morgan, County Finance Officer; Shane Forbes, Administrative Intern.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to finalize the 2013-14 annual budget.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Finance Officer, Alison Morgan presented the following budget amendments for approval:

Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of McDowell County that the following amendment is made to the budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

**GF #84**

**Department: Various**

**Purpose: To transfer amounts under \$3000**

**Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:**

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
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Equipment Maint	10-5200-08	10,800.00	600.00	-	10,200.00
Utilities	10-5200-11	19,000.00	300.00	-	18,700.00
Bldg Maint	10-5200-15	4,300.00	900.00		3,400.00
Phone	10-5200-06	12,400.00		1,250.00	13,650.00
Equipment	10-5200-09	301,982.00		550.00	302,532.00
Postage	10-5400-04	12,000.00		1,500.00	13,500.00
Travel	10-5400-05	2,500.00	400.00		2,100.00
Dues	10-5400-07	509.00		21.00	530.00
Prof Serv	10-5400-17	63,385.00		400.00	63,785.00
Christmas Dinner	10-5600-18	6,000.00		36.00	6,036.00
Supplies	10-6400-03	6,200.00		2,000.00	8,200.00
Adopt Exp	10-6300-18	7,950.00	2,000.00		5,950.00
Equip M & L	10-6600-08	-		1,271.00	1,271.00
Equipment	10-6600-09	4,000.00	1,271.00		2,729.00
Tax Audits	10-9300-47	556.00		500.00	1,056.00
Partf Match	10-9300-43	14,500.00	2,057.00		12,443.00

GF 85

**Department: DSS**

**Purpose: To transfer between line items and to allocate additional funds**

**Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:**

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Supplies	10-7200-03	48,500.00	-	100.00	48,600.00
Court Fees	10-7200-24	7,500.00	-	4,000.00	11,500.00
Cont Wrks	10-7200-34	162,000.00	7,000.00		155,000.00
Cap Assessment	10-7200-47	9,000.00		1,000.00	10,000.00
Emp Rel Fund	10-7200-				

	49	5,393.00	98.00	5,491.00
Cap_med Supplies	10-7200-51	28,000.00	2,000.00	30,000.00

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has or will be received:

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Federal Aid	10-3720-14	7,173,361.00		198.00	7,173,559.00

**GF86**

**Department: Lake James Project**

**Purpose: To transfer water/sewer funds to project fund**

**Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:**

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Trsf to Lake James`	10-2200-09	22,976.00	-	28,500.00	51,476.00
Water and Sewer	10-9300-34	130,024.00	28,500.00		101,524.00

**GF 87**

**Department: Library**

**Purpose: To transfer funds between line items and to allocate grant funds**

**Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:**

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Equipment M & L	10-6100-08	94,087.00	-	3,500.00	97,587.00
Contract Services	10-6100-19	5,675.00	-	2,000.00	7,675.00
Books	10-6100-16	83,355.00	3,000.00		80,355.00

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has or will be received:

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Library Grant	10-3610-07	13,765.00		2,500.00	16,265.00

**GF88**

**Department: Register of Deeds**

**Purpose: To allocate revenue to offsetting expenditure line items**

**Section 1: To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:**

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
Lic and Excise Tax	10-6800-16	72,960.00	-	15,000.00	87,960.00
Flood Plain	10-6800-19	12,825.00	-	3,500.00	16,325.00
Cultural Resources	10-6800-20	7,000.00	-	500.00	7,500.00

To provide the additional revenue for the above, the following revenues will be increased as the money has or will be received:

Line Item	Account Number	Beginning Budget	Decrease	Increase	Ending Budget
R E Tax	10-3680-02	152,000.00		15,000.00	167,000.00
Flood Plain	10-3680-11	12,825.00		3,500.00	16,325.00
Cultural Resources	10-3680-12	7,000.00		500.00	7,500.00

Barry McPeters made a motion to approve budget amendments GF84-88. This motion was seconded by Randy Hollifield. The motion passed unanimously.

### **BUDGET DELIBERATIONS**

Chairman Walker stated that the Board had conducted a number of budget meetings and that he would simply go through various issues that each Commissioner had including a number of items that had been previously discussed or e-mailed to the

County Manager. He stated that the best way to handle the issues was to simply vote on each item. Chairman Walker asked the County Manager to address the current fund balance situation. The Manager suggested that the fund balance projection for the current fiscal year would fall between \$450,000 and \$750,000. The numbers are obviously subject to change based on revenue receipts. A motion was made by Barry McPeters and seconded by Randy Hollifield to send a letter of concern to the federal legislative delegation expressing concern over a \$100,000 reduction in the Payment-in-lieu-of taxes revenue. The motion passed unanimously.

