

VIRGINIA: A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ON MAY 5, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR REGINALD O. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR JOHN M. SEWARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR M. SHERLOCK HOLMES
SUPERVISOR ERNEST L. BLOUNT
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE

ALSO

PRESENT: MR. TYRONE W. FRANKLIN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MRS. MELISSA D. ROLLINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
MR. JOHN B. EDWARDS, JR., ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. WILLIAM HEFTY, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MRS. DEBORAH NEE, COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE
MR. ERVIN JONES, DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION
MRS. MARY SHAW, TREASURER
MR. LLOYD HAMLIN, SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harrison who announced that this meeting of the Board was scheduled as a budget work session.

Mr. Tyrone Franklin suggested that the Board review the recommendations of the Fiscal Affairs Committee which met on April 5, 2011.

Chairman Harrison began with review of the Fiscal Affairs Committee discussion regarding employee salary increases. He reported that the recommendation of the Committee was to forgo increases in any format, with the exception of part-time, hourly employees. Vice-Chair Seward reminded Board members that they had already approved an increase to cover higher health insurance premiums for employees. Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed that sanitation and maintenance employees would received an increase of \$.50 to their hourly compensation.

Chairman Harrison stated that the Committee's second recommendation was to maintain current tax rates, with the exception of rolling stock. Supervisor Lyttle requested further information regarding a Personal Property exemption for veterans and the disabled as discussed at the previous meeting of the Board. Mrs. Deborah Nee, Commissioner of Revenue, was present to provide information and

comments. She stated that state code specifies that an exemption or change in the personal property tax rate on the primary vehicle operated by any disabled veteran within the County is allowable. Chairman Harrison remarked that this was the same as the exemption for firefighters and rescue personnel. The change/exemption could also be extended to include vehicles which have been specifically altered for use by individuals with physical disabilities. Mr. William Hefty, County Attorney, agreed to draft an ordinance reflecting the changes discussed and present it to the Board at a later date. He reminded the Board that a Public Hearing would be necessary prior to making such a change in the County's Code.

Members of the Board discussed the need for a County policy on travel expenses and conference attendance. Supervisor Holmes stated that such a policy was necessary to give all Board members an opportunity to attend workshops and conferences. Supervisor Blount disagreed and stated that the Board had been a good steward of available funds and had successfully shared the responsibility of attending regional and national meetings; he questioned the need for such a policy. Further discussion ensued; Mr. Hefty informed the Board that larger localities have policies, but he was not aware of the details. Mrs. Rollins agreed to obtain sample policies from area localities for review by the Board.

Mr. Tyrone Franklin addressed the reorganization of the Senior Citizen Program and the mandate from the state indicating that the Department of Social Services no longer oversee the program. Mrs. Virginia Gary, Administrative Manager for the Department of Social Services, addressed the Board and informed them that the state had reversed their decision allowing the program to remain under the direction of Surry DSS, but that 50% of the salary of the program coordinator would need to come from local funding in order to remain compliant with state regulations.

Mr. John Edwards, Assistant County Administrator, addressed the Board with regard to Emergency Services Funding. He reported that the current funding formula consisted of a base contribution of \$45,000 per agency and a \$50 per call contribution (20%) with a cap of \$9,000. Mr. Edwards advised the Board that staff were recommending a change in the funding formula due to increasing costs of fuel and the number of calls. The new formula would include the base contribution of \$45,000 per agency but would include a per call contribution with a cap of \$27,000 (60%) per agency instead of \$9,000. With this increase in funding, the rescue and fire departments within the County would still be reliant on fund raising to fully cover their individual budgets. Supervisor Blount asked about billing for rescue squad calls which resulted in a brief discussion with regard to insurance billing and cost recovery. Supervisor Seward made a motion that the Board amend the agreement with fire and rescue agencies to change the funding formula as recommended. Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion; all present voted affirmatively.

Chairman Harrison addressed the purchase of vehicles as included in the proposed consolidated budget stating that two vehicles were to be acquired by the Sheriff's Department (one would replace a vehicle previously totaled) and one truck by Parks & Recreation.

Chairman Harrison stated that the time prevented further discussion and concluded the work session with a future budget work session to be scheduled for May 19, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT