

January 31, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Friday, the 31st day of January, 2014; at 9:00 a.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Absent: Pattie Cooper-Jones

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; and Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator.

Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order.

In Re: FY 15 County Budget Guidance

Mr. Bartlett presented a summary of impacts of past state actions and an outlook of the FY15 budget challenges. He reviewed constraints that exist in reducing General Fund Expenditures.

Mr. Bartlett added the preliminary school budget calls for an additional \$1,185,781 in local funds and a total of \$11,990,375 for a five year capital improvement program. While only 17 counties spend more per pupil in operations than Prince Edward County, a better measure of how Prince Edward County compares to sister counties would be to compare to the other counties based on the Required Local Effort and Required Local Match Report. This report measures by how much each County has exceeded the local match requirements for the Standards of Quality. A review of this report shows that 47 counties provide a higher percentage of funding than Prince Edward County and 47 provide a lower percentage of funding; Prince Edward County is exactly in the middle.

Discussion followed regarding the Prince Edward County Landfill, the Piedmont Regional Jail, and the proposed School budget.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Bartlett questioned if there are areas “off limits” for reductions. There was concurrence among the Board members that the funding for the volunteer firefighters should not be cut. Discussion followed regarding the proposed school budget, county employee health insurance benefits, the Piedmont Regional Jail, and donations provided to outside organizations, and staff.

Mr. Bartlett requested the Board members to submit any questions regarding the School budget; the questions may then be compiled and submitted to the School to give them time to research the answers.

Mr. Bartlett stated that it would be difficult to balance the budget without a tax increase to cover the \$1.5 million increase unless there would be major reductions in every department to include the funding provided to the schools. Currently only 19 people work for the County; most staff is in the Constitutional Offices and the Social Services department. He added information from the DMV regarding the personal property taxes is expected next week.

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

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

the meeting was recessed at 10:40 a.m. until Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. for the Six Year Plan Work Session with VDOT.