The first budget item discussed was an increase of \$5,000 for the Carson House. A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Randy Hollifield to approve this increase. The additional \$5,000 would be used for the construction of a covered facility to host events. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board next discussed placing \$5,000 for a mower in the Maintenance budget. A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to add this item to the budget. The mower was needed primarily for trail maintenance. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Hollifield and seconded by Barry McPeters to add \$5,000 to the Sheriff's budget for the COPS grant. This grant would add staff as a school resource officer and had been discussed and approved at a previous Regular Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve \$6,000 for Freedom Ministries by Michael Lavender and seconded by Joe Kaylor. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Hollifield and seconded by Michael Lavender to ask the Nebo Fire Department to make an effort to receive community input on their request to increase the Fire District Tax Rate by one cent and to approve this increase in the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed increases to the solid waste tipping fee. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Barry McPeters and seconded by Randy Hollifield to increase the tipping fee for both residential and construction and demolition by \$2.00 per ton. The motion passed unanimously. The board also suggested that they would entertain small increases to the building inspection fee schedule and to develop a recommendation that would be presented.

The Board discussed changing the management of the Senior Center from the DSS Director to the County Manager. In other words, the operation would function as a department of the County. Several commissioners raised issues concerning the efficiencies that are currently in place and several wanted to pursue exploring the issue. It was agreed that the DSS Director and the Senior Center Director would come before the Board and answer questions on this possible change to the organization.

A motion was next made by Joe Kaylor and seconded by Barry McPeters to add (changed from Mike)\$15,000 to the Community College budget for the purpose of removing a water storage tank located on the college property. The Board voted 4-1 with David Walker casting the no vote to add these funds to the MTCC budget.

A discussion occurred on adding a maintenance position at the Community College for the training center at the Universal Building. It was agreed that the position would be funded out of the revenue from the Universal Building and that the final decision would be made closer to the time of opening the facility.

A discussion next occurred on several capital items including the installation of a new elevator in the courtroom and the property in Nebo under option by the County for a future water treatment plant. The discussion included an interest in financing the capital items. A motion was made by Randy Hollifield and seconded by Barry McPeters to have a report on both issues as soon as possible. Commissioner Lavender suggested no later than September and this was agreed to by both Commissioners making the motion and this passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to add a Medicaid position at the DSS. The Board voted 3-1 (Commissioner Kaylor left the meeting at this time) to not add the position to the budget.

A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to add \$22,000 to the budget to fund the McDowell Christian Ministries. This was changed to \$12,000 and the motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner Walker voting in the negative.

A motion was made by Michael Lavender to add \$60,000 to the Community College capital outlay budget. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

A discussion next took place on the public school capital budget. Commissioner Lavender suggested moving \$121,000 from capital outlay to current expense and to add an additional \$409,614 to cover teaching assistants that were possibly being cut by the General Assembly. Several members of the Board questioned doing this suggesting that the State had not yet adopted the reduction and that it was a state reduction not a county responsibility. A motion was then made by Commissioner Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to shift \$121,000 from the school system capital outlay to their current expense budget. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board next discussed repairs to the parking deck and a motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to allocate \$45,000 to repair the upper parking deck. The vote was a tie with Commissioner Lavender and McPeters voting in the positive and Commissioner Walker and Hollifield voting in the negative. The motion died due to a lack of a majority.

A motion was made by Michael Lavender and seconded by Barry McPeters to add \$10,000 to the Animal Shelter to repair the roof. The motion was defeated by a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Lavender voting in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lavender and seconded by Randy Hollifield to add \$10,000 to the Sheriff Department budget to repair the HVAC system at the Jail. The motion passed by a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Walker voting in the negative.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any other issues that a Commissioner wished to raise. With none being raised, he asked when the adoption of the budget could occur.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Board agreed to adjourn to Friday, June 21, 2013 at 11:30 am to consider the adoption of the 2013-14 budget.

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David Walker, Chairman

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Charles Abernathy, Acting Clerk