

April 5, 2016

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Calvin L. Gray

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Dr. K. David Smith, Superintendent; and Cindy Wahrman, Division Director of Finance.

Chairman Simpson called the reconvened meeting to order.

In Re: Presentation of FY 17 School Budget

Dr. David Smith, Superintendent, presented the FY17 School Budget. He stated the School Board has worked on the budget since early January, taking into account all the needs of the students, including programs and teaching positions that were lost over the years. Dr. Smith said the requested budget totals \$26,486,406, not including the Food Service budget. The projected increase in state revenue is \$374,868, a slight increase. The State budget figures are speculation as the State should release their budget later in April, and the Governor's budget reinstated some funds lost for programs and teaching personnel, but it will not cover all the needs of the school division. The local fund request from the School Board totals \$9,916,403, an increase in operational funds of \$1,599,221. There is a slight decrease in debt service of \$13,552.

Dr. Smith reviewed several points in the School Board's budget, including a 1% salary increase for all employees; a revised teacher salary schedule; expanded foreign language courses to include German and Latin, and to expand Spanish classes to the elementary grades in addition to the 8th grade level;

replacing Virtual Virginia Online with teachers; the need for a Physics teacher; and the desire to hire seven paraprofessionals for reading and math remediation and intervention. Dr. Smith added discussion in reducing operating expenditures led to an RFP for all insurance coverages (health, property, casualty, fleet, workers comp, and student accident insurance); he said they also intend to purchase at least one school bus. Dr. Smith said additional remediation, dual enrollment and advanced placement is strong and must continue to develop to provide two alternate pathways. In addition to college prep, the industrial certification program continues to expand; at the end of last year, approximately 160 students earned certifications in the auto mechanics, nurse and office services courses. He said the teacher training continues for student support programs which allow individual attention, working towards recovery of credits and cutting the dropout rate. Another goal is to provide a safe and secure learning environment, with full division accreditation.

Dr. Smith then reviewed a Power Point presentation. He concluded by stating the School Board wants to focus on improving the quality of instruction in the schools. He stated the School Board requests a budget that will allow the school division to continue to develop the best possible academic education for all students. The schools will continue programs that enhance students' education, help all schools achieve and maintain state and federal accreditation, and continue striving to reach increasing academic goals.

Supervisor Pride questioned the Spanish classes offered in eighth grade and the virtual classes. Dr. Smith said Spanish is offered in eighth grade for credit, currently, and biology and environmental science are offered through the Virtual Virginia courses. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Gray questioned the self-sufficiency of the food service; Dr. Smith said it is self-sufficient and several repairs or equipment replacements will occur during the summer.

Discussion followed on the expansion of several programs, including nursing, electronics and robotics, and to expand them into Middle School. Dr. Smith said the State is placing emphasis on the STEM programs.

Supervisor Gray questioned the plans to add seven paraprofessionals. Dr. Smith said the Schools wish to hire but were not able to with the budget constraints. Next year, VRS will increase 0.71% at a cost of \$80,000; health insurance costs will increase 15%, or \$257,200. Dr. Smith said the state mandated class

ratio to decrease next school year; one additional teacher will be necessary to maintain that ratio. Further discussion followed.

Supervisor Townsend questioned how much of the \$8.3 million budgeted to the Schools was spent. Mr. Bartlett stated approximately \$7,992,000 was spent in FY 15.

In Re: Poplar Hill Community Development Authority Special Levy

Mr. Bartlett stated the County received a letter and resolution from the Poplar Hill Community Development Authority (CDA) requesting that the Board set the 2016 CDA District Special Levy at \$1.00.

Mr. Bartlett stated that to facilitate the request to set the CDA Special Levy to \$1.00, the Board will wish to add the Special Levy to the Public Hearing Notice for the County's FY17 Budget and *Ordinance to Impose Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2016*.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, authorize advertising the CDA Special Levy in the Public Hearing Notice for the County *Tax Levy Ordinance* to be held at the April 19, 2016 Board meeting; the motion carried:

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

In Re: Discussion of FY17 County Budget for Public Hearing

Mr. Bartlett encouraged the Board members to discuss any changes to the proposed budget, and to present any issues to adjust and set the tax rate.

Supervisor Timmons stated Mr. Bartlett was given the direction to balance the budget without hitting the Fund Balance; he said everyone is "taking a hit", the taxpayers, the organizations which submitted requests for donations, and the employees. Mr. Timmons said he appreciated the work and the concept was done well.

Supervisor Jones stated he received telephone calls from citizens regarding the tax rate on motor homes being set too high. Mr. Bartlett said a separate class can be set for recreational vehicles if the Board so desires; there are only 51 such vehicles in the County.

Supervisor Timmons said he had a telephone call regarding the rate on airplanes; there is only one in the County. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Wilck stated the donation to the Chamber of Commerce for the Board to be recognized as a "Gold Sponsor" is not necessary; he suggested giving the \$250 for standard membership to save money. He then stated he would reduce the Longwood Small Business Development Center by \$7,500 and give it to the library as the library needs it more. Supervisor Wilck then suggested not spending \$23,000 to be a part of the VGA because Prince Edward County cannot say where it is spent; he said it would be better for Prince Edward County to join with Longwood University, Farmville, Hampden-Sydney and firms like Centra, and do economic development on its own.

Supervisor Timmons said that when the Board voted to join VGA, it was discussed that Prince Edward County would have a reduction in cost after the first year due to the 6,000 – 8,000 students that reside here on a temporary basis. Discussion followed. Mr. Bartlett said that when that was brought up at the VGA meeting, Nottoway County, Buckingham County, and Lunenburg County were not in favor because they are also in the same position because the prisoners at the jails count as residents, just as we have in Prince Edward County.

Supervisor Wilck suggested Prince Edward County do economic development where it can control the money. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Wilck stated the Library asked for \$212,000 this year, and last year, but the recommended budget was cut [the donation] by 6.1%. He said it seems to be a convenient spot to take money whenever the Board struggles with the budget. Mr. Bartlett stated there has never been a cut that the Board has adopted to the library since it's relocation. He stated the Board directed only the Fire Departments and Rescue Squads be fully funded but all other requests were to be reviewed. Mr. Bartlett stated he applied a 20% reduction to most of the other donation requests, but only a 6% adjustment was made to the library because it has an indirect impact on education and economic development. Discussion followed. Supervisor Timmons pointed out the County also pays for the building and operations annually.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones questioned if the County is funding the 911 Center. Mr. Bartlett said it is not. Supervisor Timmons said there is a tax on the phone bills that goes to fund that. Mr. Bartlett added it would take action by the General Assembly to redirect funds received from the Comp Board to help pay the Sheriff's dispatch; the Town voluntarily decided they would run the 911 Center.

Mr. Bartlett then asked the Board to consider adding a waiting period or 30, 60, or 90 days prior to health insurance coverage beginning after a new hire employment start date.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones asked how long the probationary period is; Mr. Bartlett stated the probationary period is six months. He added the change won't affect any current employees.

Mr. Bartlett then reminded the Board that once the tax rate is advertised, they can decrease it but they cannot increase it.

Supervisor Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Jones, to authorize a Public Hearing on the FY 17 County/School Budget and CY 16 Tax Ordinance, as presented, on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.; the motion carried:

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

Chairman Simpson stated he has a scheduling conflict with the meeting on April 26; after some discussion, the Board concurred to change the meeting date to Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

On motion of Supervisor Gray, seconded by Supervisor 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.	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	Jim R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 7:18 p.m. until Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 5:30p.m. in the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors Room.