

Special Called Board of Supervisors Meeting (Thursday, June 2, 2022)

Northumberland County, Virginia

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

Mr. Matthew Bailey, IT Assistant

The meeting was convened as a special meeting called by Chairman Haynie and held at the Northumberland Courthouse located at 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville, VA 22473.

1. Opening of Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Discussion, Information: A. Budget Work Session

Chairman Haynie handed the discussion over to Mr. John Wilson to present the Free Health Clinic's budget request for fiscal year 2023.

Mr. John Wilson provided pamphlets to the Board with relative information of the request. Mr. Wilson stated that he has worked for the Free Health Clinic for 20 years and thanked the Board for their continuous support. Furthermore, he emphasized that financial help is still needed and urged the Board of Supervisors to continue level funding for the clinic at minimum. Mr. Wilson opened the floor for any questions the Board may have.

No questions were asked by the Board, so the discussion was turned over to County Administrator Luttrell Tadlock.

County Administrator Tadlock forwarded some information to the Board that was received from the Compensation Board and stated that staff is currently looking at the impacts on the locality related to that information.

Action, Information: B. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment Discussion

County Administrator Tadlock announced that the County held a public hearing the prior week for the budget amendment. Included in the board packet was the resolution, along with the

appropriations necessary for this amendment. County Administrator Tadlock asked the Board if they had any specific questions related to the amendment.

Supervisor Tomlin brought attention to the several items that were not budgeted nor appropriated and asked if these figures would be included in the budget amendment.

County Administrator Tadlock confirmed that these items would be included. To give further clarification, he stated that there were some previous school items on which the Board had already taken action, and those projects pushed the County's budget over the 1% expenditure limit, hence the decision to move forward with the budget amendment. The appropriation of these monies were previously approved by the Board, so there was no need for appropriations on those particular items.

Supervisor Brann suggested the Board come back to this topic at the end of the meeting.

2. Items Related to Closed Meeting

Action: A. Convene into Closed Meeting

Motion to Action: A. Convene into Closed Meeting: convene into closed meeting as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1); 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; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

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

Action: B. Reconvene into Open Meeting

Motion to reconvene into open session.

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

Action: C. Certification of Closed Meeting

Motion that the Northumberland Board of Supervisors return to Public Meeting and certify by roll call vote that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered during the closed meeting.

The vote on the motion was passed by a roll call vote as follows:

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

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. Action(s) taken from Closed Meeting

No action(s) was taken at this time.

Chairman Haynie called for recess until the public hearings at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Haynie called out of recess to begin the public hearings.

Before beginning the public hearings, Chairman Haynie announced a moment of silence for Eloise Walker Toulson.

3. Public Hearing 7:00 P.M.

Action, Information: A. Consideration of the Northumberland County Capital Improvement Plan for the period FY 2023-2027.

County Planner Stuart McKenzie presented the capital improvement plan to the Board.

County Planner Stuart McKenzie described the capital improvement committee as a subcommittee of the Planning Commission. The committee met three times this year as follows: March 9, 2022, April 4, 2022, and April 11, 2022.

County Planner McKenzie went on to let the Board know that at the meeting on April 4, 2022, the committee held interviews with the county departments to receive more information on each of their project requests. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the completed

capital improvement plan at a special called meeting held on May 5, 2022 and the committee unanimously recommended the approval of the projects listed on this year's plan.

The committee evaluated each request by the departments thoroughly and narrowed down a priority listing.

Mr. McKenzie listed the priority list as follows:

Five vehicles for the Sheriff's Office, totaling \$250,000

School Division's Well Replacement, totaling \$440,000

~ The committee anticipates setting aside \$110,000 this year, \$110,000 next year, and seek grants for the remaining amount.

School Division's 2-77 Passenger International Buses, totaling \$200,000

~ School division requested three buses, but the committee decided to fund only two at \$100,000 each.

School Division's Bus Garage Roof Replacement, totaling \$100,000

~School division requested \$88,550, but anticipating cost increases, the committee granted \$100,000 for this project.

County Administration Facilities Maintenance funding, totaling \$150,000

Sanitation District Lift Station Upgrade, totaling \$96,500

~The Sanitary District requested replacement of the generator at the Reedville pump station and to do an upgrade for the Post Office pump.

Chairman Haynie opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing Open.

No comments were made.

Public Hearing Closed.

Motion to approve the capital improvement plan as presented to the Board by the Planning Commission.

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

The motion made related to this public hearing was to strictly approve the capital improvement plan, but no appropriation of monies were approved.

Discussion: B. The public hearing is being held pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, allowing the public to question and comment on the proposed budget.

County Administrator Tadlock announced that the fiscal year 2023 proposed budget totals \$45,850,798. Furthermore, the proposed budget does not increase the current real estate tax rate which is currently 61 cents per 100 dollars of assessed value.

County Administrator Tadlock informed the public that there will be no action taken by the Board on the budget FY 23 at this meeting, as the Board must wait seven days by the Code of Virginia.

Supervisor Brann asked what monies were coming out of the general fund to make up the difference and balance the budget this year.

County Administrator Tadlock stated that it's approximately two million dollars that will be taken out of the general fund.

Chairman Haynie opened the public hearing for any questions or comments on the upcoming (fiscal year 2023) budget.

Public Hearing Open.

Mr. Maurice Johnson expressed his frustration on the dysfunction between the two boards and finds the budget process unacceptable. Mr. Johnson stated that he worked for the federal government for 30 years and this type of behavior would not be tolerated. Furthermore, he emphasized that no one has a problem putting money where it needs to go, but the information needs to be explained and documented.

Mr. Alexis Wormley came before the Board to speak on the new facility building, but Chairman Haynie informed Mr. Wormley that the topic of discussion was fiscal year 2023 budget, and not the budget amendment.

