

June 4, 2007

At a public hearing of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Courthouse Building on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., there were present:

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman

Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Sally W. Gilfillan

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

James C. Moore

Lacy B. Ward

Also present: Sarah Elam Puckett, Acting County Administrator.

Chairman Fore called the Board of Supervisors to order.

In Re: Public Hearing - Prince Edward County Budget

Chairman Fore said this is the date and time that has been advertised in the May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 edition of THE FARMVILLE HERALD, a newspaper published in the County of Prince Edward for the public hearing on the Prince Edward County Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008.

The proposed budget, as advertised, includes the following highlights:

- A 16.1% increase (which equates to a little over \$1 million) in local funding for the School Operating Budget, which includes a 4% increase for teachers and employees;
- A 5.0% decrease in the operating budgets of County departments and Constitutional Offices;
- A 3.2% salary increase for County employees;

- A 5% reduction in the award of donation requests funded by the County with no anticipated funding for new requests; and
- Level funding for the County's volunteer fire and rescue units, except for new funding for the establishment of the Pamplin Volunteer Rescue Squad.

"Prince Edward County has avoided a tax increase for the last several years by drawing down the County's General Fund balance. Unfortunately, we are not able to avoid a tax increase this year, and the advertised Budget includes the following tax and fee increases:

- A 10 cent increase in the County's Real Estate Tax, from \$0.50/\$100 to \$0.60/\$100 of assessed value;
- A 30 cent increase in the County's Personal Property Tax, from \$4.20/\$100 to \$4.50/\$100 of assessed value;
- A \$5.00 increase in the cost of the Motor Vehicle License decal; and
- A \$5.00 increase in the Courthouse Security Fee, which is assessed on individuals involved in court cases.

"The county budget, as advertised, anticipates having a beginning General Fund Balance of approximately \$4 million on June 30, 2007, which represents the funds needed to operate the County government from July through December, when tax revenues are collected. If all budget requests are funded at the current proposed level and all funds are expended per the budget, the anticipated ending General Fund Balance on June 30, 2008 will be about \$2.5 million."

Chairman Fore opened the floor for public comment. He added that it was the first public hearing that there was absolutely no one present to speak to the Board.

Acting County Administrator Sarah Puckett said she learned of a telephone call from Patrick Murphy who had stated he wished to attend the meeting and speak, but would be running late.

After a few moments, Chairman Fore stated that since there were no citizens to speak for or against the proposed budget, the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Fore said the Board would not take action at that time and would consider the adoption of the County Budget at its June 13, 2007 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Moore and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr.	Nay:	None
	Howard F. Simpson		
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	Sally W. Gilfillan		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	James C. Moore		
	Lacy B. Ward		

the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.