

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Recessed Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse on April 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Rowe, Chairman
Carl Bailey
Jason Crabtree
Larry Mosley
Charles Slemm, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: C. M. Callahan, Jr., County Attorney
Dane Poe, County Administrator

OTHERS ABSENT: None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

County Administrator Dane Poe provided an overview of the proposed 2012-2013 budget. He advised that no proposed budget had yet been received from the School Board or Social Services and that Compensation Board budgets had not yet been finalized. He stated that he had included an estimated local contribution amount for both the School Board and Social Services in order to get a more accurate picture of the budget. The budget as presented is with full departmental requests with no reductions having been applied. As such, the budget reflects a proposed deficit of \$435,555.00. He advised that this number includes a projected amount of \$450,000.00 for capitol improvements and major repairs to the Courthouse facility.

Ms. Rowe asked if projected revenues and expenditures through June 30 could be shown on the budget printout as this would aid in determining the amount needed for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Poe advised that the information presented on the budget printout was as required by state code and he did not know if the software program would allow the addition of another column for projected expenditures. He also explained that as he reviewed departmental requests, he calculated the year end projections for revenues and expenditures prior to making recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Callahan asked if the County had received information on the amount of local match required for the School System for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Poe stated he had not received final numbers but had only seen estimates. He stated he had used the highest estimate for the current budget proposal.

Ms. Rowe asked if excess revenues in the current year were plugged into the budget for next year.

Mr. Poe advised that any excess revenues in the current year would go into reserves.

Mr. Poe advised there was approximately \$850,000 in capital projects included in the budget and the difference between current salaries and requested salaries was approximately \$233,000.

FUNDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF PROPOSED DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES ORDINANCE

Ms. Rowe requested the Board consider adding funding per district for enforcement of a proposed ordinance for repairing or removing dilapidated structures.

Mr. Callahan stated that he suggested there be a budget limit on the amount appropriated each year for this purpose to control the costs.

Ms. Rowe suggested the Board appropriate \$50,000 for this purpose.

Mr. Slemph asked if the convenience centers were included in the budget.

Mr. Poe advised that there was some funding included for construction of a couple of convenience centers if suitable property can be acquired.

Mr. Bailey left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Ms. Rowe stated that since this would be the first year for the ordinance, \$25,000 might be sufficient.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

Ms. Rowe asked how much funding fire departments received from the county.

Mr. Poe stated each fire department and rescue squad received \$10,000 each in County funding as well as pass through funds from the state.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE OLDER CITIZENS

Ms. Rowe asked if funding could be increased for Mountain Empire Older Citizens. She stated they employed over sixty people from Lee County.

Mr. Poe advised that they were requesting approximately three times what the County provided. He stated their appropriation had not been increased in several years due to budget constraints overall.

SCHOOL BOARD FUNDING

There was a general discussion regarding school funding including the new VRS requirements for employees to pay their own 5% contribution and the School System to provide a 5% salary increase to offset this change.

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Mr. Poe provided some general information on revenue projections included in the proposed budget. He also discussed the use of Coal Road funds and the State Revenue Sharing program.

DISTRICT GRAVEL FUNDS

Ms. Rowe had questions on the use of district gravel funds.

Mr. Poe advised that he had no authorization to expend district gravel funds and that they were subject to the District Supervisor's approval for expenditure.

EMPLOYEE SALARIES

There was a general discussion on current employee salaries and work to develop new salary grades and steps. Mr. Poe suggested, for budget development purposes, the Board may want to calculate employee salaries at their current level and see where the rest of budget stands before making any decisions on potential salary increases.

IT NETWORK UPGRADE

Mr. Crabtree asked if the proposed network upgrades were included in the proposed budget.

Mr. Poe advised that the laptops were included in 911's request. He stated the majority of the equipment was still being priced as of this date. He advised that he received additional information just prior to the meeting and would bring back a full report and request at the next meeting.

Mr. Crabtree asked if the proposed upgrades would be compatible with centralized accounting if implemented.

Mr. Poe advised that the upgrades would complement and be compatible with the current system which would continue to be used for centralized accounting.

Mr. Crabtree advised the Board of a recent visit to Washington County to view their check writing system.

There was a general discussion of the check writing process and centralized accounting.

SCHOOL FUNDING

There was a general discussion on the school funding process and the cost of education in other localities.

The Board continued general discussion of various budget issues including courthouse security.

AMEND RULES OF PROCEDURE

It was moved by Mr. Crabtree, seconded by Ms. Rowe, to amend the Rules of Procedure to have oral departmental reports after public hearings and to schedule reports such that two departments report each month with monthly written reports to continue. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crabtree, Mr. Mosley, Ms. Rowe, Mr. Slemp

It was moved by Mr. Crabtree, seconded by Ms. Rowe, to recess until May 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crabtree, Mr. Mosley, Ms. Rowe, Mr. Slemp

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

CLERK OF THE BOARD