

April 7, 2015

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015; at 2:00 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Calvin L. Gray

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order as a reconvened meeting for the purpose of hearing donation requests.

In Re: Budget Presentations

The following FY 2015-2016 donation requests were presented:

Virginia Legal Aid		\$ 1,560.00
STEPS	25,000.00	STEPS
	14,488.00	STEPS-CAP
Crossroads Community Services		75,000.00
Longwood Small Business		15,000.00
PE-FA Youth Association		24,000.00
Habitat for Humanity		5,000.00
Madeline's House		7,500.00
Farmville Chamber of Commerce		6,530.00
Downtown Farmville		30,000.00

Farmville/Prince Edward Library	212,463.00
Heart of Virginia Festival	2,850.00
R. R. Moton Museum	20,000.00
Piedmont Soil & Water District	6,840.00 – Operations 5,000.00 -Dam Maintenance
SCOPE/Meals on Wheels	5,000.00
FACES	5,000.00
YMCA	20,000 Summer Program 25,000.00 County Programs 23,000 Summer Camp
Piedmont Area Transit	10,000.00
Special Olympics	1,000.00
Piedmont Senior Resources	8,000.00
Heart of Virginia Free Clinic	25,000.00
Longwood Visual Arts	2,494.00
Virso Recreation & Community Center	30,000.00
Old Dominion EMS Alliance	1,652.00
Pamplin Community Center	450.00
Prince Edward County After-Prom	950.00
Fuqua After-Prom	475.00
Tri-County Life Learners	3,325.00
Jolly Glee Senior Citizens	2,000.00
FACES	5,000.00
Commonwealth Regional Council	17,000.00
SVCC	5,954.00
Heart of Virginia Fireworks	2,000.00

Dr. Peter Gur requested the Board of Supervisors consider the needs of the Prince Edward County Schools and mentioned the need for a new Middle School roof and the teacher's aides.

Chairman Simpson called a five minute break.

Chairman Simpson called the meeting back to order.

In Re: Establish Tax Levies for Public Hearing

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated the Finance Committee could not come to a consensus as to what the advertised property tax rate should be.

Mr. Bartlett stated the proposed rate reflects the numbers in the budget book now. No changes have yet been made; this is informational and Fiscal Planning purposes only. He stated his recommendation is for the proposed tax levy of \$0.51 for Real Estate Tax Rate and CDA Special Levy of \$0.25. He stated the Board adopts the rates by Ordinance. This sets the stage for the Board to discuss the rates and any changes. Mr. Bartlett reminded the Board that once the rate is advertised, it can always be lowered, but it cannot be raised above the advertised rate unless the Board re-advertises the public hearing. Doing so would not allow the Board to meet the budget schedule.

Supervisor Timmons stated cutting \$300,000 from the budget is not an issue to be concerned about and recommended setting the Real Estate Tax rate at \$0.49. He stated that would still allow some savings in the budget.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones left the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Timmons stated it can be re-advertised if things change; he added the potential self-insurance savings aren't included. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jones stated the self-insurance appears to be a good savings, but the Board needs to stay away from using the County's savings.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones returned to the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Timmons stated advertising the Real Estate Tax rate at \$0.51 would cause anxiety and advertising the rate at \$0.49 helps with perception and will alleviate anxiety.

Supervisor McKay stated advertising the Real Estate Tax rate at \$0.51 and then dropping the rate two cents would help alleviate anxiety.

Supervisor Townsend said the proposed rate is not to raise taxes at all and is the equalized rate. He added that it is not fair to have tax increases back to back and people will see this as a tax increase.

Mr. Bartlett stated this is not a tax increase but an equalized rate; the rate will increase but it isn't considered a tax increase because the assessments went down. It's an equalized value. He stated that even at \$0.51, 62% of the residential tax parcels will pay less with this equalized rate. The Board cannot continue to take from the General Fund.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the \$0.49 rate. Supervisor Timmons stated the \$0.49 rate keeps the General Fund intact with the exception of what is offset for the Water & Sewer funds, and the self-insurance would allow a \$250,000 cushion.

Mr. Bartlett stated for the Board to set the rate at \$0.49, the Board would have to cut \$300,000 from Expenses.

Supervisor Timmons stated the Donation Requests have not been addressed; Mr. Bartlett stated the only increase requested was STEPS for the Community Action Program. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated cuts were proposed, but the Committee decided to wait until all donation requests were received, to look at all prior to making any possible cuts in departments.

Supervisor Timmons said revenues may be anticipated; there is a net savings to carry over from this year due to the departments working hard to control spending, but to advertise the rate at \$0.51 would cause undue stress. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett asked for direction from the Board on cutting \$300,000 from the budget.

Supervisor McKay made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Jones, to authorize advertisement for a public hearing scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed FY 16 County Budget and County Tax Rates as presented; the motion failed:

Aye: Robert M. Jones  
Charles W. McKay

Nay: Pattie Cooper-Jones  
Calvin L. Gray  
Howard F. Simpson  
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Jim R. Wilck

Supervisor Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, to authorize advertisement for a public hearing scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed FY 16 County Budget and County Tax Rates set at \$0.49 and with the difference of \$300,000 to be removed from the School Budget; the motion carried:

<p>Aye:       Pattie Cooper-Jones                    Calvin L. Gray                    Charles W. McKay                    Howard F. Simpson                    C. Robert Timmons, Jr.                    Jim R. Wilck</p>	<p>Nay:   Robert M. Jones                 Jerry R. Townsend</p>
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In Re: Fire/EMS Agency Donation Request Presentations

The following FY 2015-2016 donation requests were presented:

Prince Edward Firefighters Association	\$       8,000.00
Farmville Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Rice Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Prospect Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Darlington Heights Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Meherrin Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Pamplin Volunteer Fire Department	74,800.00
Prince Edward Rescue Squad	66,000.00
Meherrin Rescue Squad	13,000.00
Pamplin Volunteer EMS	5,000.00
Hampden-Sydney 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder	7,000.00
Burkeville Volunteer Fire Department	1,200.00
Chesterfield County Med-Flight	3,000.00

On motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, seconded by Supervisor Gray, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	Calvin L. Gray	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Charles W. McKay	
	Howard F. Simpson	
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	Jim R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 5:38 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 for a Budget Work Session.