

April 2, 2019

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of April, 2019; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Gene A. Southall

Jerry R. Townsend

James R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Wilck called the reconvened meeting to order.

In Re: Review of Fire Department Requests

Mr. Bartlett asked for input on the Fire & EMS donation requests.

Supervisor Gilliam made a suggestion to meet with all the Fire Chiefs to discuss the requests. He said he did not feel it right to give one department more than another. Discussion followed.

The Board concurred; a meeting will be scheduled.

In Re: Health Insurance Rates

Mr. Bartlett presented a chart of the proposed health insurance rates.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to approve the proposed health insurance rates as presented; the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Gene A. Southall
Jerry R. Townsend
James R. Wilck

Nay: None

In Re: Longwood Small Business Development Center

Mr. Bartlett said there is currently no funding in the recommended budget.

Supervisor Pride said she met with Sheri McGuire, Executive Director, SBDC, to discuss the requested \$6,750. Supervisor Pride reviewed highlights from the SBDC Annual Report, stating the organization assists a diverse group of people. She said they have been working with Kate Eggleston, Director of Economic Development, and reviewed client success of the businesses in their program

Supervisor Pride said she asked how much Longwood University gives to the SBDC; Ms. McGuire said Longwood provides \$183,091 or about 30% of their budget. She said their basic operating funds from the different counties are \$123,000 - \$125,000 and from the \$315,000 from the federal government, which must be matched dollar for dollar.

Chairman Wilck said he too met with Ms. McGuire; he said that the ROI is subjective and the results could have been obtained without their assistance. He said a token amount could be given. He said the Town [of Farmville] hasn't given anything in eight years, no donations. He said after the first year, the Town has not received any flak.

Chairman Wilck stated the Longwood University budget is about \$129 million, buildings are going up all around town and without the County donation, there won't be a change in the Small Business Development Center or Moton Museum. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Pride made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, to donate \$2,000 to the Longwood Small Business Development Center; the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Gene A. Southall
Jerry R. Townsend
James R. Wilck

Nay: None

In Re: Moton Museum

Chairman Wilck said Longwood University owns the Moton Museum; he said if the Board doesn't donate, nothing would change. He said the Board should not borrow money to donate to someone else.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said the Board is borrowing money for the retrofit of the Courthouse, two new buildings, and STEPS Centre, not to donate to anyone else. She said the Museum must raise money to fund the programs and scholarships. She said they don't get money from Longwood to do programs or scholarships; Longwood pays for operation of the building only and employees. She said it is devastating that the Board doesn't want to fund the Moton Museum. Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated the quote in the Herald was not a Board statement, it was Chairman Wilck's opinion. She said the Board is scrutinized by what is said and done; she added the Board can give [donations] to all these other things, so the Board needs to be careful about what we say and how they're said.

Supervisor Pride said Longwood [University] will pay to make sure the Small Business Development Center and the Moton Museum are taken care of, but said she is happy that Supervisor Cooper-Jones investigated where the money [from donations] goes. She said a lot of programs depend on that donation. She said they must do research before decisions are made.

Supervisor Jones said that at one time, the Board funded the Museum with a donation of \$20,000. He said the County doesn't have to fund that much with Longwood stepping in; the Board is borrowing for infrastructure and an \$8,000 donation to Moton will not make or break the County.

Supervisor Townsend made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, to donate \$8,000 to the Moton Museum which is level funding.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Townsend said the County's most valuable asset is its citizens. He said the Board is to maintain the welfare and safety of the citizens.

Chairman Wilck said he has nothing against the Moton Museum and said he was there during the sit-ins and walk-outs.

Supervisor Gilliam said the Board has to watch the money and it needs to go to a good purpose. He said he supports helping health assistance, children and education, learning history is good to have in the

classroom as a lot is being done away with. He said Longwood University owns [the museum] and is responsible for it.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said the Museum's operation costs are paid for by Longwood [University]; the donations go for the educational programs.

Supervisor Emert called for the question.

