

May 6, 2014

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014; at 7:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator.

Chairman Simpson called the reconvened meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Townsend offered the invocation.

In Re: Resolution Affirming Declaration of Local Emergency

Supervisor Wilck made a motion to approve the Resolution of Affirmation of Declaration of Local Emergency; the motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay:
	Pattie Cooper-Jones	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Charles W. McKay	
	Howard F. Simpson	
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	Jim R. Wilck	

Mr. Bartlett stated that at 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2014, due to the recent storm, he declared a local State of Emergency because the private dam at Morris Creek Road was in danger of failing. This State of Emergency was lifted May 1, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Bartlett reported that the declaration of a state of

emergency is required in order to obtain Federal funds to assist with a catastrophic event. He added the owner is responsible for the cost of the pumps.

**RESOLUTION  
AFFIRMATION OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, at 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2014, as a result of the rainfall storm event, W.W. Bartlett, County Administrator, as the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Prince Edward, found that the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, faced an emergency conditions caused by the overtopping of a private dam that placed in peril the lives and property of citizens of the County which could have threatened and constituted a disaster, and made a Declaration of Local Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, at 1:30 p.m. on May 1, 2014, W.W. Bartlett, County Administrator, as the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, found that the conditions of peril to life and property had abated and therefore the Declaration of Local Emergency was rescinded; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 44-146.21 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that such Declaration of Local Emergency be approved and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, that the Declaration of Local Emergency, dated April 29, 2014, attached hereto and incorporated herein fully by reference, be, and the same hereby is approved and confirmed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, and affirmed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, that the Declaration of local Emergency was rescinded effective 1:30 p.m. on May 1, 2014.

In Re: Approval of An Ordinance to Impose Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2014

Supervisor Jones stated:

*After the public hearing two weeks ago, I've done a lot of thinking and have asked Mr. Bartlett to gather the information for me to hopefully help answer people's questions about our budget and why we're proposing an eight cent increase.*

*The increase of one item is overwhelmingly the reason why we need to increase County revenues and that's Piedmont Regional Jail. Mr. Bartlett warned us last year that the jail was not going to continue to be self-supporting as it has been for many years due to the loss of certain income revenues. The County Administrator has spelled out the reasons why the jail will now need \$1.4 million from the County budget where it used to be nothing. And that is more money than the eight cent increase we proposed will generate.*

*I hate to see us have to increase real estate taxes, and it will probably affect me more than any other Board member as far as the tax increase. People need to understand the jail has hit some hard times and the County will have to help financially until they can correct their problems which they're working on diligently.*

*Some of the reasons they have the reduced income is reduced state funding by over 50% which caused a million dollar loss in revenue; loss of Dinwiddie and Mecklenburg prisoners due to those two counties building their own regional jail; loss of detainees to the Farmville ICE Center.*

*Even with these losses in income, the jail still has one of the lowest costs per inmate day of any of the 66 regional jails in the state.*

*Some speakers at the hearing mentioned our local government should be run more efficiently to avoid a tax increase. Let's look at the numbers. Each year the Auditor of Public Accounts compiles data from annual audits of counties, cities and towns and publishes the information in a report titled, "Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures." The report shows that Prince Edward's per capita spending on operation and maintenance is lower than all but two counties in the state of Virginia. There are 95 counties of which 94 report data. That means 91 counties are spending more per capita than Prince Edward. That includes all of our neighboring counties. The state average per capita spending on operation and maintenance is \$3,025 while Prince Edward is \$1,922, 63.5% of state average. The average of our neighboring counties is \$2,298.*

*Our County Administration has two positions that have been open and not filled, holding off on filling these vacancies have probably saved the County over \$100,000.*

*The same report of Local Government Spending contains the annual debt payment for 94 counties listed; again Prince Edward is one of the lowest. Only five counties have a lower per capita debt payment than Prince Edward.*

*Another concern expressed during the public hearing was over our schools and their performance. The web site SchoolDigger.com shows that our schools have made big increases in test scores and graduation rates in the last few years. Our budget proposed level funding for the schools. How can we cut funding for something that is making progress?*

