

April 17, 2007

The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors reconvened its budget work session in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse Building, at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday the 17th day of April, 2007.

Present were:

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman

Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Sally W. Gilfillan

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

James C. Moore

Lacy B. Ward

Also present: Sarah Elam Puckett, Acting County Administrator; and Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development.

Chairman Fore called the meeting to order.

In Re: FY 07-08 Budget Work Session

Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett presented the FY 07-08 budget work package, and reviewed the projected revenues. She stated there are changes due to various increases, and decreases in revenue projections. One such example is the Public Service Corporations, and the anticipated Norfolk-Southern's donation. The value of that property is not yet known. The machinery and tools tax had been reduced to \$34,750 due to the closure of Carbone. She stated if all expenditure requests were fully funded, the estimated General Fund balance on June 30, 2008 will be a deficit of approximately \$700,000.00.

Mrs. Puckett reviewed various possible revenue sources and their effect. She said she recommended the Board consider checking if the building permit fees are paying for the services provided to contractors and to analyze what neighboring counties are doing, as the building official's office feels Prince Edward County's fees are still too low. Mrs. Puckett said there is a new requirement that places more responsibility on the local building official's office to validate that every subcontractor is properly licensed. In order to do that, every subcontractor would need to obtain the applicable permit for every site they work on. This will increase the cost to the homeowner and contractor, but would eliminate the taxpayers from subsidizing new home construction in the county. She added that Mr. Leatherwood, the Building Official, advised that once the new construction begins in the Poplar Hill community, he will no longer be capable of covering the entire county, and another full-time building inspector will be necessary. Discussion followed on proffers, engineering fees, and other avenues. Supervisor Gilfillan said she felt that in addition to neighboring counties, comparison to other counties with similar growth as Prince Edward County is experiencing is necessary as well. The Board decided further review was necessary, and no action was taken at this time.

Mrs. Puckett said the General Assembly has recently passed legislation to permit an increase in the court house security fees, and Prince Edward County currently collects approximately \$30,000.00. A minimal increase could assist in funding the security costs in the courthouse and in the court rooms. She added the additional funds raised can only be used for security measures. This action would require an amendment to the ordinance. Supervisor Gilfillan requested the ordinance be brought before the Board at the May 2007 meeting for revision and a public hearing scheduled for the June 2007 meeting.

Mr. Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development, advised the Board the landfill charges are approximately \$60,000.00 more this year. He said the projected amount from in-county tipping is \$450,000.00. The fee has not been raised in about 10 years, and a \$1.00 increase in the fee would result in an additional \$15,000.00 in revenue. He also said commercial haulers currently pay a tipping fee of \$30.00 per ton, and a \$5.00 increase would raise approximately \$75,000.00.

Mr. Jonathan Pickett advised the Board that revenue from out-of-county trash goes to the landfill fund, and charges are currently \$40 per ton. He added a \$1.00 increase would only generate about \$7,000. He said normally, the landfill costs are approximately \$275,000 per year, and said a new cell at the landfill

will need to be opened next spring, at the cost of between \$1-1.2 million. Approximately \$500,000 to \$1 million will be needed per year, beginning next fiscal year, for closing old cells and opening new ones at the landfill. Mr. Pickett led a discussion on proffers, and said there is a need to request the General Assembly to approve impact fees.

Mrs. Puckett said the State allows localities to charge for decals not in excess of what the state charges for DMV registrations, which have gone up \$10.00 on action of the General Assembly. She said if the Board would wish to consider an increase in the decal fee, a \$10.00 increase from \$20.00 to \$30.00 would generate an additional \$100,000.00. This action would also require an amendment to the Motor Vehicle License ordinance. Supervisor McKay suggested charging the decal fee with the personal property taxes and doing away with the decal, as some other counties are now doing. Mrs. Puckett said she and Mable Shanaberger, Treasurer, have discussed this option. She said Mrs. Shanaberger indicated the motor vehicle license fee could be changed to a motor vehicle license tax. During the first year, the amount would be pro-rated. Mrs. Puckett stated she would speak with the County Attorney and calculate the suggested a \$5.00 increase for automobiles and trucks, and advised that a new rate would need to be determined for each specific designation of vehicle.

Mrs. Puckett reported that an increase in the real estate tax of \$0.01 would generate \$100,000 in additional revenue. She said the auditors recommend \$4 million, or 10% of the budgeted expenditures, as the General Fund balance. She added a personal property tax increase of \$0.10 would equal approximately \$100,000 in additional revenue.

Mrs. Puckett stated there have been some decreases in non-categorical aid from the State this year. She added the Board may wish to administer various grant funding at the time received rather than anticipate the funding. She added the County has used four or five years worth of its allocation grant from the Tobacco Commission to put the package together for Paris Ceramics, and it will be several more years before the County is eligible to reapply.

Mrs. Puckett advised the Board of new accounting standards that took effect in December 2006, the "SAS 112." She said the auditors advised the School Board will now be required to manage the funds for the cafeteria. The school budget, when approved, would be approved by fund, and any excess would remain in that fund. Mrs. Puckett pointed out the School Board is requesting \$50,000 for cafeteria funds,

and their budget shows a reserve balance of \$250,000. Chairman Fore stated that during the meeting with the School Board, he advised he didn't feel the taxpayers could carry the proposed tax increase, and asked for a revised plan by close of business on Friday, April 20, 2007. Discussion followed regarding past funding of schools and comparison of neighboring counties' school budgets.

