

February 7, 2017

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 7th day of February, 2017; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Calvin L. Gray

Robert M. Jones

Odessa H. Pride

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; and Jim Ennis, County Attorney.

Chairman Jones meeting to order as a reconvened meeting and budget work session.

Supervisor Simpson requested a two percent salary increase be provided to all County employees in the FY18 budget; he added the General Assembly provided for the State employees, the Sheriff departments and Constitutional Officers' employees, and the Comp Board will provide two percent to those employees.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, stated the House and Senate completed their budgets and include a two percent salary adjustment for state supported local employees; Constitutional Officers employees' increases are scheduled to be in place August 1. Mr. Bartlett said the Governor does not have it in his budget, but had a 1.5% bonus in his budget. He added the cost to the County for a two percent salary increase for all County employees would be approximately \$125,000; the Comp Board would provide about \$60,000 which would offset the cost to the County.

Supervisor Timmons asked that this topic be included in the budget discussion following the Closed Session. Discussion followed.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Simpson, that the Board convene in Closed Session for the discussion, consideration, and evaluation of the performance, salary and contract of the County Administrator, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the *Code of Virginia*; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones Calvin L. Gray Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride Howard F. Simpson 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 Timmons, seconded by Supervisor Gray and adopted as follows:

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

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones Calvin L. Gray Robert M. Jones Odessa H. Pride Howard F. Simpson 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 Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, to accept the extension of the contract as presented with the modifications in agreement with Mr. Bartlett for a period of three years and four months; the motion carried:

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

In Re: Discussion of FY17 County Budget

Mr. Bartlett stated the General Assembly reports their revenues are about what were expected with modest increases. He stated the salary increases of three percent by both the House and Senate for State employees, and state supported local employees receive an increase of two percent effective 1 August. Mr. Bartlett reported the House did not supply a specific amount for a salary increase for teachers, but additional funds were proposed for pupil allocation; the school divisions may use the funds at their discretion. The Senate propose an additional two percent pay increase for the SOQ qualified instructional staff.

Mr. Bartlett then reported both the House and Senate have a new funding stream for schools, for the smaller schools that have experienced a decline in enrollment. An impact of federal legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, it will be a negative impact on the budget, and they have assigned a joint subcommittee to review the impact.

Mr. Bartlett then stated Prince Edward County is doing well, meeting budget expectations and experiencing a slight increase in revenues. Currently, the Real Estate is showing approximately \$100,000 more than estimated and the local sales tax is right at the expected budget.

In Expenditures, Mr. Bartlett reported there have been some savings due to position openings. He said Jail Expenses are below budget. The County has paid three of the quarters, and there is still \$454,000 left in the budget. At that rate, the County may be under the expenditure budget by about \$150,000. Juvenile Detention is right at the expected budget, and the Sheriff's department is slightly over budget in overtime, likely due to the Vice-Presidential debate, but is showing savings in the fuel costs. He said the part-time / At-Will program may go slightly over expectations but the revenue from the program greatly exceeds expectations.

Mr. Bartlett said legal costs are much greater than budgeted because the attorneys are providing much more service. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons questioned why the County is still paying the same amount that it has been if the Piedmont Regional Jail net position has grown by \$1 million each year for the past two years. Mr. Bartlett stated the money is staying in that fund; the net position is not always cash. Their current assets are \$2.4 million, and at the most recent board meeting, there was less than \$1 million in cash on hand.

Supervisor Timmons presented information from Social Services. He said the poverty rate in the County is at 25%. The rate in the central area of Virginia is 13.2% and for the state of Virginia, it is 11.8%. He said the unemployment rate in the County is at 7.8%, but in Central Virginia it is at 5.5% and statewide it is at 5.2%. Supervisor Timmons said there are 6,672 people on benefit programs in Prince Edward County, out of a total population of about 23,000. When college students are subtracted, that leaves 16,000; that leaves about 9,400 people trying to carry the load for everybody. Supervisor Timmons said in light of this, he requested the County Administrator figure a budget with no tax increase and no funds taken from the Fund Balance.

Mr. Bartlett stated the current budget is balanced with no impact to the Fund balance and the tax remained the same; it was adjusted due to the equalized tax value. He said the cash balance declined due to large projects, such as the landfill and work done on the Courthouse, but it was known that would happen. Mr. Bartlett said he will look at the Jail costs and reminded the Board that renovation will be done at the Jail, adding the State will reimburse half. Discussion followed.

Chairman Jones questioned the progress on the quarry. Mr. Bartlett stated excavation is expected within the next two months; they will have temporary rock crushers and start immediately, and will build

permanent machinery. He said DMME handles the requirements and the VDOT has provided approval for the driveway. Mr. Bartlett added hotels and other new businesses will likely be complete next year, which will help with the County's tax base.

Supervisor Timmons stated the employees did not receive the salary increase last year and should get it this year.

Mr. Bartlett stated housing starts have increased, even during the winter months. He added several other companies will be opening in the next few months which will increase the tax base, and will also provide jobs. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Simpson questioned the Town's rights to take water from Mottley Lake. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Timmons stated a representative from Project Homes has requested more clients; he asked the Board to refer citizens in Prince Edward County with weatherization needs to Roma Morris.

Mr. Bartlett announced the County's health insurance costs will increase by five percent; Workers Compensation costs will increase by \$8,000.

Supervisor Pride stated trash is strewn all along Route 604 from Granny B's to Douglas Church Road. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Simpson stated the budget should include the cost of providing a pay raise for all County employees, to include employees working in the offices of the Constitutional Officers, in the FY18 budget, in an amount either two percent or the amount approved by the General Assembly provided it is larger than two percent. Discussion followed.

On motion of Supervisor Townsend, seconded by Supervisor Timmons, and adopted by the following vote:

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

the meeting was recessed at 7:57 p.m. until Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for a VDOT Six-Year Work Session in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room.