*Some questions were asked of concern about our Economic Development. In her annual report, Mrs. Carney told us her office of Economic Development was working with five businesses: Tri-Boro Rack and Storage Products, an expansion creating 25 jobs with an investment of a million and a half dollars; Luck Stone, a new company, creating 35 jobs with a \$20 million investment; Tharpe Trucking, a relocation, creating 25 new jobs with a \$2 million investment; Helton House, an expansion with the creation of 28 jobs with a \$1.25 million investment; Lappe Metals Associates, with a relocation, creating five new jobs. And then also, with the sale of the land out at the Industrial Park to the Department of Transportation.*

*There were other questions about the Biosolids Department and the \$71,000, I believe, expenditure there. But the State refunds this locality almost all of that.*

*We've looked at the budget very closely for years, and have run a tight ship. And that is why our real estate tax rate has been one of the lowest in the state. I don't see how we can fund the necessary operations of our county without an eight cent increase in our County real estate taxes. If any other Supervisor or citizen has any means of telling us how to not do this increase, I'd love to hear it because I know we've looked at this budget very, very diligently.*

*Again, if you look at the jail situation, \$1.4 million – that explains almost the whole reason why we have to have an eight cent increase.*

*We do want to keep our County to where when we get audited each year and we have a good audit report and we've dipped into our fund balance this year already to do the jail situation, and to do it again, another year, I'm beginning to wonder if the auditor might throw up a red flag on us.*

*Thank you.*

Supervisor Jones then stated the Board should have taken Mr. Bartlett's advice last year and done a little increase last year to help offset what the extra jail cost has been this past year and obviously will be again for another year. He added the County may receive additional tax revenue from properties after the reassessment is complete.

Supervisor Jones made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Impose Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2014 as advertised, as follows:

<b>Levy</b>	<b>Nominal Tax Rate (per \$100 of assessed valuation)</b>	<b>Value Used for Assessment Purposes</b>	<b>Effective Tax Rate (per \$100 of assessed valuation)</b>
Real Estate	\$0.50	Fair Market Value	\$0.50
Mobile Homes	\$0.42	Fair Market Value	\$0.42
Merchant's Capital	\$0.70	100% of Original Cost	\$0.70
Tangible Personal Property – Motor Vehicles	\$4.50	N.A.D.A. Guide, Loan Value	\$4.50
Tangible Personal Property – Business Furniture & Fixtures	\$4.50	20% of Original Cost	\$0.90
Tangible Personal Property – Heavy Equipment	\$4.50	20% of Original Cost	\$0.90
Machinery & Tools	\$4.20	10% of Original Cost	\$0.42
Farm Machinery & Equipment	\$0.00	----	\$0.00

Supervisor Timmons requested a roll-call vote.

The motion failed:

Aye: Robert M. Jones

Nay: Howard M. Campbell  
Pattie Cooper-Jones  
Charles W. McKay  
Howard F. Simpson  
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Jim R. Wilck

Supervisor Timmons made a motion that the Board establishes a Finance Committee to review the budget in greater detail, which would then come back to the full Board with a recommended budget that can be passed by the Board. He offered to serve on the Committee and suggested Supervisor Cooper-Jones and Supervisor Wilck.

Chairman Simpson recommended Supervisor Timmons, Supervisor Cooper-Jones and Supervisor Jones to serve on the Finance Committee.

The Board then voted on Supervisor Timmons' motion to establish a Finance Committee; the motion carried:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell  
Pattie Cooper-Jones  
Robert M. Jones  
Charles W. McKay  
Howard F. Simpson  
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Jim R. Wilck

Nay:

Supervisor Jones requested the meeting date for the Finance Committee; after some discussion, the Finance Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Campbell asked if the State is any closer to approving the State budget. Mr. Bartlett said not to his knowledge and there has been no movement.

On motion of Supervisor Wilck and adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell  
Pattie Cooper-Jones  
Robert M. Jones  
Charles W. McKay  
Howard F. Simpson  
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Jim R. Wilck

Nay:

the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.