

April 10, 2007

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Court House, on Tuesday the 10th day of April, 2007; at 4:00 p.m., there were present:

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman

Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Sally W. Gilfillan

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Also Present: Sarah Puckett, Acting County Administrator; Jonathan L. Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development; Mable Shanaberger, Treasurer; Wyatt Lee Overton, Commissioner of Revenue; and James R. Ennis, County Attorney.

Chairman William G. Fore, Jr., called the meeting to order.

In Re: Constitutional Officers Budget Requests

Mr. James R. Ennis, Commonwealth Attorney, said that his office is requesting an increase in their budget due solely to the salary line item. He stated Brian Butler has been reclassified to reflect his position from "Attorney I" to "Career Prosecutor," which calls for a 19.48% increase. Mr. Ennis said Mr. Butler qualified for the Career Prosecutor Program after having been employed by the County for more than three years, and has completed the continued legal education requirements, which are more than twice as much each year as are required by the State Bar. Mr. Ennis added that in order to be considered for this advancement, Mr. Butler's personnel evaluations had to be at a much higher level, with no complaints to the State Bar against him. Mr. Ennis also said this increase is fully funded through the Compensation Board, and asked that Mr. Butler receive the increase in his salary. He said the budget for this office has remained constant, with \$14,000 in vacancy savings due to a vacant part-time attorney position. Mr. Ennis stated that Eric Tinnell will be eligible for the program in 18 months.

Supervisors Lacy Ward and Pattie Cooper-Jones entered the meeting at this time.

Mrs. Mable Shanaberger told the Board that the Treasurer's Office has been able to maintain operating expenses in 2007-08 as in 2006-07. She stated there are a few adjustments of line items due to salary increases provided by the County. She now has a second Deputy Treasurer, who has earned the title of Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer by taking core courses, electives, and an exam. Mrs. Shanaberger said in order to be eligible for the program, the candidate must be employed for a minimum of three years. She added the Compensation Board will approve this candidate on July 1, 2007, and asked the Board to recognize this candidate's appointment as Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer. Mrs. Shanaberger said the County will share in the cost of the increase in salary for the Deputy Treasurer; the Compensation Board will also increase the reimbursement from the State for the Deputy Treasurer to receive the increase in her salary.

Mrs. Shanaberger stated the Treasurer's office has been selected for an audit and passed.

Mr. Wyatt Overton, Commissioner of Revenue, stated Prince Edward County's assessed value reached over a billion dollars this past year. Mr. Overton said the budget for the Commissioner of Revenue's office is the lowest in the County, with only a minor increase for the 2007-08 budget for the employees' salaries.

Mr. Overton stated he would be retiring as of July 31, 2007.

Supervisor Ward inquired as to who was managing the Information Technology budget. Mrs. Puckett stated the County has a contract for professional services to all offices in the Court House, and specifically the Bright system used by the Commissioner of Revenue, Treasurer and County Administrator's offices.

Supervisor Gilfillan gave an update on the new County web page, and stated the technology problems in the Court House are apparent and cost more than necessary. She added VACO did a Needs Assessment that did not cover the full scope, and that Dr. Frank Moore, Vice-President of Technology and Chief Information Officer at Longwood University, offered to do a Needs Assessment for the County at no cost. She added Brian Krause, also of Longwood, would be assisting.

Supervisor Gilfillan stated Prince Edward County should begin charging a fee for fiscal agent service.

Discussion followed on the cannery hours of operation.

Supervisor James Moore entered the meeting at this time.

In Re: Overview of FY 07-08 County Budget

Acting County Administrator Sarah Elam Puckett stated the detailed budget report shows each department's fund by line item. The budget summary, which follows the budget detail, gives a summary showing the current budget as it was adopted and the projected FY 2007-2008 as was requested by the departments or agencies. A discussion of the budget followed.

Supervisor Jones asked for report of all appropriations made during the current fiscal year for a more realistic look at the increases in the budget.

The Board reviewed revenue projections from the Commissioner of Revenue. In further discussion, it was noted that the Personnel Complement provides for a 3.2% increase based on the Consumer Price Index.

The Board then discussed the property tax rates and upcoming reassessments. It was noted the Real Estate Foundation at Longwood University continues to pay real estate taxes on the apartment buildings and improvements.

