

April 12, 2016

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 12th 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; and Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator

Chairman Simpson called the reconvened meeting to order.

In Re: Budget Work Session

Mr. Bartlett advised the Board the School Board will meet to work on a “more appropriate funding request” considering the advertisement of the FY17 County budget. He recommended very little discussion of the school budget until after the new request has been presented.

Mr. Bartlett then advised the Board that final decisions will be made after the public hearing.

Supervisor Jones questioned the Landfill bid. Mr. Bartlett stated the low bid was approximately \$1,322,000 which was higher than anticipated; two were received in the \$1.3 million range, and two other bids were considerably higher. He said there is over \$2 million is in the Landfill Construction Fund.

Supervisor Timmons asked if the \$1.3 million cost was to close the old Landfill cell. Mr. Bartlett stated no, that it is for opening a new cell, only a small portion of the landfill is closed.

Supervisor Gray asked the maximum height of the cell. It varies permit to permit. Mr. Bartlett stated the tip is probably the highest point in the County and can still increase five or six feet before it reaches maximum height.

Supervisor Jones asked if there has been any feedback from citizens regarding the schools or the proposed reductions to outside agency requests. Mr. Bartlett said there has been little from agencies or citizens.

Mr. Bartlett stated 19 agencies were reduced; of those, 18 were reduced 20%, the Library was reduced by 6.11%; two were increased, and 10 remained the same.

Supervisor Timmons discussed the Longwood Small Business; a 10% reduction would be just about enough to level-fund the Library. He stated he received a call from Justin Pope stating Longwood doesn't want to be associated with anything that could be misconstrued with cutting money that could be provided to the Library. Supervisor Timmons said with that, and with the others proposed, it would give enough to level fund the Library.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the rebate on the VGA because of the number of jails and the number of students in Prince Edward County. Supervisor Timmons stated that in all surrounding counties, the population of the jails is counted. Prince Edward County still has more population than the surrounding counties due to the jail and the Longwood University students.

Supervisor Timmons questioned if the Carl U. Eggleston Foundation should be supported by the County, with taxpayer funds. He said it is a wonderful organization that does a lot of good, but feels that it should be supported individually. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons then stated the Board needs to look at all contributions after the budget process is complete to decide which should be supported by the County and taxpayer funds.

Supervisor Timmons then stated the Board committed to the Virso Recreation project last year; this year will be the second and final payment for that. He asked to see a report on the project. Mr. Timmons said they were so excited last year when they presented what they are doing with the pavilion; he asked if they have any photographs of that. Supervisor Townsend stated they do have a portfolio. Discussion followed on the \$6,500 to be provided this year.

Mr. Bartlett stated there has been interest by the Board to update the web site or become more involved in social media to reach citizens. He said he contacted a few firms and the costs range from \$7,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Bartlett asked how the Board would like it to be developed and that it may benefit to go for bids. Following some discussion, it was suggested to contact Longwood University to hire interns to work on the site.

Supervisor Timmons stated the Hampden-Sydney First Responders had not qualified or lost their certification; they have gained it now. Mr. Bartlett stated they have and therefore should add \$5,000 to their funding as they received their certification. Discussion followed. Mrs. Puckett stated the test for their operations will be whether they sustain their response crews over the summer, as the crews are largely students at Hampden-Sydney. The EMS is required to be on-call "24/7/365" and there is a concern for their ability to sustain that response during the summer months. Supervisor Timmons queried if the payments can be made on a monthly basis rather than quarterly. Mr. Bartlett stated the response will be known before the budget starts; the County will know quickly if they are able to sustain the response.

Mr. Bartlett stated \$12,507 will be adjusted to the Library; the Board will take the final vote after the public hearing.

Supervisor Wilck stated the Board has been a Gold Sponsor of the Chamber of Commerce for several years, which is not necessary; being a regular business member would create a savings of \$4,750.

Supervisor Timmons stated the County has an agreement with the YMCA for repayment of the loan but no terms of repayment; he suggested in place of repayment, the YCMA could use that funding as their donation.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the donation to Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District; Supervisor Jones said those are services provided to the County; they receive \$5,000, and do the work for the County regarding soil conservation, erosion control, and on the dams.

Supervisor Gray questioned the contribution to SVCC. Mr. Bartlett stated contributions are based on the student population, which varies; it is not a mandate and the County does not have to provide that amount. Their request for \$6,735 is based on population.

Supervisor Pride asked how their donation is used relevant to the students. Mr. Bartlett said it is uncertain; he said in the overall scheme of the SVCC budget, this donation is miniscule. He added that he will find out for the next meeting.

Supervisor Townsend asked what service Tri-County Life Learners provides. Mr. Bartlett said they teach adults to read. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jones asked if Cumberland County raised their utility fees; Mr. Bartlett stated Cumberland County has a small public utility system. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said Carl Eggleston was encouraged to request funding from the County; she added the Board members need to be mindful when they are in public and say something to that effect when all know the challenges of the budget. She stated his coming in front of all the people and his receiving nothing gives a bad feeling. Discussion followed. Supervisor Timmons stated his opinion is that it is not a government function and that he applauds his efforts, but it should not be given taxpayer funds.

Chairman Simpson stated Crossroads Community Service cut their budget; Crossroads pays tax on their property, but if the County cuts the budget, they could stop paying real estate taxes. Discussion followed. Supervisor Timmons and Mr. Bartlett agreed that with a budget of \$16.6 million, the \$12,000 from the County won't affect their budget. Mr. Bartlett stated they did not stop paying their taxes last year; it was suggested by the old director of Crossroads, and stated they pay in the other counties in which they are located also.

Supervisor Townsend asked the Board to consider the aides in the classrooms, especially in the younger grades. He also asked consideration of the need to cut programs that are needed to operate the school within the budget constraints. Supervisor Townsend stated the new superintendent needs a good foundation to start with.

Supervisor Pride stated as a former teacher and administrator, she doesn't feel the ADM should determine how the budget should run; it is necessary to look at the needs of the first graders. Some are on a fourth grade level while others don't even know phonetics. She said she does understand how the decrease in the ADM can factor in, but the funding needs to be there. Supervisor Pride said if the Board gives the School Board a budget to work with, it is up to the School Board to decide what is going for instruction,

salaries, and so forth. Supervisor Jones stated that if the Board of Supervisors gives them the money for aides and they choose not to put it for hiring aides, the Board of Supervisors cannot control that.

Supervisor Gray stated the school pushed for additional paraprofessionals last year, but when funded, didn't hire any. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said the budget request seems "fluffed up." Mr. Bartlett stated that when the request is \$70,000 for a position, included in that is salary, but also health insurance which would be about \$6,000 or \$7,000; and 25% - 30% in other benefits, such as VRS, Social Security costs, Group Life, and others. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons requested a meeting with the School Board following the budget process to discuss insurance; if the County and Schools combine and become self-insured, which could be a way to save money and provide the same level of coverage.

On motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, 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 adjourned at 6:43 p.m.