

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Special Called Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the General District Courtroom of the Lee County Courthouse on July 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. thereof.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: C.M. Callahan, Jr. County Attorney
Dane Poe, County Administrator
Jeny Hughes, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS ABSENT: None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

Mr. Crabtree stated that the children are the leaders of tomorrow, and that they are mankind's greatest resource. He added that he has been contacted by people that are for the Board of Supervisors to give the School Board additional funding, and people that are against it. While both sides have good points, there should be a compromise by both Boards to try to find common ground. He stated that he would like both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors to consider meeting once a quarter to help gain a better prospective of what all the numbers mean, and where they come from. The School System does not have the ability to generate revenue; therefore, they rely upon the Board of Supervisors to appropriate their operating funds. This puts the School Board in the unique position of only spending the revenue and not having to be concerned with generating the revenue. The Board of Supervisors are responsible for generating that revenue, and spending that revenue wisely as the tax payers deserve and expect. The Board of Supervisors can only appropriate money to the School Board and cannot tell the School Board how to spend their funds. The only way this Board has to generate revenue is through taxes, with the largest revenue sources being real estate and personal property taxes. This is where the Required Local Effort funds are generated. Realizing that all monies come from taxpaying citizens, both Boards should work toward closing the gap of understanding.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Crabtree asked Mark Carter, School Superintendant, for the total amount of additional funding needed.

Mr. Carter stated that the amount of funding needed to re-employee all employees that have been terminated due to budget constraints is \$711,482.68. This amount includes eight full time LPN's with benefits, 15 full time paraprofessionals with benefits, and 8 part time paraprofessionals with no benefits. The amount of funding that the Board of Supervisors gave the School Board last year was \$4,963,668 and this year it was

\$4,561,621, which is \$402,047 less. He added that he understands the position the Board of Supervisors are in with the State balancing its budget on the backs of local government, and asked that the Board understand the position the School System is in. He stated that the School Board has taken every measure possible to try to save, but there is not enough funding to go around. He asked that the Board provide enough funding to be able to re-hire all the employees that were let go.

Mr. Crabtree asked Mr. Carter to explain the Required Local Effort.

Mr. Carter stated that it is based on the Composite Index, which is a formula the State uses to determine the locality's ability to pay. Lee County has the lowest Composite Index in the state. Most divisions across the State that have ran into these types of problems have gone back to the Board of Supervisors for additional funding, and that is how most divisions are able to continue going.

Mr. Crabtree asked if enrollment is a factor in any of the formulas.

Mr. Carter stated that enrollment determines the ADM for the state, and right now the projected enrollment is 3,150. However, that true number will not be known until school opens and there is a true count.

Ms. Rowe asked how the average cost per student compares to the rest of the state.

Mr. Carter stated that he did not have those figures with him, but the average cost is close to the surrounding areas.

Ms. Rowe stated that for her, knowing that figure when it is time to work on next year's budget may help in determining if the County is on track with the state and surrounding Counties.

Mr. Carter added that if there were any other information that the Board would like to review, he would be happy to get that and share it with them.

Mr. Crabtree asked how many students have special needs that require Health Care Plans or Individual Education Plans.

Mr. Carter stated that there are 614 students that have Individualized Education Plans, and 318 students that have Health Care Plans.

Mr. Crabtree asked if these plans are developed locally.

Mr. Carter stated that it is something that is required but is developed locally.

Mr. Crabtree asked about the Medicaid reimbursement for nursing services.

Mr. Carter stated that only some of those services can be billed, and that Medicaid has cut what it does reimburse to about 50 percent of the amount billed.

Mr. Crabtree stated that had the Board been provided these numbers and this information before, there probably would not have been a need for this meeting today. Maybe next year the budget meetings can start earlier in the year and we can work together.

Mr. Carter stated that it is important for the Board of Supervisors and the School System to work together for the common goal.

Ms. Rowe asked where the other cuts were made.

Mr. Carter stated that a new bus was taken out of the budget, and that maintenance and fuel cost had been cut back.

Ms. Lambert added that of the 87 line items in the budget, cuts were made to 43.

Ms. Rowe stated that it is important to know that additional cuts were made, and added that she appreciated the School Board applying for grants to help offset some expenses.

Mr. Slemp asked about difference in the number of students from last year and this year.

Mr. Carter stated that it would not be known until after school starts. The year ended with 3,182 and it is project to have 3,150 this year.

Mr. Mosley stated that it is the Board's responsibility to keep as many people working in Lee County as they can, and to give the children a good education. This is a lot of taxpayer's money, but some of the people that have lost their jobs are some of the

taxpayers. He added that if the Board can give the funding to put them back to work, they need to.

Mr. Bailey stated that all this information has been known for two or three months. Part of the economic development is based on the school systems, and even though the Governor has cut funding severely, there is an obligation to the citizens, children and grandchildren. This is very important for to the safety and health of the children.

Mr. Slempp asked if the money would be used to rehire the employees that were let go.

Mr. Cater stated that it is the main priority, and all money supplemented will be used to re-employee the people that were terminated.

It was moved by Mr. Slempp to give the School Board a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$500,000.

Mr. Crabtree asked if the total amount needed were not given, which employees would be brought back.

Mr. Carter stated that the decision would be up the School Board, they will bring back as many as they can with the funding provided.

Mr. Slempp amended his motion, to increase the Supplemental Appropriation to the School Board to \$711,486.68. Mr. Mosley seconded the motion.

Prior to the motion being put to a vote, Mr. Poe stated the Board cannot appropriate anything over \$500,000 without holding a public hearing.

Mr. Crabtree stated that \$499,000 could be done today and \$213,000 in August.

SCHOOL BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

It was moved by Mr. Slempp, seconded by Mr. Mosley, to make a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$499,000 to the School Board. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

Prior to the question being put to vote, Dottie Tankersley Blanken, addressed the Board about giving the School Board extra funding. She stated that there is no guarantee that this money will be spent to rehire terminated employees. She added that there are several other companies laying employees off, and asked if the County was going to help them also, because the County cannot pick and chose who they help. She stated that with all the recent layoffs and shut downs, the County could also see reduced revenue because people will not be able to pay their taxes. She added that the Board needs to do more to create jobs.

Ms. Rowe stated that this is a tough decision; this is 33 people that will be able to keep their jobs and pay their taxes. She added that this is the first time that the Board has been presented with a dollar amount lower than the \$2,200,000 that was originally requested.

Mr. Bailey stated that this is an investment in the children, not a bail out. He stated that this starts at the Governor's office. This Board may be able to give the money this year, but we cannot keep doing this.

Mr. Slemp stated that this Board has been one of the hardest working Boards to create new jobs in the County.

Robin Robbins, Jonesville, stated that there is an obligation to the special needs children. This cannot be negotiated it is necessary for the safety and well-being of the children.

It was moved by Mr. Bailey, seconded by Mr. Mosley, to recess to August 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Airport Conference Room. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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