

# 09-16-2019 Minutes

## McDonald County Commission—Minutes

September 16th, 2019

**Present:**

Bill Lant- Presiding Commissioner  
John Bunch - Eastern Commissioner  
David Holloway- Western Commissioner  
Kimberly Bell - County Clerk

**General Business**

Commission signed and approved jury checks in the amount \$3,452.80.

Shannon Brewer met with the Commission to discuss McDonald County Sheriff Deputy pay and County Budget. Mr. Brewer had several questions regarding the 2016 through 2019 budgets.

Some topics of discussion included:

*Prosecuting Attorney salary and when it was made a full time position. The Prosecuting Attorney full time position was voted into existence by the citizens of McDonald County in the November 3, 2009 election. The County does not have any say in the Prosecuting Attorney's salary.*

*County's recent property purchases, where did the money come from and what was the intended purpose of the purchases? The County paid for the properties with General Revenue funds and the Courthouse Annex will be used for additional office space and, eventually, climate controlled storage and parking. The current Commission office will be available for a third courtroom in the future.*

*Where did the funding come from for the addition and remodel of the McDonald County Jail? The County set back excess money for approximately 10 years in anticipation of a jail expansion and renovations. The total project was a little over \$2,000,000 and the county did not have to borrow money for any part of the jail project.*

*Sheriff deputy salaries were brought up and Sheriff Hall explained the Deputy Salary Grant and McDonald County deputies make between \$28,000- \$30,000. When asked about the previous custodian salary, Keith Lindquist stated custodian pay comes from a different fund and money cannot be taken from one fund and put into another. General Revenue Fund can transfer funds into another fund (Law Enforcement Fund or Road and Bridge Fund), but funds cannot be transferred out of Law Enforcement or Road and Bridge into the General Revenue Fund. The 2019 budget shows \$258,000 set aside to transfer from General Revenue into the Law Enforcement Fund, if needed. Commission stated McDonald County has no debt. No bonds were used to repair and expand the Jail.*

*Mr. Brewer brought up Newton County's 2019 budget. He stated Newton County had an operating budget of \$10.8 million and McDonald County had an operating budget of \$10.5 million. He wanted to know why the two counties budgets were so close in the amount of expenditures but Newton County was so much bigger than McDonald County. Mr. Brewer wanted the McDonald County Commission to go with him to the Newton County Commission to see how they do their budget. He was told that would not happen. Upon further research, Newton County's 2019 total budget is a little over \$26 million, were as McDonald County's 2019 total budget is \$10.5 million. It was also explained to the group the Commission only approves the bottom line of the budget. Once they approve the budget they have no oversight on how the money is spent. It is up to each Elected Official to ensure they stay within the approved amount for each of their budgets. Commission cannot dictate how an Elected Official runs their office or spends their budget. They can give guidance to Elected officials, but they have no authority over any other office holder.*

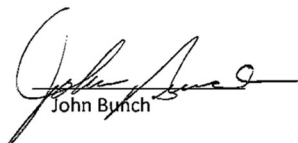
*When asked how McDonald County could increase its revenue, all in attendance were told McDonald County runs on Sales Tax Revenue. If citizens would like the county to see more money, they need to buy in McDonald County. The county runs strictly off sales tax revenue and grants.*

*In attendance: McDonald County Sheriff, Mike Hall; Previous Presiding Commissioner, Keith Lindquist; McDonald County Press reporter, Megan Davis; Shannon Brewer, Diane M. Evans and J.R. Fisher.*

**ADJOURN**

Commission will reconvene on September 18th, 2019

**SIGNATURES**

  
John Bunch

  
Bill Lant

  
David Holloway

Approved

Wednesday September 18th, 2019

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