

April 16, 2009

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Thursday the 16th day of April, 2009; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

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

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Fore called the reconvened meeting to order for the purpose of hearing three organizations that wish to re-address the Board, and for a budget work session.

In Re: FY10 Funding Requests

Mary Prevo, Treasurer of the Central Virginia Regional Library Board, requested additional funds to support the new library opening partway through the year. She said the operational costs fall at the bottom of the list statewide for per capita funding for library resources at \$8.75 per person, which puts the Library below the state mandated minimum of one-half of the median per capita spent in the state, which is \$9.98. She said the state median for a library per capita, operation from local funding is \$19.97 per person. While the costs per person are below state median, the local support has risen continually over the years. Ms. Prevo said the library is the only library whose mission is to serve the informational, educational and recreational of all of the citizens of Prince Edward County. In addition, the library supports economic development. She said support is received from Buckingham County, the Town of Farmville, the Bill & Linda Gates Foundation, and local support, such as the Rotary Club which has adopted the "Children's

Room” as their project for this year, and the Regional Library has set aside \$50,000 for developing the new collection for the new building. She said the Library has been selected by the Library of Virginia as a pilot project site for a new web site development program that is funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. She said the volunteers provide “untold hours” of support as well, named a number of services provided to the community and said the library works in cooperation with the County School system.

Ms. Prevo said the state provides funding for books, reading materials and equipment, and the community needs to provide operating costs.

Ms. K. Johnston Bowles, Director of the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, advised the Board of the difficulties in raising funding for the Center for the Visual Arts. She said only 36% of the budget comes from Longwood University and student fees; none is received from the state. She said that portion goes to heat and cool the building, and to pay staff salaries. Ms. Bowles said approximately 34,000 people are served each year, in the form of exhibitions, camps, lectures, free family workshops, a Summer Arts Studio, and an At-Risk Program emphasizing communication skills. She said the programs and materials are free, and attract people from all Virginia counties and 23 different states. She added the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has organized tours and offered African art to put on display; in addition, the Center for Visual Arts hosts Chinese art from the Neolithic period to modern times. Ms. Bowles added the Center is undergoing accreditation of the Virginia Association of Museums, and asked the Board to consider maintaining the funding to the Center.

Ms. Wanda Whitus, President of the Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce, reviewed the services and information offered by the Chamber of Commerce to visitors, businesses and people wishing to relocate to the area. She said the Chamber works with many organizations to provide leadership programs, ribbon cuttings, and many other events. She announced a new web site to be available soon which will provide information on community events. Ms. Whitus said the operating budget is approximately \$102,447, and requested the Board fund the Chamber of Commerce.

Supervisor Jones asked if the Chamber would consider relocating to the same building as the Visitor Center; Ms. Whitus said that she had been approached but had to decline the offer due to staffing issues, and are currently in a three-year lease. She said it may be a possibility in the future.

Ms. Sheri McGuire, Longwood Small Business Development Center, said the funds from the County are used to match funds from Small Business Administration (SBA) dollars. She said some stimulus funds may be directed through SBDC, which has five offices in 26 localities. She said the \$55,000 per office from the SBA has to be matched 100% locally, either in-kind or cash match; 85% of the budget is for personnel. She said a study done in Virginia that looked at the tax dollars that were generated by clients of SBDCs, and for every dollar invested brings a return of seven dollars either through employment taxes, retail sales taxes, or property taxes. Ms. McGuire said the Center assists clients with the paperwork for loans necessary for opening small businesses; she said of the 85 clients seen last year, 15 were helped with financing and 13 started new businesses. Ms. McGuire said she hopes to remain level funded.

Discussion followed on the library request regarding the per capita figures and the operating costs.

In Re: Update on Firefighters Grant

Mr. Bartlett said that in review of the Firefighters Grant documentation, there doesn't appear to be a stipulation on non-supplanting because the fire departments can apply themselves. He said the grant applications are due on May 20 [2009]; Mr. Jonathan Pickett will assist with the applications. Mr. Bartlett said the grant awards will be announced September 30 [2009] and funds can be used for equipment that is obsolete or failing, turnout gear, improvements to existing buildings, and training costs. He said it will require a 5% cash match. Mr. Bartlett said that 22% of applicants were funded last year, most were small rural departments. He said a letter would be sent out to the fire and rescue agencies on Friday, April 17, 2009 indicating the County's willingness to complete any applications and encourage them to review their needs.

Discussion followed on the departments' need to retain 501C3 status.

Chairman Fore advised revisiting the \$15,000 cut from the fire departments as some departments are obligated in equipment payments. Discussion followed.

In Re: Budget Work Session

Discussion followed on the funding to the Library, possible adjustments in the Piedmont Regional Jail department, the Cannery, and the volunteer fire departments. Several supervisors expressed their support for the After-Prom parties at the schools as they reduce accidents and fatalities, and keep the children off the streets.

Supervisors Jones and McKay left the meeting during the discussion.

Chairman Fore directed Mr. Bartlett to review the budget with the changes proposed by the Board members and present a revised budget at the next meeting. Mr. Bartlett said he will also review revenues.

Supervisor Wiley expressed her concern about the funding being spent on the YMCA summer program, and asked for clarification on the summer programs being offered at the school.

Supervisor Moore said he spoke with supervisors from neighboring counties and learned donations from those counties had been cut drastically, if given at all.

On motion of Supervisor Moore and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward Mattie P. Wiley	Nay: None
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Absent: Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay

the meeting was recessed at 7:17 p.m. until Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, Prince Edward County Courthouse.