

Special Called Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting (Monday, May 8, 2023)

Members present

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

Absent:

Ronald L. Jett

Other Staff Present:

Mr. Luttrell Tadlock, County Administrator

Mr. Drew Basye, Assistant County Administrator

Ms. Morgan Wilson, Executive Assistant

Mr. Matthew Bailey, IT Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

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

2. Budget Discussion

Discussion: A. Discussion

County Administrator Tadlock began presenting the County's budget for fiscal year 2024. The proposed County budget is \$51,495,779. The current tax rate is \$0.61 per \$100, and the draft budget includes a 7-cent increase, proposing the tax rate to be \$0.68/\$100. As proposed, the subtotal expenditure exceeds anticipated subtotal revenues by approximately \$2,852,329.

County Administrator Tadlock continued with an overview of the majority expenses in the budget. The health insurance rate this year is at a 9.9% increase which is at a cost increase of approximately \$100,000. The salary increase for County staff is proposed to be 5%, along with a 6.25% proposed increase under the school budget. The County salary scale adjustment will also be included because it has not been modified for several years.

The proposed budget does include increasing salaries/compensation for the Board of Supervisors as well as other boards and commissions. A 2% increase in salary has also been built into the budget in the event the state passes a 7% increase for state employees.

Joining the Rural Solar Development Coalition is included at a cost of \$7,500. A County reassessment is budgeted for FY 25 (\$275,000) as well as increases in IT service software contracts (internet for Sheriff's Office phone system and other various software used in the County). An additional deputy position (with benefits) and 4 new part-time dispatchers are included for the Sheriff's Office.

The fire departments requested additional funding for equipment, emergency services requested 4 additional staff members, and the sanitary district requested a new position. The school system requested a budget increase of \$2,343,082 and the library requested \$62,183 for maintaining their state/federal funding.

Additionally, solid waste was just bid out and there is anticipation of a \$350,000 increase so this figure was included as well. Lastly, the capital improvement projects for the school cost around \$840,274 and the Emergency Regional Radio system estimated annual cost is \$435,000. These figures are also built into the proposed budget for the Board's review.

Chairman Haynie asked if the request for funding from the fire department was for both departments.

County Administrator Tadlock stated that the request was from both departments.

Supervisor Long asked about the increase in solid waste and what improvements that would make.

County Administrator Tadlock informed Supervisor Long that the cost increase would be to maintain the services the County currently has.

Supervisor Long asked if the County has a lot of claims in relation to health insurance.

County Administrator Tadlock stated there have been quite a few this year and clarified for the Board that this includes the school system because they are a part of the County's health insurance policy as well.

Supervisor Tomlin asked if Mr. Tadlock has a total figure for the 2% salary increase in the event the state does approve the 7% raise.

County Administrator Tadlock stated that figure is on page 6 in the draft budget.

Supervisor Tomlin asked if the request for additional employees for emergency services would make it 5 members per shift.

County Administrator Tadlock confirmed that is correct.

Supervisor Brann asked if these positions would eliminate part-time staff.

County Administrator Tadlock stated he believes they will still need some part timers, but maybe not as much.

Supervisor Brann then asked if this would be a cost savings.

Supervisor Tomlin stated that adding additional employees is going beyond the normal scope of control for one person. Mr. Tomlin recommended getting Chief Balderson to look into surrounding counties to see if they have “second in charge” employees on their staff.

Supervisor Brann would like staff to look at the cost savings of this too.

Supervisor Brann also believes the EMS billing fees need to be adjusted based on what insurance rates will pay and to conform with other agencies.

Chairman Haynie stated all County fees should be looked at.

County Administrator Tadlock made the Board aware that Mr. Basye has started creating a spreadsheet of the fees from the different counties.

Supervisor Tomlin asked what the additional deputy’s starting salary would be.

County Administrator Tadlock confirmed that the starting salary requested is \$53,500.

Supervisor Tomlin also asked if a new vehicle for the deputy was built into his budget.

County Administrator Tadlock stated he believed so and informed the Board that the Sheriff is going after some grant monies as well, so there may be some cost savings there.

Supervisor Tomlin asked Mr. Tadlock to look into what portion of the salary the state compensation board pays for a new deputy.

Supervisor Brann stated the radio system needs to be fixed and the County needs to move forward with replacing it.

3. 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: 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 W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

No action was taken as a result of the closed meeting.

4. Closing of Meeting

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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