In Re: Fire and Rescue Donation Requests

The Prince Edward County Rescue Squad stated they responded to 1,912 calls last year, averaging seven calls per day. In the first quarter of 2007, they have received 622 calls this year, and 71 in April. Bill Hogan stated the Squad's goals are to pay off the defibrulators and the electronic tablets used in noting patient statistics. Mr. Hogan said they also hope to pay off the building in 10 years, but maintenance costs for the drainage and exhaust system have hindered that goal. Mr. Hogan stated many patients have no insurance, and the Prince Edward County Rescue Squad will not pursue collection action. He added that Medicare, Medicaid and insurance are the main payment sources. Ms. Nancy Haga stated they have gained mutual aid with two other local companies to accept patients in the Squad Care program.

The Meherrin Rescue Squad advised the Board they responded to 330 EMS calls last year with 80 to date this year. David Norman, EMS Captain, stated they recently received a grant for two

defibrators, and work closely with Prince Edward County Rescue Squad. Captain Norman said they are requesting the same amount as last year.

Supervisor Moore stated the Meherrin Rescue Squad is the only squad at that end of the county.

The Pamplin Rescue Squad expressed their gratitude for the Board's support of their latest EMS project, and stated that Pamplin has been a transport agency for three years. Gary Dickerson stated the Squad has put in for a grant for an EMS ambulance, which has been ordered, with the intent to enhance services to Prince Edward County. Mr. Dickerson stated the ability to be a rescue squad as opposed to being a first responder would permit them to transport patients to the hospital by ambulance more quickly, and would offer basic to advanced life-support.

Chief Dalton Elder added the cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$145,000. He said they hope to be in service mid-August to the beginning of September, 2007.

Harry Elam stated there are currently 25 members, and they are accepting applications.

Supervisor Simpson asked about the cost of training new members. Chief Elder said the EMT basic course costs \$200.00, which is sometimes paid by the individual and sometimes by the department.

The Prince Edward County Firefighters Association asked for an increase in their annual operating fund. Mr. Ralph Crawley stated the rising costs of new fire trucks make it increasingly difficult to replace them, and each department is in need of a new truck.

Farmville Fire Department asked for an additional funding request and consideration. Chief Tim McKay stated the department is grateful for their annual allotment. He added the bulk of haz-mat response calls are to Route 460. Mr. McKay said they have received a \$60,000 grant from Homeland Security to update the hazmat equipment. The Department is in need of a tow vehicle and they are looking at a 1-ton crew cab, 4-wheel drive pickup truck. He added the Department's goal is to get the vehicle to be able to serve the entire county, and they are the only fire department within 50 miles with the hazmat designation. Mr. McKay asked for assistance with funding the vehicle, adding it was a one-time request of approximately \$30,000.

Hampden Sydney's First Responder Program submitted a request for \$5,000. Dustin Reynolds, President of the Fire Department, stated the department is purchasing automated external defibrators (AED) units. The department had two units which broke down, and one is currently being

borrowed from the Farmville Fire Department. Mr. Reynolds stated two new units would cost \$3,500, with the remaining \$1,500 to be used for operating costs, which consist of supplies only. He added they receive approximately 300 calls per year, two-thirds of which are EMS-related calls.

Andrew McGowan stated the department has been saving for a new EMS vehicle to replace the 1989 Blazer currently in service.

Supervisor McKay said there may be need to review the distribution of funds to the fire departments. After some discussion, Supervisor Gilfillan suggested each department should receive a base amount, and this summer the Board should start looking at the allocation of additional funds for the number of calls the department receives.

In Re: Budget Work Session

Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett stated there were four fee areas for the Board to consider which could potentially increase revenues approximately \$150,000.00.

First, she said there are changes in legislation regarding the ordinance for court house security fees, which is currently \$5.00. The General Assembly now allows counties to raise that amount to \$10.00. This is assessed on people that are brought to court and found guilty. Currently, approximately \$30,000 a year is raised; with the increase, the County might get \$60,000.00. That would have to be done through an amendment of the County's ordinance, and could become effective July 1, 2007.

Mrs. Puckett said secondly, the General Assembly also increased the DMV registration fee by \$10, which allows counties to increase the cost of decals. Currently, a county automobile decal is \$20.00, and the Board could increase it to a \$30.00 fee, for an increase in revenue of \$110,000.00.

Third, Mrs. Puckett said the current landfill tipping fee for in-county trash is \$30.00 per ton. A \$1.00 per ton increase would provide an increase in revenue of \$15,000.00.

Lastly, Mrs. Puckett suggested the fee structure for zoning and building permits be reviewed, as it is not equal to neighboring counties. Discussion followed regarding proffers, which can only be used for rezoning, and only to pay for capital projects.

On motion of Mr. McKay and adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson
Lacy B. Ward

Nay: None

the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.