Mr. Blizzard stated his concern on the dysfunction of the budgeting process and emphasized the two board's need of finding synergy.

Mr. Jason Smart addressed the fact that enrollment in Northumberland County public schools is steadily declining, and he anticipates this trend to continue. Mr. Smart expressed his concern on continuing to spend money on the schools as enrollment declines, lessening the County's return on investment.

Dr. Crockett emphasized the importance of contracts to the teachers and shared with the Board that some teachers have already left the school system due to not securing these contracts yet.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien began to speak on the budget amendment, but Chairman Haynie informed him that this comment period was related to fiscal year 2023 budget.

Mr. Carl Perez thanked the Board for all their hard work but was concerned that they have not adopted a budget. Mr. Perez stated that other counties have gone ahead and passed their budgets without receiving anything from the General Assembly. Furthermore, he addressed the topic of low test scores and reminded the public that there are low test scores all across the country due to Covid-19.

Public Hearing Closed.

No further comments were made in relation to the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Supervisor Long made a motion to approve the budget amendment to give the School Board permission to secure the grant to build their new facility building.

Supervisor Tomlin asked for further clarification on this motion to include the approval of the budget amendment resolution.

Supervisor Long motioned to approve the resolution to amend the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$2,632,249.23.

The resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR
2021-2022 BUDGET
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,632,249.23**

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia provides that a locality may amend its budget to adjust the aggregate amount appropriated; however, any such amendment which exceeds one percent of the total expenditures in the adopted budget must be accomplished by publishing a notice of a meeting and a public hearing in the newspaper and that such notice shall state the governing bodies intent to amend the budget; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors voted 5:0 to adopt the fiscal year 2021-22 budget in the amount of \$43,039,012, and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2021, the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors voted 5:0 to amend the fiscal year 2021-22 budget in the amount of \$1,174,656, and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors voted 5:0 to amend the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$4,891,300.87, and

WHEREAS, the FY22 budget is to be increased by \$2,632,249.23 due to ESSER III school federal monies, various school grants, and previously appropriated fund to be accounted for within the FY22 Budget;

ESSER III Funds (School).....	\$1,162,970.94
HVAC Grant (School).....	\$240,975.00
Unfinished Learning (School).....	\$576,274.94
Before and After School.....	\$100,000.00
Summer Learning (School).....	\$139,370.93
Public Safety (County).....	\$285,657.38
Judicial Administration (County).....	\$8,108.07
General Administration (County).....	\$12,780.36
Health and Welfare (County).....	\$22,270.00
School.....	\$83,841.61
TOTAL.....	\$2,632,249.23 Budgeted

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors pursuant to the authority granted in the Code of Virginia, that the Northumberland County 2021-2022 Budget be amended by \$2,632,249.23, and the following monies be appropriated as follows:

ESSER II: Total \$1,550,184.97

- Budget amendment 9/9/2021 but not appropriated
 - 6100 - \$457,679.97
 - 6300 - \$328,355.00
 - 6400 - \$298,000.00
 - 6800 - \$466,150.00

ESSER III: Total \$3,483,967.77

- Budget amended 9/9/2021 but not appropriated for \$2,320,996.83. Remaining is part of this budget amendment/appropriation \$1,162,970.94.
 - 6100 - \$419,793.55
 - 6300 - \$6,000.00

- 6400 - \$1,291,174.22
- 6600 - \$1,500,000.00
- 6800 - \$254,000.00
- 6007 - \$13,000.00

HVAC Grant: Total \$240,975

- Not previously budgeted and not appropriated
- 6400 - \$240,975.00

Unfinished Learning: Total \$576,274.94

- Not previously budgeted and not appropriated
- 6100 - \$576,274.94

Before and After School: Total \$100,000.00

- Not previously budgeted and not appropriated
- 6100 - \$100,000

Summer Learning: Total \$139,370.93

- Not previously budgeted and not appropriated
- 6100 - \$139,370.93

Public Safety: Total \$285,657.38

- Not previously budgeted - funds have been appropriated previously in FY22

Judicial Administration: Total \$8,108.07

- Not previously budgeted – funds have been appropriated previously in FY22

General Administration: Total \$12,780.36

- Not previously budgeted – funds have been appropriated previously in FY22

Health and Welfare: Total \$22,270.00

- Not previously budgeted – funds have been appropriated previously in FY22

School: Total \$83,841.61

- Not previously budgeted – funds have been appropriated previously in FY22

TOTAL..... \$6,090,773.61 Appropriated

Adopted and enacted this 2nd day of June, 2022

Supervisor Tomlin stated that he is going to vote for this amendment, but he was frustrated with the process of receiving information from the School Board. Along with this, Supervisor Tomlin wanted to make it clear that this is federal tax dollars, so although it is not coming out of the County's pockets in terms of real estate, it is going to make an impact on the County.

Supervisor Long stated that Superintendent Holly Wargo and Finance Director Jason Bellows always had an open door for any questions the Board had.

Vice Chairman Jett agreed and stated his vote to support this, but he was not happy with the process. Furthermore, he expressed his concern that there are other areas of priority listed on the capital improvement projects that have yet to be addressed.

Supervisor Brann stated that he had many people contact him that were against the construction of this building and emphasized that reality is going to hit a year from now when these funds are gone.

Chairman Haynie agreed with the rest of the Board that the process was terrible, but he will support this building for the school.

Restate motion: Motion to approve the resolution to amend the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$2,632,249.23.

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

Nay: James W. Brann

4. Closing of Meeting

Action: A. Carry Over

Motion to carry over to the Board of Supervisors budget work session on June 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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