

RE: SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

PRESENT: Gilbert A. Smith, Chairman
Sherri M. Bowman
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY2011-2012 BUDGET

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to receive citizen comments on the proposed FY2011-2012 Budget.

The County Administrator, John F. Miniclier, Jr., gave a briefing of the county's proposed FY2011-2012 Budget.

Approximately thirty-five (35) people attended the public hearing and were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. The following individuals spoke at the public hearing:

1. Emanuel Kramer, 173 Horseshoe Road, Charles City – Mr. Kramer, as a volunteer with FeedMore, the umbrella organization for the Central Virginia Food Bank (Meals on Wheels), impressed upon the Board, Meals on Wheels makes a crucial difference to people during these economic hard times. In 2010 alone over 11,000 meals were provided to 52 Charles City County residents. The need for Meals on Wheels' deliveries is increasing in the county, he said, with a fourth delivery route being added this year.
2. Sylvia Jones, Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) – Ms. Jones asked the Board to consider funding the Legal Aid Service program in future budgets. She explained that the LAJC offers free legal services to low-income families, at-risk children, elderly and other vulnerable populations throughout Central Virginia to give them a level legal playing field when legal aid is needed. She implored the Board to let citizens know their services are available to them.
3. Vince Brackett, 7789 Kips Creek Drive, Charles City – Mr. Brackett found little fault with the proposed budget. He does not support an increase of funds to the schools but would support a .01¢ tax increase to extend the hours of paid EMS availability. He asserted that a bunking facility will be an expense the county will need to address with 12 hours/day EMS coverage.
Mr. Brackett stressed he does not support a vehicle for every Sheriff's deputy, recommending the County do a transportation review of the Sheriff's Department for possible savings.
Mr. Brackett also supports Meals on Wheels, stating that the County is funding 89% of No Greater Love's budget request but only 58% of Meals on Wheels'.
4. Kathy Vesley-Massey, Bay Transit, Chief Officer – Ms. Vesley-Massey expressed appreciation and gratitude for the Board's support of the services provided by Bay Transit. She informed the Board that the service for Charles City residents has been increasing since October, 2005.
5. Steve Fuhrmann, 3400 Adkins Road, Providence Forge – Mr. Fuhrmann applauded the efforts of the County Administrator and staff in reducing expenditures and less-than-essential expenses. He encouraged the County and the Treasurer to proactively review cash flow.

Mr. Fuhrmann stated the Fund Balance should be increased and be reserved to stabilize finances through the next recessionary contraction.

Mr. Fuhrmann supports increasing EMS in the county and, although not opposed to a .01¢ tax increase, recommended to find the necessary funds by assessing the public outcome value of all County and Schools expenditures and then restructure by priority and efficiency of each service.

He stated he is disturbed that local funds going to the schools do not appear to be spent to increase educational effectiveness. Citing the Schools' average achievement is currently the 10th lowest in the state. Better to sharply focus, he said, on improving student achievement through supporting higher funding of direct classroom instruction. He supports the Board's request that the Schools specifically identify the funding source as part of their detailed expenditures.

6. Peter Churins, 18700 Tettington Lane, Charles City – Mr. Churins stated he would like to see the expenditures of the School Board accounted for.

7. Dr. Janet Crawley, School Superintendent – Dr. Crawley praised the County staff and Board of Supervisors for their efforts working on the budget and the hard decisions made. Dr. Crawley requested the Board consider funding the School's request for \$86,592 as detailed in their formal funds request. She clarified that this request is not more money than what is in the current FY2011 budget but asking to be level funded to close the gap between our schools and other school divisions in the state.

She stated that the School Board has looked every year and will continue to review operations cost, staffing, programming, etc., and if a way to reduce the \$14,000 per pupil expenditure can be found it will be done. But the county's school system is a small system and is required to have the same programs and staffing as other school divisions. The accurate number that is spent on instruction is 61% and is in compliance with the Department of Education's formula for all school divisions. She concluded that the County's hardships are understood but asked the Board to give the School Board's request consideration and help them close the gap.

8. Royce Paige, Kimages Road – Mr. Paige stated the schools need money to make much needed repairs to the buildings and grounds.

There being no further comments, the public hearings were closed.

RE: REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Mr. Miniclier provided an update on the open question and answer session held April 5, 2011 to have open dialogue with citizens regarding the redistricting of the county. He reported that citizen's primary concerns were that churches, social gathering places and landmarks not be moved from one district to another. In addition, they do not want neighborhoods moved or divided by district.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the redistricting at their regular meeting on April 26, 2011.

RE: BOARD DIRECTIVES/COMMENTS

Mr. Gilbert Smith directed staff to have an update on staff's research and efforts on the zip code issue.

There being no further business before the Board, it hereby adjourns to meet again on Tuesday, **April 26, 2011** at 7:30 p.m. for the Board of Supervisors' regular meeting.