

April 18, 2017

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 18th day of April 2017; at 7:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Calvin L. Gray

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jim R. Wilck

Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; and Jim Ennis, County Attorney.

Chairman Jones called the special meeting to order.

In Re: Public Hearing – FY 18 County Budget

Chairman Jones announced that this was the date and time scheduled for a public hearing on the proposed FY18 County Budget, FY18 School Budget and 2017 Tax Levies. Notice of this hearing was advertised according to law in the Friday, April 7, 2017 edition of THE FARMVILLE HERALD, a newspaper published in the County of Prince Edward.

Chairman Jones presented his statement:

Good evening. Tonight's agenda is focused on the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. The public hearing provides the public the opportunity to make comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and also the calendar year 2017 tax rates. While I'm sure all of the members of the Board have heard from many of their constituents on this topic, I expect most of these people were probably from their area and this will give an opportunity for people outside of the districts to voice their opinions about the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year '18.

Before I open the public hearing, I'd like to provide a synopsis of the proposed budget focusing on major items. First, I'm pleased to announce there is no tax increase or fee increase included in the proposed budget. Additionally, the recommended budget is balanced with no use of County fund balances or reserves. The budget does contain a two percent increase for County employees, which is identical to the increase contained in the Commonwealth's budget and which applies to all employees of the Constitutional Offices.

The draft budget contains an increase of \$748,600 for the Prince Edward County Public Schools. Of that amount, \$123,802 is an increase in local funding, and the remainder is from the Commonwealth or Federal government.

There are four large capital expenditure items in the proposed budget. One is \$120,000 for the purchase of three new SUVs for the Sheriff's department. Two is a \$200,000 purchase of new CAD Reporting system for the Sheriff's department. Three is a \$70,000 purchase of new voting machines which is mandated by the Commonwealth, and we will have to do that again next year. Fourth is \$32,500 to replace old computers, printers and other office equipment.

In the last few years, the County has seen an increase in revenues from various sources, but mainly from Real Estate and Personal Property. The County is growing and this growth allowed these additional expenditures with no tax increase.

Some of the new and expanded businesses include Adams Construction, which is the asphalt plant in Prospect; the new W. C. Newman Concrete Plant, which is in Prospect also; the continued expansion of J. R. Tharpe Trucking, in Rice; Power Secure; Tri-Boro Shelving and Racking; and also, hopefully the future opening of the Luck Stone Quarry. Economic growth is continuing and may well be accelerating. We saw three hotels being built and two new restaurants have recently been announced. The County will be announcing the location of a new business in the very near future. These new businesses are expanding our tax base and creating new jobs for our citizens.

Finally, I want to thank all of our Constitutional Officers and County department directors for working with the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors to hold down costs while maintaining a high level of service for our citizens.

Thank you for indulging me and I will now open the public hearing.

Chairman Jones opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak, Chairman Jones closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Timmons said since the Board did not meet the School Board's requested amount, he recommended allowing the Schools to keep any of the savings they may have, with a cap of \$150,000. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett stated the Board will still have to take action to appropriate any amount of the under-runs to the Schools.

Supervisor Timmons reviewed a spreadsheet he revised which included funds to outside organizations. He said the Library is included in the budget and is not classified as an outside organization. Supervisor Timmons said he adjusted the funds to the YMCA and included a contingency fund of \$6,000 to cover any requests not known about at this time. He said it would be zero-impact on the budget.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated she would like to provide \$2,000 to Moton Museum and the Board should show its support for the museum. She stated the Heart of Virginia Free Clinic helps lots of citizens without insurance, and recommended giving them \$1,000.

Supervisor Gray agreed with Supervisor Cooper-Jones, adding that funds should be provided to the Virso Community Center; this would continue to enhance the communities.

Chairman Jones stated if the Virso Community Center brings a plan with a plan for improvements and a general cost, he would feel more willing to fund them, but not before they present a plan to the Board.

Supervisor Wilck suggested combining all funds related to Longwood University and to allow them to sort it. He said they have a budget of \$122 million; Prince Edward County's budget is about \$50 million. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett stated the Center for Visual Arts receives a match in funding because the County provides support.

Supervisor Pride said the County must look at growth of Moton Museum and the involvement of other counties; she stated the Board should continue to support the Moton Museum.

Supervisor Simpson stated he does not like taking funding from the Moton Museum and the Virso Community Center needs the funding.

Supervisor Timmons said he will revise the spreadsheet he prepared and forward it to the Board members for review.

On motion of Supervisor Gray, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	None
	Calvin L. Gray		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Odessa H. Pride		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jim R. Wilck		
Absent:	Jerry R. Townsend		

the meeting was recessed at 7:51 p.m. until Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.