

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – May 23, 2023**

Assembly

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Monday, May 23, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., in the Commissioner’s Board Room, 69 N Main St., Marion, NC.

Members Present

Tony G. Brown, Chairman; David N. Walker, Vice-Chairman; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis; Lynn Greene

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Victoria Craig, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Budget Workshop

County Manager Ashley Wooten briefed the Board on a few items that will be discussed at the formal Budget Presentation.

Currently, the only two departments with any type of position expansion would be DSS and the new Black Bear Camp Site.

Mr. Wooten discussed potential numbers for a new DSS building and being able to afford a debt payment. The current estimated cost for a 39,500-square-foot building is \$22,000,000. The County will not be able to afford a new DSS building payment if the sales tax rate is reduced. Mr. Wooten asked for guidance from the Board on how to proceed this coming fiscal year and the years following.

After considerable Board discussion and hearing recommendations from County staff, Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to continue giving back to the citizens and lower the tax rate by one cent to equate to 56.75, seconded by Commissioner Allison. Commissioner Ellis noted to the Board that he respects all decisions made by the Board, but with all of the County’s needs at this time, he opposed the tax rate decrease. By a vote of 4-1, the motion passed. In favor of the tax rate decrease were Chairman Brown, Vice-Chairman Walker, Commissioner Allison, and Commission Greene. Those opposed to the tax rate decrease was Commissioner Ellis.

Transfer Station

Commissioner Ellis inquired about the status of the Transfer Station improvements. Mr. Wooten informed him that the Board identified \$375,000 of State appropriations from last year's budget and a little over \$200,000 of Federal money to go toward the Transfer Station rehabilitation.

Budget Presentation Scheduling

Mr. Wooten inquired about the best date to schedule the Budget Presentation for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He informed the Board that it needs to be on or before June 1st. The Board decided on June 1st at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Allison. By a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Attest:

Victoria Craig
Clerk to the Board

Tony G. Brown
Chairman