

**VIRGINIA:** County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Recessed Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in Conference Room of the Lee County Courthouse on June 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. thereof.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dane Poe, County Administrator  
Tim Varnadore, School Board Member  
Brian Dean, School Superintendent  
Stacey Belcher, Assistant School Superintendent

OTHERS ABSENT: Stacy Estep Munsey, County Attorney  
Angie Thomas, Administrative Assistant

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31p.m.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to enter Closed Session pursuant to 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

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It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to exit Closed Session. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

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**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.

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**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mr. Poe stated the school system had received the state template for calculating the required local effort for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and the local required effort will be approximately \$60,000.00 more than anticipated.

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Brian Dean, School Superintendent, stated when the state funding amount increases the local match goes up and due to the increase in enrollment the school system may request more funding.

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Mr. Poe asked what factors motivated the General Assembly to put this much money toward K-12 education. He stated the County has never seen an increase like this.

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Mr. Dean stated part of it was the JLARC study stating schools are not being funded at what they should be and teachers in Virginia are not being paid at the national average.

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Mr. Poe asked if the emphasis on mental health is driving a portion of the increase.

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Mr. Dean stated part of it is mental health and added they want counselors available to provide counseling if needed. He stated there are more mental health issues with kids now. He added this year a lot of money is being directed at a lot of different things.

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Mr. Kidwell asked what the local match for the county will be and what the extra funding would be used for.

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Mr. Poe stated the local match will be about \$7.5 million.

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Mr. Dean stated funding will be used for salaries, new roofs, building repairs and other projects.

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Mr. Kidwell stated this is going to hurt the taxpayers and the State Representatives say they have done all these things without raising taxes. He stated that is simply not true because local taxpayers have to pay the local match funds.

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Ms. Belcher stated that employee salaries and benefits is approximately 81% of their total budget. There was also discussion of the starting salary for teachers and efforts to increase that amount in order to attract and retain good employees.

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Mr. Kidwell asked if Mr. Dean would be willing to come to a public meeting in the communities to discuss the matter.

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Mr. Dean stated he would attend meetings of that type if needed.

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Mr. Varnadore stated the School Board and Board of Supervisors needed to work together to find solutions to problems.

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Mr. Wright asked if the School will be hiring more employees.

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Mr. Dean stated they have open positions they will be looking to fill.

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Mr. Wright stated if 80% of their budget was for personnel, they would be adding around \$8 million to payroll.

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Mr. Waddell asked if there are any uncertified teachers.

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Mr. Kidwell stated there were always a few.

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Mr. Dean stated they can work under a provisional license for up to three years.

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Mr. Kidwell stated the top five expenses for Lee County total \$14,283,000 and our total local tax revenue for the County is \$11,446,000. He stated if taxes are raised the public will want to know why and asked if the school system can offset some of the expense with funds they will carry over this year.

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Mr. Dean stated they could not as they were only asking for the minimum Required Local Effort. He stated only state funds are carried over and they must spend them on their intended purpose.

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Mr. Kidwell asked if any action had been taken on the practice field at Elydale School.

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Mr. Dean stated the School Board had not taken any further action.

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The Chairman called for a five-minute recess.

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The meeting was called back to order and the Board continued discussion of the budget by department and line item.

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Usage data for the county libraries was distributed to Board Members and a general discussion on funding to the Library System ensued.

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There was a discussion about Spearhead Trails and the trail system near Leeman Field.

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There was a discussion about needed exterior repairs to the Courthouse.

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### **POSSIBLE SALE OF OLD HEAD START BUILDING**

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

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It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Kidwell, to sell the old Head Start Building contingent on if a Public Hearing is required.

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After discussion and prior to a vote, the motion was rescinded.

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The Board continued going through the budget line by line.

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Mr. Wright requested \$10,000.00 be added to Capital Outlay for a back-up server for the Courthouse. He stated that other upgrades will be needed in the future.

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There was a discussion about split-billing for County taxes.

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**SPLIT-BILLING FOR COUNTY TAXES**

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, to change billing for County real estate taxes to split billing due by May 31 and October 31. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

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The Board continued to go through the budget line by line.

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**BILLING SCHOOL SYTEM FOR GARBAGE PICK-UP**

It was moved by Mr. Kidwell, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to bill the School system for dumping their garbage cans beginning July 1, 2024, subject to adjustment as the County's cost for transporting and disposal changes. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

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**SCHOOL SYSTEM CARRY-OVER FUNDS**

It was moved by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to amend the policy on the School System Capital Reserve Fund for 50% of local unspent funds to revert to the County General Fund and 50% of local unspent funds to be deposited into the School Capital Reserve Fund. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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

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Mr. Poe stated that will require an adoption of a Resolution and the School System will have to concur.

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The Board continued going through the budget line by line.

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**COUNTY EMS & FIRE STATIONS**

There was a discussion about the Fire and EMS agencies in the County.

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The Board continued going through the budget line by line.

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**STATE INMATES AT REGIONAL JAIL**

There was a discussion about State inmates at the Regional Jail.

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There was a discussion about inmates picking up garbage and Litter Control.

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**PERSONAL PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE TAX RATES**

There was a discussion about Personal Property and Real Estate tax rates.

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It was the consensus of the Board to advertise for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget for the June 20, 2024 Public Hearing.

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It was moved by Mr. Shoemaker, seconded by Mr. Flanary, to recess to June 6, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

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