

April 8, 2014

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014; at 3:00 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 meeting to order as a reconvened meeting.

In Re: FY 15 County Budget Work Session

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, said because the Virginia General Assembly has not adopted a budget for FY15, the revenues in the General Fund received from the Commonwealth are estimated based on the existing data for FY14. In the General fund the majority of revenues received from the Commonwealth are the funding associated with the "Car Tax" and the Constitutional Offices. The Revenue from the "Car Tax" (\$1,305,350) has been frozen and will not increase or decrease. Funds provided by the Compensation Board for the Constitutional Offices can change. Additionally, while there has been discussion of state funded pay increases for Constitutional employees there has not been consensus within the General Assembly on what the increase could be. Therefore, the revenues contained in the proposed budget reflect no pay raise provided by the state. If the state does provide an increase, each 1% salary increase would increase revenues approximately \$19,000 annually. The current salary for every Constitutional employee except one exceeds the state approved salary. If the final State Budget includes a

pay raise, I do not recommend the pay of the employees be increased and then those funds will reimburse the County for front-funding prior salary increases.

Mr. Bartlett stated the County has now received updated VRS rates and Group Life Insurance rates. The VRS rate decreased from 12.25% to 11.4% while the Group Life Insurance increased from 1.19% to 1.32%. He stated the end result is a decrease in expense of approximately \$24,000. This decrease is not reflected in the proposed budget.

The proposed budget does not contain the \$8,500 match for the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant approved by the Board.

The budget does not contain the dues required to join the Virginia's Growth Alliance, which are one dollar per capita. Based on the 2010 Census population of 23,368, the cost would be \$23,368.

Mr. Bartlett stated neither the Budget nor the donation binder contain the request from the Virso Recreation & Community Center for \$10,000.

Mr. Bartlett stated most of the Constitutional Officers requested a pay increase for their employees of 5% which would cost approximately \$150,000 or \$30,000 for each 1%. A comparable 5% increase for County employees to include Piedmont Court Services would be \$100,000 or \$20,000 for each 1%. Finally, the Sheriff requested an increase of almost \$10,000 for one of his employees. The proposed budget does not include either request.

Mr. Bartlett said the failure of the General Assembly and Governor to adopt a budget has produced many unknowns and made adoption of a final budget difficult. This is not the first time the state has found itself in this position. Thus, there is a state code section that extends the budget approval date when we are found in this position. The normal process requires a locality to approve an annual budget for the schools by May first or 30 days of the receipt by the county of the estimates of state funds, whichever shall occur later. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has 15 days following the final adjournment of the General Assembly to provide the budget estimates.

The County has traditionally adopted the budget and tax rates by ordinance. This requires the notice of the public hearing to be published twice, which must be separated by a full calendar week. The public hearing must be held at least seven days before the budget is approved.

Chairman Simpson led a review of the donation requests:

Legal Aid	\$ 1,750	
STEPS	25,000	
Crossroads	60,000	(level fund)
Longwood Small Business	7,500	
PEFYA	24,000	(level fund)
Habitat for Humanity	4,750	(level fund)
Madeline's House	7,500	(level fund)
Farmville Chamber of Commerce	6,350	(level fund)
Downtown Farmville	10,000	(level fund)
New Horizons	0	
Farmville Prince Edward Community Library	208,500	
Heart of Virginia Festival	2,850	(level fund)
Moton Museum	10,000	(level fund)
Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District	6,840 Operations 5,000 Dam Maint.	(level fund)
Old Dominion RC&D	2,103	(level fund)
SCOPE/Meals on Wheels	5,000	(level fund)
FACES	4,275	(level fund)
Southside Virginia Family YMCA	TBD	
Piedmont Area Transit	10,000	(level fund)
Special Olympics	1,000	(level fund)
Piedmont Senior Resources	2,018	
Heart of Virginia Free Clinic	12,500/TBD	
Longwood Visual Arts	2,494	(level fund)
Pamplin Community Center	475	(level fund)
Virso Recreation & Community Center	0	
Town of Farmville 911 Center	TBD	
Prince Edward Firefighters Association	6,000	
Farmville Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Rice Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Prospect Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Darlington Heights Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Meherrin Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department	74,800	
Prince Edward Rescue Squad	66,000	
Meherrin Rescue Squad	13,000	
Pamplin Volunteer EMS	7,700	
Hampden-Sydney 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder	5,500	
Burkeville Volunteer Fire Department	0	
Chesterfield County Med-Flight	0	
Old Dominion EMS Alliance	TBD	
Prince Edward County After-Prom	950	(level fund)
Fuqua After-Prom	475	(level fund)
Tri-County Life Learners	3,000	

Jolly Glee Senior Citizens	1,500	
Commonwealth Regional Council	15,700	(level fund)
SVCC	5,000	
American Red Cross	0	
Heart of Virginia Fireworks	2,500	

Further information was necessary regarding the Southside Virginia Family YMCA, Old Dominion EMS Alliance, and the Heart of Virginia Free Clinic prior to a determination made on those donation requests.

Supervisor Wilck asked what is involved in the Water Fund. Mr. Bartlett replied almost all of the costs are debt service which is the same as the Sewer Fund. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons asked questions regarding the Cannery with regard to the commercial activity; he stated if the revenues are less than expenses, it may need to be discontinued. Mr. Bartlett stated \$350,000 was received from the agribusiness grant and the commercial aspect is hoped to foster business growth. He stated a revision to the commercial fee schedule may need to be done. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons requested a review of the county insurance. He stated the presentation described the net savings with the Healthcare Reimbursement cards would save the county approximately \$90,000. He stated the card can be set up to use first; the copays will change slightly. Discussion followed on the various insurance plans and options.

Supervisor Townsend stated he would like the employees to be educated regarding any changes to the Health Insurance Plan before he would vote to make any changes.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated times have changed and employees should pay a portion of the health insurance premiums.

Chairman Simpson declared a brief recess at 5:09 p.m. to reconvene in the Board of Supervisors Room.