

April 24, 2012

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 24th day of April, 2012; at 3:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

William G. Fore, Jr.

Don C. Gantt, Jr.

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

Jim R. Wilck

Absent: Pattie Cooper-Jones

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Fore called the Special Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., stating the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Work Session in preparation of the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2013 County Budget and the Prince Edward County School Budget for 2012-2013.

Supervisor McKay offered the invocation.

In Re: Authorization of Property Acquisition Documents

Supervisor Simpson made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or the County Administrator to sign all documents pertaining to the Davis property and the Glad Hill property acquisitions; the motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay: None
	William G. Fore, Jr.	
	Don C. Gantt, Jr.	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Charles W. McKay	
	Howard F. Simpson	
	Jim R. Wilck	

Absent: Pattie Cooper-Jones

In Re: FY 12-13 County Budget Review

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, reviewed the proposed budget adjustments and stated the proposed current draw from the General Fund Balance would be \$416,003. The recommended adjustments total \$78,997.

Mr. Bartlett stated the VRS and the associated 5.7% Pay Adjustment is the largest adjustment in this year's budget, and appears that it will be mandated by the state. He said to make it a level-issue for the employees, it would be necessary to provide a 5.7% increase to their salaries. VRS is taken pre-tax, therefore the employees would not have to pay federal and state taxes on that, but Social Security tax is taken. He briefly reviewed the other recommended adjustments: Farmville Area Bus, Special Olympics, Piedmont Soil and Water District, and Madeline's House.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Bartlett reviewed information from Lee Cox of the Piedmont Health District, stating the need for an increase in funding or the Health Department would need to reduce services or staffing.

Mr. Bartlett then briefly reviewed requests for funding from SVCC, R. R. Moton, the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library, HOPE, and Crossroads, which were not included in the proposed adjustments. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Simpson stated he wished to include \$5,597 to the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library for computers and staffing. Supervisor Wilck agreed; the Board concurred.

Chairman Fore inquired as to the impact on Cross Roads if additional funding is not granted; Mr. Bartlett stated it would affect the level of services provided and would mean fewer counselors for juveniles. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Gantt expressed his concerns about the proposed budget, the VRS pay adjustment and the employee health insurance. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Gantt made a motion to revisit the health insurance issue.

Supervisor Wilck asked for clarification on the motion and asked Supervisor Gantt to present the information regarding the proposed insurance differences in a dollar amount. Discussion followed regarding the insurance policies and the possibility of self-insurance.

Supervisor Jones stated there are differences between the County and the Schools' benefits for their employees; in the past, the School Board elected to give raises to the School employees when the Board of Supervisors did not give raises to the County employees. He added there is a possibility of a service charge to be placed on state-owned property.

After further discussion, Chairman Fore restated Supervisor Gantt's motion to revisit the employee insurance plan; the motion failed:

Aye:	Don C. Gantt, Jr.	Nay:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck	Abstain:	Howard M. Campbell
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Mr. Bartlett requested input regarding budget line items. He reviewed Revenues and stated there are no major changes expected.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the rate of collections; Mr. Bartlett stated it is at about the same rate as in previous years. Discussion followed on collection of taxes from those that are in arrears, and the possibility of publishing the names of delinquent taxpayers in the newspaper.

Supervisor Jones asked about the upcoming need for a renewed landfill contract. Mr. Bartlett said the County will go out for bids for a new landfill contract; if necessary, tipping fees will be adjusted. Discussion followed on the anticipated costs of the landfill, such as diesel.

Supervisor Gantt then asked about the amount that the school is short. Dr. K. David Smith, Superintendent, said it is approximately \$785,000. Dr. Smith stated the state has adjusted their funding to \$130,000 assuming that the Governor approves what is recommended, which leaves a shortfall of \$655,000. Discussion followed on the cuts that may have to be made.

Mr. Bartlett stated the Governor has not made adjustments to the state budget and has until next week to make adjustments. He said the state budget won't be final for another two to three weeks; the major points in the General Assembly are education and transportation.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones expressed her support for the schools and stated that if a tax increase is necessary, she will support the increase. She added that the Board should revisit the budget and look at the tax rates.

Supervisor Gantt suggested the Board revisit the budget to “cut the fat” from the budget. He said he could not support a tax increase due to the current economy.

Mr. Bartlett explained that doing so would require a new public hearing and stated the time required between each. He said the Board could advertise the new tax rate almost immediately; the budget could be passed in May or as late as June.

Supervisor McKay expressed his concern for the citizens that state a tax increase would put them in jeopardy of losing their homes; he stated he is not in favor of an increase this year.

Supervisor Gantt made a motion to revisit the budget to seek reductions and reconstruct the budget as need be. After some discussion, Supervisor Gantt withdrew his motion.

Chairman Fore clarified that there is no direction to the County Administrator other than to increase the budget by six items and decrease by one item as previously stated. The Board concurred.

Supervisor McKay announced a Town Hall Meeting with Senator Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., to be held Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Crawley Forum, Hampden-Sydney College. He asked the citizens to attend and express their support for the schools to the Senator.

Supervisor Campbell stated the County is giving \$416,000 more than last year; the state has made the budget cuts. He added the Board has always given funding to the schools.

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

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay: None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones	
	William G. Fore, Jr.	
	Don C. Gantt, Jr.	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Charles W. McKay	
	Howard F. Simpson	
	Jim R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 4:06 p.m. until Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.