

April 21, 2009

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday the 21th 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; and Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development.

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

In Re: Budget Work Session

Chairman Fore said Mr. Bartlett presented a balanced budget and all Board members have had a chance to review and comment, with five areas of concern: Sheriff's budget, the Library, the Fire Departments, the School budget and the donations. He said the public hearing would provide insight into the public's reactions, and that the only courses of action available would be to raise personal property taxes or dip into the General Fund balance to do anything other than what has already been published. He asked the Board to keep those options in mind as they listen to the public comments, which will help them make the final determination on the budget.

Mr. Bartlett said the Personnel Committee met with Sheriff Travis Harris regarding his budget, and recommended the transfer of \$25,000 from Part Time Fund to the Overtime Fund. He said the Sheriff

will review his budget for additional changes within the department to see if the \$25,000 will be enough in the Overtime Fund to see him through the year. Mr. Bartlett said the Sheriff also has the "Courts" line item this year; the Sheriff's total department budget is only \$104 less than the previous fiscal year out of an almost \$2 million budget. Mr. Bartlett added the Sheriff's Department is budgeted to purchase four new vehicles this fiscal year.

Mr. Bartlett turned the discussion to the Library request for increased funding of approximately \$64,000. He said it is predicated on the new library building which is expected to open in the middle of the fiscal year. He said they accept the budgeted donation as was submitted (level funded), but after the library opens and they have a better idea of operating costs, would approach the Board for an additional appropriation if necessary.

Discussion followed on the obligations of the donation recipients to report their financial status to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. McKay asked for an explanation on the Library's process used to determine the per capita; Mr. Bartlett said he hasn't yet received the information.

Mr. Jonathan Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development, sent a letter to the fire departments regarding the availability of the grant and will follow up in a few days by phone to see if any are interested and where their interest lies. Mr. Bartlett recommended the budget be passed as is and after the grant announcements in or around September 2009, the Board could adjust the amount provided to the Fire Departments. He then reviewed possible actions the Board could take regarding the proposed budget.

Supervisor Gilfillan asked how much the County gives to the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC). Mr. Bartlett said the dues are \$15,600 and the lobbyist is \$8,500; he recommended to level fund the dues and not fund the lobbyist. Supervisor Moore said the CRC is not going to lobby this year, and thanked the Board for its support.

Mr. Bartlett said he spoke with Dr. Watkins, Prince Edward County School Superintendent, who made the recommendation on how the schools could absorb the funding cut of 1.2% from the County. He said on the whole, funding to the school was reduced by 0.35% of the total budget. He added there has been no recommendation from the School Board. Mr. Bartlett recommended the School Board be permitted to keep 50% of any savings they generate during the year; it would provide an incentive to save.

He added the savings are taxpayer money and the 50% would allow the School to carry a fund balance in the school budget. Supervisors Gilfillan and Wiley suggested the school be permitted to keep 100%; Mr. Bartlett said any savings generated would have to be appropriated by the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Fore said if the schools are permitted to keep 100%, it may turn into an incentive to save more and not use the funding appropriately. Mr. Bartlett said the second request was to cut out funding appropriated by category. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett said the boiler at the Cannery can be repaired without the need to replace the entire boiler. The boiler repairman said the tubes within the casing need to be replaced, at an estimated cost of \$20,000. Mr. Bartlett said a new boiler would cost approximately \$47,000.

Discussion followed on various cost-saving measures. Mr. Bartlett asked the Board to be cognizant of actions taken this year will also affect next year's budget, and that the likelihood for need to construct a cell at the landfill during the next budget year.

Supervisor Ward inquired as to whether the Sheriff's Department applied for Federal grants during the past year. Mr. Bartlett said Deputy Raybold applied for a number of grants; the Department received \$370,000 in conjunction with the regional partners to replace radios in the Sheriff's Department, and may get \$87,000 of funding for a GIS system. He added these were all competitive grants.

Supervisor Jones reminded the Board of an agreement made between the County and the Fire Departments in the past of an annual obligation to the Fire Departments.

Mr. Bartlett stressed the importance of continuing to invest in infrastructure, as that is the County's revenue generators into the future. He said investments in infrastructure position the County to compete more effectively for economic development projects. Future development is important as it generates more tax revenue which allows increased funding for the schools and fire department.

Supervisor Ward asked about the agreement with Wiley and Wilson. Mr. Bartlett said he received a report from Wiley and Wilson concerning the proposal from Draper Aden and Crowder Construction, but has been unable to review it at length at this time. He said the interim agreement is to provide the information that the County will use to determine to proceed or not in the next step of the project.

Some further discussion followed.

In Re: Holiday Schedule

Chairman Fore said the Personnel Committee recommends the following County holiday schedule:

Memorial Day	Friday, May 22 – Closed All Day Monday, May 25 – Closed All Day
July 4 th	Friday, July 3 – Closed All Day Monday, July 6 - Closed All Day
Labor Day	Friday, September 4 - Closed All Day Monday, September 7 - Closed All Day
Columbus Day	Friday, October 9 - Closed All Day Monday, October 12 - Closed All Day
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11 - Closed All Day
Thanksgiving	Wednesday, November 25 - Closed All Day Thursday, November 26 - Closed All Day Friday, November 27 - Closed All Day
Christmas	Wednesday, December 23 - Closed All Day Thursday, December 24 - Closed All Day Friday, December 25 - Closed All Day
New Years	Wednesday, December 30 - Closed All Day Thursday, December 31 - Closed All Day Friday, January 1 - Closed All Day

Supervisor Moore made a motion to accept the recommended holiday schedule; the motion carried unanimously:

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
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[The Board took a 15-minute recess.]