

April 22, 2014

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of April, 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; and Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator.

Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order. Supervisor Townsend offered the invocation.

In Re: Public Hearing – FY 15 County Budget

Chairman Simpson announced this was the date and time scheduled for a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2015 County Budget. Notice of this hearing was advertised according to law in the Friday, April 11, 2014 issue of THE FARMVILLE HERALD, a newspaper published in the County of Prince Edward.

Chairman Simpson opened the Public Hearing.

Leonard F. Picotte, Prospect District, stated he opposes the proposed tax increase and gave several suggestions where savings may be captured, such as the schools, the YMCA and the County health insurance and the offices of the Constitutional Officers. He suggested that any business requesting a donation be required to provide a business case with milestones and goals that may be verified. He recommended the Board relook at the budget from a zero based budget.

John Young, Prospect District, expressed his opposition to the proposed tax increase and agreed with the previous speaker, Mr. Picotte.

Sam Campbell, Prospect District, opposed the proposed tax increase. He stated a substantial portion of property is owned by senior citizens on fixed incomes and expressed his concern regarding the projects which failed to generate revenues and the County employees' health insurance plan.

Nettie Jennings, Buffalo District, stated she opposed the proposed tax increase.

Linda Medlin, Buffalo District, stated she opposed the proposed tax increase.

Cindy Koether, Lockett District, expressed her opposition to the proposed tax increase and said she has concerns regarding the Board's spending priorities, referencing the road and the water project. She added the first priority should be education, road repair, public safety and fire and rescue services.

Henry Shelton, Prospect District, stated he opposed the proposed tax increase and expressed his concern regarding the school system.

Patrick Murphy, Prospect District, stated he opposed the proposed \$0.08 tax increase and suggested a \$0.02 increase to be used specifically for additional funding for the fire and rescue departments. He suggested savings such as closing several convenience sites and proposed mandatory recycling, eliminate the Economic Development, Tourism and Biosolids offices, and suggested more scrutiny on spending at the schools and establishing pay-for-performance.

Joe Huddleston, Buffalo District, stated he opposed the proposed tax increase.

Cornell Walker, Prospect District, stated at the last audit, the County was under-budget and now the County is \$1 million over budget; he questioned where the money is going. He questioned the County's policy to subsidize underperforming companies and requested truth and transparency from the County.

Kenneth Jackson, Lockett District, expressed his opposition to the proposed tax increase and stated the Board must prioritize what the County needs, such as the Library. He stated the increase in taxes would hurt property owners and renters and the Board needs to make cuts in the budget. He demanded accountability and performance from the County education and administration.

Bemeche Hicks, Lockett District, stated he opposed the proposed tax increase; he stated he was in attendance at the previous meetings and is not happy with some of the budget cuts and other items that remain funded. He added the County needs job creation.

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

Supervisor Jones made a motion to hold a Budget Work Session and Adoption of the County and School Budget and Set the Tax Rates on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jones amended his motion hold a Budget Work Session and Adoption of the County and School Budget and Set the Tax Rates on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Further discussion followed.

Supervisor Jones amended his motion to hold a Budget Work Session and Adoption of the County and School Budget and Set the Tax Rates on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.; 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:	None
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On motion of Supervisor McKay 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:	None
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the meeting was recessed at 7:43 p.m. until Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.