Supervisor Townsend restated his motion to donate \$8,000 to the Moton Museum, and seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
	J. David Emert		James R. Wilck
	Robert M. Jones		
	Odessa H. Pride		
	Gene A. Southall		
	Jerry R. Townsend		

In Re: Recreation

Supervisor Townsend made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 to the Recreation Fund, to be spent with the full Board's approval of a request made by a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. He stated there are five rural districts; the three districts in town have recreational opportunities. He added that the PEFYA is funded at \$25,000 historically, which is Parks & Recreation, but they're treated differently. He said the use of funds from the Recreation Fund would have to be voted upon.

Mr. Bartlett said there is a Recreation Fund which is combined in the General Fund; he asked if a line item should be added at \$10,000. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Pride said it should be a line item; she then asked since there are five districts, what if only one of the five requests it, and could that one district request all of it or only a portion of it.

Supervisor Townsend said if the Board feels that the request is valid, and the Board votes to approve it, then the requesting organization could get more; discussion followed on the necessity of the requesting organization being a 501(c)3. The Board concurred that the organization would not need to be a 501(c)3.

Supervisor Townsend restated his motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, to donate \$10,000 to a Recreation Line Item to be appropriated with the full Board's approval of a request made by an organization and to be used on equipment and infrastructure; the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Gene A. Southall
Jerry R. Townsend
James R. Wilck

Nay: None

In Re: Retail Strategies Contract (VGA)

Mr. Bartlett said when the Board participated in the VGA, most members agreed to enter into a contract with "Retail Strategies," a consultant for retail marketing. He said the first year, they gathered information on the participating counties, and the second year they contacted retail organizations; they spoke with three companies that are interested in Farmville.

Mr. Bartlett said there is one more year on the contract; he said he spoke with Retail Strategies before they entered into the agreement with VGA, who was able to provide a discount of \$20,000 because there would be only one contact and they wouldn't have to be in contact with each individual county. He said now that Prince Edward County is moving out of the VGA, there is a conundrum with the contract. He said there are two options: First, Prince Edward County continues to work with Retail Strategies through the VGA contract. Second, Retail Strategies could work with Prince Edward County separately; there would be a price difference but we would receive more services. He said they will work more directly with Kate Eggleston; this would cost \$30,000 for the year. He said they would come to Prince Edward County and would represent the County. Discussion followed.

Chairman Wilck stated the other counties get something from this contract but Prince Edward County does not. He said retail comes and goes; a lot of retail did not make it.

Supervisor Pride asked if the County is officially out of VGA on July 1. Mr. Bartlett said that is correct. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones suggested tabling the issue until the Board can speak with the County Attorney; then they can speak with Retail Strategies.

In Re: Other Expenditures

Mr. Bartlett asked the Board if there were other questions.

Supervisor Emert said that part of the School's request is also being proposed as a grant through the CRC. He said [they are applying for] \$100,000 for a handicapped playground.

Supervisor Pride left the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said there is no purpose to having an additional assistant principal at the Middle School. She said she could support it if they need teachers, but not additional administration. Some discussion followed.

Supervisor Pride returned to the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Townsend questioned the increase of \$22,000 requested by the library. Mr. Bartlett said that is intended for pay raises and health insurance costs.

Supervisor Emert asked how the library is funded. Mr. Bartlett said it receives funding from the State, the County and the Town; it is a regional library.

Chairman Wilck said of everything the County has, the library is used the most.

Mr. Bartlett said \$320,000 goes to salary; they are adding a Library Tech position, they are adjusting three positions, and they will provide a raise to the business manager, a cataloguer and a director. He added there is an increase of \$1,800 for books, and the \$21,972 increase is included in the budget.

Supervisor Townsend questioned the Pay Raise Reserve Fund. Mr. Bartlett said there is \$150,000 in that line item and it is used to fund the 3% pay raise; there is \$10,000 in the Contingency Fund for the Board's use.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones questioned the salary for the Registrar and any pay increases she has received. Mr. Bartlett said she received the same increases as the rest of the County employees. He said the State provides 70% of her salary and the County funds the rest.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones asked if she received step-up pay; discussion followed.

Supervisor Emert said he and Supervisor Pride met with the Treasurer a few weeks ago and asked if the County is seeing any increase from the collection of delinquent taxes. Mr. Bartlett said he was unsure at this time. Discussion followed.

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

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	J. David Emert	
	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Odessa H. Pride	
	Gene A. Southall	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	James R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 7:09 p.m. until Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, 111 South Street, Third Floor, Farmville, Virginia.