

April 3, 2018

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2018; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Cooper-Jones called the reconvened meeting to order for a budget work session.

In Re: Health Insurance

Mary Jones, Insurance Consultant, reviewed the claim history for the County's insurance plan and the recommended increase that the County allocates for health insurance, including the division of cost among employees.

Ms. Jones presented statistics on plans and options for the renewals and recommended an increase of 7% but at a minimum of 5.5%. She said the estimated renewal cost is 4.6% less than if the County had remained with Total Choice.

Discussion followed regarding the funding reserve and where the County would like to see itself in the future regarding the rates.

Supervisor Timmons stated the Finance Committee recommends the 7% increase. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett asked what the impact would be if the County did not increase the rate. Ms. Jones stated insurance prices are increasing, but the insurance funds could be depleted and the County would then have to find the funds elsewhere in the County budget.

Supervisor Wilck asked when the decision must be made; Ms. Jones said the open enrollment is held in May, but the decision should be made some time in April.

Mr. Bartlett said this will be addressed at the regular monthly meeting.

In Re: STEPS, Inc.

Mr. Bartlett stated that during the budget work session on March 28, 2018, the Board had several questions concerning how STEPS used the funding Prince Edward County provided and the guidelines for the distribution of funding in the funding STEPS received from various sources as it pertained to the Energy Share Program and the Homeless Solutions Program.

Mr. Bartlett reviewed information provided by STEPS that included criteria that STEPS must follow to determine eligibility for the Energy Share Program and how the funds can be used. The funds are available for use in Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties; during the most recent completed quarter, 39% of all households receiving assistance were from Prince Edward County.

Mr. Bartlett then reviewed information regarding the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) which includes Shelter Operations, Rapid Rehousing and Prevention.

Mr. Bartlett also presented information on how STEPS uses the \$20,000 the Board of Supervisors provides to STEPS, and reviewed an intake form that STEPS must use for the various housing programs funded by state funds. The use of this form is mandated by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

In Re: Poplar Hill CDA Special Tax Levy

Mr. Bartlett said the County has received a letter from the Chairman of the Poplar Hill CDA requesting the County advertise a Special Tax Levy of \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value for properties located in the CDA district.

Supervisor Wilck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pride, to authorize advertisement of the Special Levy Tax rate of \$1.00 for the Poplar Hill CDA; the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones  
J. David Emert  
Robert M. Jones  
Odessa H. Pride  
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.  
Jerry R. Townsend  
Jim R. Wilck

Nay: None

In Re: Decision Points to Establish a FY19 County Budget

Mr. Bartlett asked the Board for their concerns regarding the proposed budget.

Supervisor Wilck said the County needs to get out of the VGA; he said after four years, they have produced nothing for Prince Edward County. He said to date, it has cost Prince Edward County \$216,800 and another payment is due. Supervisor Wilck recommended we continue the contract with Retail Strategies because they have relationships with companies and are working to market the County.

Supervisor Timmons asked if the County has recovered any of the value; Mr. Bartlett said the County received about \$11,000 because of the contract with Stihl. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Wilck said the County has put \$93,440 into VGA and will have to, by contract, put another \$23,360 to get out of [VGA]. He said Amelia is leaving also. He said every time a business goes into a neighboring county, we lose the possibility of getting to that company.

Supervisor Wilck made a motion to leave participation in VGA as soon as possible.

Supervisor Timmons asked for the cost of leaving the VGA.

Mr. Bartlett said member jurisdictions can leave the VGA by giving six months written notice, unless waived by the other member jurisdictions.

After some discussion, Chairman Cooper-Jones called for the vote.

Supervisor Timmons made an amended motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to not renew membership in VGA and to ask the other member localities to waive the six-month notice requirement. Supervisor Wilck rescinded his motion.

Mr. Bartlett stated Prince Edward County is in a contract with Retail Strategies with five to six entities or locations; he said he will have to research to see if it is with VGA. He said the one concern is resentment from the state because VEDP was pushing all counties to regionalize. He said most leads come from VEDP; he said he is concerned that they may withhold Prince Edward County from prospects. Mr.

Bartlett added it is difficult to get manufacturing in Prince Edward County; places like Danville and Martinsville are better suited to manufacturing. Discussion followed.

Chairman Cooper-Jones called for a vote on Supervisor Timmons' motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to not renew membership in VGA and to ask the other member localities to waive the six-month notice requirement; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	Robert M. Jones
	J. David Emert		
	Odessa H. Pride		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	Jim R. Wilck		

Supervisor Wilck asked if the funding for the IT person for the library is in the budget and suggested that someone that works in IT is asked to help with the interview process. Mr. Bartlett said the funding is in the budget.

Supervisor Timmons said if the County can get out of the VGA, the funds should be put towards marketing. Mr. Bartlett said it will be left in the Economic Development budget.

Supervisor Wilck said larger signs should be put on the County-owned property. He said the properties should be advertised as "Build to suit." Supervisor Timmons said there should be pad-ready and shovel-ready sites available. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett said there is no proposed tax increase for FY19. He said the General Assembly has not yet passed a budget, but the County can move forward with the public hearing for the County budget and school budget. He said the Board wanted to level fund the schools at \$8.4 million and they are asking for an additional \$600,000. He said Debt Service is also local funds. He reminded the Board that the advertisement of the proposed budget is for informational purposes only. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, to authorize advertisement of the FY18-19 Proposed Budget; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	None
	J. David Emert		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Odessa H. Pride		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	Jim R. Wilck		

In Re: Appointment – Piedmont Court Services Board

Mr. Bartlett said an appointment to the Piedmont Court Services Board was necessary to fill a vacancy created by the passing of Howard Simpson. After some discussion, Chairman Cooper-Jones appointed Supervisor Emert to the Piedmont Court Services Board.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Wilck made a motion, seconded by Chairman Pride, that the Board convene in Closed Session for discussion of plans related to the security of a county public safety structure, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(19) of the *Code of Virginia*; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride C. Robert Timmons, Jr. Jerry R. Townsend Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
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The Board returned to regular session by motion of Supervisor Wilck, seconded by Supervisor Emert and adopted as follows:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride C. Robert Timmons, Jr. Jerry R. Townsend Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
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On motion of Supervisor Emert and seconded by Supervisor Timmons, and carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride C. Robert Timmons, Jr. Jerry R. Townsend Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
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the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Wilck said he and Supervisor Pride wish to see the new Luck Stone quarry. Mr. Bartlett said they have not yet had their grand opening; they refuse to do it until they have everything exactly how they want. Mr. Bartlett said the Board members can go together but cannot conduct County business. Mr. Bartlett said the trip to the quarry could be noticed; he said he will contact them again to request a Luck Stone tour.

Supervisor Timmons said a member of the Planning Board is resigning or has resigned; he asked if all the districts represented. Mr. Bartlett said the Planning Commission is not represented by districts. Supervisor Jones said there are three from the Town, six from outside the Town, and one Board representative. Discussion followed on why there are Town representatives on the County Planning Commission since the Town has its own Planning and Zoning Commission.

Supervisor Timmons said over 90 bags of trash was picked up in the Darlington Heights area, plus about 10 tires, and an ice chest. He said some of the roads that were cleared of trash are already showing trash. He said the jail crew needs to be activated. Mr. Bartlett said they were out on Monroe Church Road yesterday. Discussion followed regarding the jail crew program.

On motion of Supervisor Wilck, seconded by Supervisor Jones, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	J. David Emert	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Odessa H. Pride	
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	Jim R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 6:57 p.m. until Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for a budget work session.