

McDonald County Commission—Minutes

January 26, 2015

Present:

John Bunch - Eastern Commissioner
David Holloway- Western Commissioner
Keith Lindquist- Presiding Commissioner

Kimberly Bell - County Clerk

General Business

The following were in attendance during the 2015 Budget Hearing: Keith Lindquist, Presiding Commissioner; David Holloway, Western Commissioner; John Bunch, Eastern Commissioner; Kimberly Bell, County Clerk; Joye Helm, County Treasurer; Rick Peck, McDonald County Press; John Fitz and Delores Fitz. The Budget Message was read by McDonald County Clerk, Kimberly Bell. The Commission fielded all questions from those in attendance.

David Holloway made a motion to accept the 2015 Budget. Keith Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Attorney Duane Cooper from Evenson, Carlin & Cooper LLC met with the Commission to discuss possible litigation over a payroll dispute with the employees of the previous Prosecuting Attorney, Jonathan Pierce. Mr. Cooper informed the Commission the previous employees were requesting payment of a pay raise Jonathan Pierce brought to the Commission for approval on December 22, 2014. The proposed pay raise was to be effective on December 1, 2014. The Commission felt it was not in the best interest of the County to approve a pay raise for any Elected Official's office in the last 9 days of the calendar year. The letter Mr. Cooper delivered to the Commission implied if payment was made today to the three previous employees, all action would be stopped. The Commission requested legal guidance of the McDonald County Prosecutor, Bill Dobbs. Mr. Dobbs stated he would follow the desires of the Commission if they wished to proceed with litigation or pay to settle. He also was clear that with litigation, win or lose, it would or could be monetarily more costly. It was decided unanimously by the Commission it would be in the best interest of McDonald County to pay the amounts requested, totally \$1,081.72. If the issue goes before the court and the County lost, it could cost the County several thousand dollars in attorney fees. The Commission then requested Mr. Dobbs contact Attorney Duane Cooper to inform his clients McDonald County would agree to the disputed pay increase if all three of his clients agreed. If all three of his clients did not agree, the County would proceed with litigation. The following previous employees will be paid the amounts they requested.

Erin Dornon- \$203.86

Andi Bethel- \$709.32

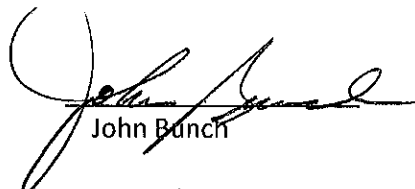
Carey Whaley- \$ 168.54

The Commission met with all Elected Officials and Supervisors to discuss a new payroll schedule for 2015. John Bunch made a motion to implement the new schedule. David Holloway seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURN

Commission will reconvene on January 28th, 2015

SIGNATURES


John Bunch


Keith Lindquist


David Holloway