

Special Called Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting (Wednesday, April 20, 2022)

This meeting is held pursuant to and in compliance with the Emergency Ordinance for Continuity of Government due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Members of the Board of Supervisors were present together at the New Courts Building, 220 Judicial Pl., Heathsville, VA 22473. Members of the public were present in attendance and virtually with approximately 15 call-ins noted

Members present:

Ronald L. Jett, James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann

Other Staff Present:

Mr. Luttrell Tadlock, County Administrator

Mr. Drew Basye, Assistant County Administrator

Ms. Morgan Wilson, Executive Assistant

Mr. Robert Headley, IT Administrator

1. Call to Order

Procedural: A. Meeting Call to Order 5:30 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

Discussion: A. Discussion

County Administrator Luttrell Tadlock gave some clarification on the agenda for today's meeting. Originally, the Board of Supervisors had anticipated to enter into closed meeting, but County Administrator Tadlock forwarded some information to the Board and plans on addressing this matter again at a future meeting.

County Administrator Tadlock began with a brief introduction of the draft proposed fiscal year 2023 budget which totals \$45,290,798. The current tax rate is .61 cents/\$100, so as of right now this same tax rate is built into the proposed budget.

County Administrator Tadlock went on stating that the subtotal expenditures exceeds the subtotal revenue by \$2,204,994. In the budget, there is a proposed 5% salary increase for County employees, which includes the VRS system at a 12.47% rate. Furthermore, if the board chooses not to do the hazardous duty for the EMS employees, the VRS rate did decrease to 10.16% this year. Along with this, there is a 10% increase in health insurance for the County.

County Administrator Tadlock also made the Board aware that the school funding this year based on the total budget of the school and the local funding is 63.6%. The school is not asking for any increase in local funding based on their budget.

A highlighted cost that will be associated with this budget is the 10% increase in health insurance, costing approximately \$115,000 to the County. Another highlighted cost is the proposed salary increase of 5% which is approximately \$194,000, but the state has not finalized their budget. The sanitary district is requesting an additional employee with benefits, totaling \$47,923. Another line item that showed a significant increase was the County's software costs.

County Administrator Tadlock addressed Supervisor Tomlin's concern on grocery tax and its impact on the locality. The impact totals up to approximately \$215,000, which is built into the proposed draft budget.

The County Administrator also received some additional information for the expenditure line items in the school budget and has forwarded that information to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors stated many questions and concerns they have in relation to the school system.

Supervisor Tomlin asked what the school's carry over was last fiscal year between ESSER and CARES funds.

Supervisor Tomlin wanted to know if we have received anything on the progress of the General Assembly on their budget.

Supervisor Tomlin also questioned the JROTC building contract status with the school.

The School Board was unable to meet on May 5, 2022, so the Board of Supervisors rescheduled the meeting for May 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Supervisor Brann requested a detailed report from the School Board showing the expenditures to each vendor.

Supervisor Tomlin would like to see last year's finalized School Board budget because it was presented differently this year.

Supervisor Tomlin would also like a total number of employees from the entire school system broken down by position.

Supervisor Long would like to see the total number of students in each school.

Supervisor Brann added to this request by stating that he wanted to see the total number of students in each school over time, so we have some numbers to compare to.

Chairman Haynie would like to see all SOL scores for the past five years associated with the student population.

Supervisor Long requested a total number of students who are homeschooled.

Supervisor Tomlin would like to know how many students in the County attend a school outside of Northumberland County.

Along with this, a total number of students that attend our school system that reside outside of the County was requested.

Chairman Haynie requested the following information from the School Board:

Balance sheets for each of the past five years

A line item accounting of disbursements for each of the past five years by school and disbursements by general ledger code for each of the past five years in a format which is 'searchable'.

The totals of any surplus funds for each of the past five years and the aggregate surplus as of April 1, 2022

Listing of all School Board-issued credit card holders and itemized credit card charges for each credit card holder for each of the past 5 years

Any and all grant funds raised and all expenditures made against grant funds received for the past five years, including, but not limited to, vendor specific "other funds" or rebate totals

Any and all financial statements prepared specifically for Federal, State, Association or other grant applications made within the past five years,

Membership, Association, Union or other third-party fees and dues paid for the past five years with payee names

Contractually obligated expenditures and or retainers, by contractor, for the past five years and all contractual obligations which impact the County Budget for FYs 2021-2022, 2022-2023 or 2024-2025.

Grants, Payments, or Contributions made in any of the preceding 5 years to Political Action Committees, Candidates, Political Campaigns or any other entity which has made political contributions or provided in-kind services to Federal, State or Local elections

Supervisor Tomlin stated that there were a lot of requests for HVAC and other various services from the school last year and would like to know what the statuses are on these.

Supervisor Tomlin would also like to see maintenance records from the school.

Vice Chairman Jett and Supervisor Tomlin expressed their interest in seeing a copy of the letter from the Department of Environmental Quality discussing the need of wells at the school.

Supervisor Brann stated his interest in the Board of Supervisors reviewing bids and RFPs to the school before the School Board can make any decisions.

Chairman Haynie added a timeframe for the School Board to answer these requests and concerns by their next meeting, May 4, 2022.

3. County Administrator Items

Action, Information: A. GeoComm Dispatch Mapping - Sole Source

County Administrator Luttrell Tadlock stated that County Attorney Eric Gregory looked further into the GeoComm contract and did not see any issues regarding the terms. One concern that County Attorney Gregory did have was that based on the language of our current contract, he would like to see some type of procurement process taken place.

Motion to adopt the resolution to give authorization in utilizing Sole Source for the procurement process.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Ronald L. Jett, James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann

Information: B. Health Department

County Administrator Tadlock informed the Board that he has received some information from the Health Department, along with some statistics showing that several localities need to pay additional funds based on a recent JLARC study. The difference in additional funds from last fiscal year is \$22,270, however, \$15,360.18 is being returned to the County from last fiscal year

which is a difference of \$6,909.82. If the Board were to accept this difference, a supplemental appropriation will be needed.

Supervisor Long took action on this supplemental appropriation, seconded by Supervisor Tomlin, but both were withdrawn after further discussion.

Vice Chairman Jett stated that we do not have an environmentalist here in the County and Supervisor Tomlin requested an explanation as to why.

Supervisor Tomlin requested that Dr. Williams or an alternate be present at the next meeting to answer some questions and then the Board will take action on this matter.

Information: C. Parking on County Property – Luper Request

County Administrator Tadlock informed the Board that property was being purchased next to County property, and a request was made to use the County's back parking lot at certain times of the year.

Supervisor Tomlin asked where the School Board employees parked to confirm that it would not interfere with their parking.

Along with this, Supervisor Tomlin asked if there were any potholes so we can ensure no possible repercussions on the County.

Chairman Haynie asked County Administrator Tadlock to discuss this further with County Attorney Gregory to make sure the County would not run into any legal complications.

Supervisor Long suggest the Board hold off and make a decision at the next regular meeting.

4. Closing of Meeting

Action: A. Carry Over

Motion to carry over.

Motion by James M. Long, second by Thomas H. Tomlin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Ronald L. Jett, James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann