

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Recessed Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in the Lee County Courthouse Conference Room on June 25, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. D. Leonard, Chairman
Josh Flanary
Mike Kidwell
Brian Shoemaker
Roger Waddell

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dane Poe, County Administrator
Robby Wright, Assistant County Administrator
Stacy Estep Munsey, County Attorney

OTHERS ABSENT: Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Poe presented the Board with a new budget printout with local and total funding for the School System. He stated full funding is \$7,669,377 making the total funding \$68.5 million. He gave detailed information on reducing the Counties share by \$216,027. This would lower the local funding to \$7.4 million and decrease the school system's total by \$899,691 making the total funding \$67.6 million. If all lottery funding is reduced it would reduce the Counties funding by \$918,000. The At Risk Funding included under the SOQ is tied to what's listed under lottery there for an additional \$405,000 of local funding would have to be added back giving a net total of \$6,940,000. This would be a savings of \$729,000 for the County making the total for the school system \$65,648,990.

Brian Dean, School Superintendant, stated a letter has been sent in to eliminate the local match along with the Alternative Education Funding of \$85,335 local match possibly being eliminated as well. He requested the state money be appropriated without the local match.

Mr. Leonard stated it should be noted that the school system is making an effort to try to help with the budget.

Mr. Dean stated it is his job to do what's best for the school system.

There was discussion about the buildings going up at Lee High School and the entrance at Thomas Walker High School.

Mr. Kidwell asked if there has been any more discussion on the free Elydale School project.

Mr. Dean stated no.

There was a discussion about school funding and School employee raises.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board continued discussion on the budget and employee raises.

PRORATING PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

There was a discussion about prorating personal property tax.

REGIONAL LIBRARY CONTRACT

There was a discussion about renegotiating the Regional Library Contract.

Mr. Flanary stated we are obligated by contract and should fund the Regional Library at level funding in the amount of \$237,678.

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to fund the Regional Library at level funding in the amount of \$237,678 and notify of interest in renegotiating the contract or pulling out in 2 years. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

The Chairman called for a five-minute recess.

SCHOOL SYSYEM BUDGET

It was consensus of the Board to budget \$6,855,281 for the School System or FY2024-25.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE INCREASE

There was a discussion about increase in employee's health insurance premium.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board continued discussion on the budget.

It was moved by Mr. Leonard to include the County employees in the 3% pay increase.

Mr. Waddell asked if that is a 3% of everyone's paycheck or an average over all.

Mr. Poe stated it can be done either way.

There was a discussion about County Employee raises.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Leonard asked about Social Services request for additional funding.

Mr. Poe stated he will have more information on that Thursday.

Me. Kidwell asked if Opioid Abatement Funds can be used for additional funding for Social Services.

Mr. Poe stated those funds have to be used for Opioid mitigation.

There was a discussion about the use of Opioid funds.

EDA PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY

Mr. Kidwell asked about EDA property in the County.

Mr. Poe explained the history of the EDA property in Rose Hill.

Mr. Kidwell asked who decides what goes on with the EDA.

Mr. Poe stated the EDA.

ROSE HILL LIBRARY

Mr. Waddell asked who owns the Rose Hill Library.

Mr. Poe stated the County.

Mr. Waddell asked if the Library doesn't work out is the property big enough to do something with.

Mr. Poe stated probably not.

Mr. Flanary asked where the Regional Library Board meets.

Mr. Poe stated they meet monthly or bi-monthly.

Mr. Flanary stated he would like to see a little more equality between Pennington and Rose Hill Libraries.

There was a discussion about the Rose Hill and Pennington Libraries.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Leonard asked the Board's thoughts on a tax increase.

Mr. Flanary stated just the proposed amount.

The Board continued discussion on the budget.

It was the consensus of the Board to add \$600 to the County Administrators budget for travel expenses.

SUGAR RUN CONTRACT

There was a discussion about the Sugar Run contract and lease.

PORT-A-JOHN'S AT CONVENIENCE CENTERS

There was a discussion about Port-a-John's at convenience centers.

ANIMAL CONTROL & TRANSFER STATION TAKING VEHICLES HOME

Mr. Kidwell asked if the Transfer Station Superintendant is still taking his vehicle home.

Mr. Waddell stated that hasn't been decided.

Mr. Wright stated he talked to him and he is taking his home due to being called out but will do whatever the Board wants him to do.

There was a discussion about the Transfer Station Supervisor and Animal Control taking vehicles home.

PORT-A-JOHNS AT CONVENIENCE CENTERS

Mr. Leonard asked how many Port-a-Johns are at convenience centers.

Mr. Poe stated possibly 8.

There was a discussion about the Port-a-Johns at the convenience centers and continued discussion about the Transfer Station employees taking vehicles home.

REMOVAL OF PORT-A-JOHNS AT CONVENIENCE CENTERS

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to remove Port-a-Johns at convenience centers. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker

ABSTAINING: Mr. Waddell

EMPLOYEES TAKING COUNTY VEHICLES HOME

The Board continued the discussion about County employees taking vehicles home.

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to have the person on call take the County vehicle home.

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to rescind his motion on employees taking vehicles home and revisit the matter at a later time. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

Prior to the vote there was a discussion.

SUGAR RUN CONVENIENCE CENTER

There was a discussion about the Sugar Run Convenience Center and businesses bringing garbage to the Transfer Station.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to enter Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A.1., Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

It was moved by Mr. Flanary, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to come out of Closed Session. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

It was unanimously agreed as follows.

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a Certification by this Lee County Board of Supervisors that such Closed Meeting was conducted within Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby certified that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Closed Meeting in 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 Lee County Board of Supervisors.

PROPOSED TAX RATE INCREASE

There was a discussion about a proposed tax rate increase.

POSSIBLE PRORATING PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

It was moved by Mr. Kidwell, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to explore prorating personal property tax beginning January 1, 2025. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell

Mr. Kidwell asked how you tax something that affects everyone.

Mr. Poe stated sales tax but the General Assembly doesn't allow it.

Mr. Waddell stated there is a tractor at the Transfer Station that needs to be sold. He asked if the Board wants to sell locally, on Gov Deals or send to White Pine, Tennessee to auction.

Mr. Wright stated the good thing about Gov Deals is you don't have to deliver it.

Mr. Leonard asked about the house the County owns.

Mr. Poe stated he left the house and the tractor on insurance.

There was a discussion about selling the old Head Start Building and the Institute Building.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING TO SELL INSTITUTE, HEAD START & AG BUILDINGS

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to schedule a Public Hearing to sell the Institute, Head Start and Ag Buildings. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker

VOTING NO: Mr. Waddell

It was moved by Mr. Kidwell, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to recess until June 27, 2024 at 5:00pm. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Flanary, Mr. Kidwell, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Waddell