

April 14, 2009

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday the 14th day of April, 2009; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

William G. Fore, Jr.

Sally W. Gilfillan

Robert M. Jones

James C. Moore

Howard F. Simpson

Lacy B. Ward

Mattie P. Wiley

Absent - Charles W. McKay

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah E. Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Lacy Ward, Jr., Director, Robert Russa Moton Museum.

Chairman Fore called the reconvened meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was a budget work session.

In Re: FY10 Funding Request

Mr. Lacy Ward, Jr. presented the funding request for FY 2010 for the Robert Russa Moton Museum, which would provide for the design, fabrication and installation of the *They Closed Their Schools Gallery of Moton 2011: The Permanent Exhibition*.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, asked if a match is a possibility and if that is how others are working with the Museum. Mr. Ward said the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Programs do not require a match but they ask the Museum to show what dollars would match, which increases the competitiveness of the national grant. The Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission also does not require a match, but wants the organization to show it is capable of meeting the required match. He said HUD was an 80/20 match; those grants have been met. He

explained the difference between a required match, which must be proven the funds are available versus an induced match, in which the funds are expected to be available but it is not held against the organization if they are not.

Supervisor Charles W. McKay entered the meeting at this time.

In Re: Budget Work Session

Supervisor Gilfillan asked about the costs incurred in CSA. Mr. Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development, said the CSA funds are generally reimbursed 78%. He said the County must provide services for special education, foster care and mental health referrals. He said if a judge sentences a child, he still needs to qualify for some other aspect or the child is deemed “non-mandated” and the County is responsible for the entire cost. Discussion followed on the potential involvement from Prince Edward County Schools.

Supervisor Gilfillan inquired about Mr. Manuel Toombs and the biosolids department. Mr. Pickett said Mr. Toombs works for five counties and oversees two work crews that ensure the spreading of biosolids is being done in the proper manner and the guidelines are being followed. He said the citizens seem to feel more comfortable that the County is monitoring the spread of biosolids. He added Prince Edward County is reimbursed for most of the cost from the other counties: Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, and Lunenburg. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett reviewed the tax rate comparisons of the surrounding counties. He said the most conservative Projected Fund Balance by the end of July 2009 would subtotal approximately \$8.8 million, which is an increase of \$108,000. He then said the Projected Fund Balance by July 2010 would decrease by approximately \$523. Mr. Bartlett said the largest increase would be in landfill construction.

Discussion followed on the volunteer fire departments’ financial reports and status. Supervisor Jones asked that guidance be provided to the fire departments for the “Assistance to Firefighters Grants.”

Chairman Fore said he had received a number of calls regarding the reduction proposed to the funding for the volunteer fire departments. He said some departments made purchases having anticipated the funding and require the funding to meet those obligations.

Mr. Bartlett said the reduction could be made for one year, and that the various fire departments have a wide range of funds in their respective bank accounts. Further discussion followed regarding the revenues held by the volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Bartlett said he spoke with Dr. Patricia Watkins regarding the school budget cuts and the School Board will review the recommendations. He said the reduction is slightly over 1% in County funding, and in their overall budget, it is less than half of one per cent. Mr. Bartlett said the school funding was cut significantly by the state and federal governments, and her budget submission did not include any funds from the stimulus package, which will be approximately \$600,000-700,000 each year for the next two years.

Mr. Bartlett said the Library Board is concerned about the reduction because they are moving into a new building which is larger and will cost more to operate. He said the Chamber of Commerce proposed funding is cut 80%, and he inquired how it would affect the Chamber. Ms. Whitus said she would have to stop giving to other organizations: The Heart of Virginia Festival, the Christmas Parade, and the Farmville/Prince Edward County Youth Association. Supervisor Jones asked for clarification on the possibility of the Chamber of Commerce being housed in the Moore Building with the Visitor's Center. Mrs. Sarah Puckett, Assistant County Administrator, said the offer had been extended but had been declined.

Mr. Bartlett said Longwood Small Business Development can absorb the reduction this year but it could affect them next year and beyond because they use the funding to match grants for state and federal aid. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) only receives 36% from Longwood University and must raise the other 64%. LCVA provides programs for the community such as family workshops, children's activities, and school children are bused to the Center for the programs. He said they receive funding from Buckingham, Cumberland, and the Town of Farmville, and they feel it's important for Prince Edward County to give as they provide support for the citizens. The programs have been proven to help the schools meet the SOLs. The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts is near accreditation by the American Association of Museums; there are only eight in the entire Commonwealth. The LCVA would like funding of \$2,500 restored.

Discussion followed on the options available to the Board to make adjustments to funding the various departments and the details of the various departments' budgets.

Discussion on various line items and the tax rate trends followed. Supervisor Gilfillan inquired about the Information Technology budget. She said she wanted the employees to know the Board is aware of the technology problems: old computers, no server, etc. Mr. Bartlett said an RFP will be posted for phone and internet services which may solve some of that issue. Supervisor Gilfillan wished to remind the Board that it was one of the strategic mission priorities, and if the County should receive revenue from the state and federal governments, it would be excellent if it could be spent on technology.

Supervisor Jones asked about the stimulus money for broadband; Mr. Bartlett said broadband would be more for the rural areas and not for the issues within the County offices. Supervisor Gilfillan said that given the hardware and software technology the County staff works with, extraordinary things are achieved. She pointed out the budget presentation on the web site and the web site itself. She said with better hardware and software, hours could have been saved. Mr. Bartlett said good financial software costs over \$100,000. Supervisor Gilfillan said the more the County offices are high-tech, the more that encourages high tech industries to come to the area – clean air, clean water, and providing jobs. She added that she is impressed with the web site, given the equipment being used to create it.

Discussion on the Worsham Clerks' Office followed regarding use of the building and potential cost saving measures.

Discussion followed on the costs for the refuse line item. Mr. Bartlett said the main costs are in running the landfill and the convenience centers. He said closing the landfill would not mean a great deal of savings as a transfer station would be necessary along with the cost to transport the refuse. He said the hours of the convenience sites may be reduced. Mr. Pickett strongly advised against additional fees because the public sees their trash disposal as being paid by the real estate tax.

Discussion followed on the support requested for the Robert Russa Moton Museum.

On motion of Supervisor Wiley and seconded by Supervisor McKay, and adopted by the following vote:

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

Nay: None

the meeting was recessed at 6:53 p.m. until Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors Room, Prince Edward County Courthouse.