Mrs. Puckett advised the Board of the "GASB 45" regulation, stating "the County has to budget for the true cost of post-employment benefits that it provides to its retirees." She said it must be listed as a liability for both county and school employees. An Actuarial Study must be completed every two years to determine the age of the workforce and the benefits offered. The Study will provide the true cost of the benefits to the taxpayers, and will show as a liability to the County in its audit. It must be in the FY 2008-2009 budget. She added the General Assembly passed legislation stating all counties will have to provide LEOS by July 1, 2008, for fiscal 2008-2009.

Mrs. Puckett gave an overview of the significant changes in the Expenditures portion of the budget. She added that some are absolute costs and others are optional.

Supervisor Ward asked about the legal right of the CDA to collect tax on the lease of the golf course for 99 years. Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett stated the CDA must request it each year and only the CDA is legally able to receive it. She added the Board will advertise it as part of the tax levy.

Chairman Fore called a five minute break.

Chairman Fore called the meeting back to session.

Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett reviewed the donation requests. After some discussion, the following recommendations were made:

Virginia Legal Aid	2,000.00
STEPS	28,665.00
Crossroads CSB	65,940.00
Piedmont Area Transit	10,000.00
Longwood Small Business	7,446.00
Longwood Visual Arts	2,625.00
Habitat for Humanity	5,000.00
Farmville Area Chamber	5,000.00
Central Virginia Library	(held for further review)
Heart of Virginia Festival	3,000.00
R.R. Moton Museum	30,000.00
Piedmont SWCD – Operations	7,200.00
Piedmont SWCD	3,000.00
Prince Edward Community Center	25,000.00
SCOPE/Meals on Wheels	10,000.00
FACES	4,500.00

YMCA	28,000.00
Prince Edward County After-Prom	1,000.00
Central Virginia Health Planning	0.00
Waterworks	0.00
Youth Empowerment Center	0.00
Commonwealth Chorale	0.00
Prince Edward – Farmville Youth Association	24,000.00
Madeline’s House	5,000.00
HOPE – Operations and Transport	10,000.00
Special Olympics	250.00
Fuqua After-Prom Party	500.00
Tri-County Life Learners	3,500.00
Piedmont Senior Resources	1,616.00
Pamplin Community Center	500.00
Jolly Glee Senior Citizens	2,000.00
Southeast RCAP	0.00
Commonwealth Regional Council	15,700.00
CRC – Legislative	8,500.00*
Old Dominion RC&D	1,775.00
Virginia Institute of Government	1,000.00
Virginia Institute of Government Compensation Survey System	400.00
Southside Virginia Community College	4,572.00
Piedmont Health District	165,218.00
Virginia Cooperative Extension	65,133.00
Piedmont Disability Services Board	500.00
Farmville Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Farmville Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Farmville Volunteer Fire Department – Haz Mat Truck (held for further review)	
Rice Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Rice Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Prospect Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Prospect Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Darlington Heights Volunteer Fire Department - Operations	53,000.00
Darlington Heights Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Meherrin Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Meherrin Volunteer Fire Department – Equipment	15,000.00
Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department – Operations	53,000.00
Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department – Equipmnt	15,000.00
Rice Volunteer Fire Department First Responder	5,000.00
Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department First Responder	5,000.00
Prince Edward Rescue Squad	60,000.00
Meherrin Rescue Squad	10,000.00
Pamplin – Purchase of Squad	25,000.00**
Appomattox Rescue Squad	1,000.00
Burkeville Volunteer Fire Department	1,200.00
Chesterfield County Med-Flight	500.00
Prince Edward Area Firefighters Association	6,000.00
Old Dominion EMS Alliance	2,000.00

*CRC has asked all counties for a per capita levy to work with lobbyists for the CRC region.

**Pamplin is converting from a First Responder to a full Rescue Squad.

With the exception of the CRC-Legislative and Pamplin Rescue Squad, all donations remained at level funding. Further review was necessary for the Central Virginia Library and for the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department – Haz Mat Truck. Suggestions were made for the Board to meet with the Fire Departments and discuss the need for level funding this fiscal year, review the plan to make each appropriation on a case by case basis, and encourage the departments themselves to choose which departments receive additional funding. Each department should provide the County with an audit; currently only Pamplin provides a copy of their audit.

Further discussion regarding the request from the Farmville Volunteer Fire Department followed. It was determined the truck would be a multi-use vehicle and not solely for hazmat use, and would be marked “Farmville Volunteer Fire Department.” Suggestions were made to give the Department \$15,000 and require them to use part of their allocation, or to hold the money until they can come up with the balance of the funds necessary for the vehicle.

A brief discussion on the budget work schedule followed. The County Budget must be approved by June 30, 2007.

In Re: School Budget Schedule

Chairman Fore stated he asked Dr. Watkins to present a revised budget request by Friday, April 20, 2007. He recommended the Board meet Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room to review the revised school budget.

In Re: Consent Agenda

Supervisor Gilfillan suggested the Board go to a consent agenda, giving one vote for all routine items on the agenda. She stated any Supervisor can pull an item out for further discussion. No action was taken at this time.

In Re: R. R. Moton School Reunion

Supervisor Cooper-Jones advised the Board a request had been made by Mickie Carrington for a donation or gift, such as a County mug, to be used as a door prize at the R.R. Moton School reunion. She stated Ms. Carrington was upset because her request had been denied.

Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett explained that she had spoken with Ms. Carrington and had denied the request. She said that historically, the County has never made donations such as this, since all items are paid for by county taxpayers. She added while the request is valid, and the R. R. Moton School is very special, there would be great difficulty in determining validity of future requests.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion to donate two 250th Anniversary mugs for the reunion, seconded by Mrs. Gilfillan. The motion carried:

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
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On motion of Mr. Simpson 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
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the meeting was recessed, and will reconvene on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 5:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.