

VIRGINIA:

At the FY2017 Proposed Budget public hearing meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Charles City County Government and School Board Administration Building thereof on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m.** in the 240th year of the Commonwealth and 382nd year of the County.

PRESENT: Floyd H. Miles, Sr., Chairman
William G. Coad
Gilbert A. Smith

RE: PUBLIC HEARING
FY2017 Proposed Budget

Floyd Miles, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors called the meeting to order. Zach Trogon stated the purpose of the meeting tonight is to get citizens' comments on the FY2017 Proposed Budget. Michelle Johnson presented the FY2017 Proposed Budget.

Public Hearing was opened by Floyd Miles.

The following comments were made:

Cathy Harris, 19050 Tettington Lane, Charles City, Va., questioned if the \$0.04 cent tax was for the library. She stated she also has a concern that she is five miles from Fire Station 3 which is vacant. She would like Fire and EMS be a priority and added to the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan).

Bob Epperson, 19001 Tettington Lane, Charles City, Va., stated the budget for Fire and EMS is \$780,000. The response time is forty-five minutes which is not normal. He found out today the volunteer fire fighters cannot go inside a house to fight a fire because they do not have the proper protective equipment to go inside a building. If \$784,000 is no enough money should we shift more funds to EMS? He also stated FEMA is offering millions of dollars in grant money; the County should be looking for ways to receive these funds.

C.D. Harwood, Jr., 16200 The Glebe Lane, Charles City, Va., stated he read an article where New Kent County has just brought a vacant building for a library in the amount of \$950,000.00. We cannot buy a library because of the projects we have. In 2015 we collected \$5,450,000 in real estate taxes; \$8M in 2017 adding another million in 2017. He also stated the County has budgeted for 2017 line items for election officers, employee recognition, boards and committees from nine to twelve hundred dollars. Timber prices are constantly dropping and taxes keep going up.

O.P. Harwood, Goochland Va., stated tonight is all about the math. The budget for FY2017 is budgeted for \$22M; there are 7,000 people in the county which equates to \$3,142.00 per person. He stated the County needs to control expenditures.

Dan Brooks, 23100 Old Neck Road, Charles City, Va., stated he does not appreciate the tax increase, but do appreciate the work being done. He asked that the Board think about the tax increase; maybe when the 2018 debt service is done maybe it can be reversed.

Anthony Carr, 10801 Harrison Lake Drive, Charles City, Va., stated in reference to the Animal Control Officer being fired, does this incur overtime to feed the animals and horses? He cannot believe she was fired two weeks before a court case coming up. He also stated in reference to the Sheriff's office receiving a vehicle, there is a truck parked at the Sheriff's office at all times.

Sidney Sheldon, property owner, stated he has accumulated land in nine counties and have brought a parcel in Charles City County for \$15.00 an acre; all other counties range from \$3.00 to \$7.00 an acre. The County needs a saw mill in this area. Timber has to be trucked much further. Land owners are getting less for timber.

John Sain, 19021 Tettington Lane, Charles City, Va., stated the people do not realize Fire and EMS Service is a daring need in the County. It is a topic for the Board now and in the future. The library is a good thing. The library should come second to EMS.

Paul Irby, Sturgeon Point Road, stated he appreciates all that the County does. He is seeing a lot of vacant homes throughout the County. The Board should consider coming down on the taxes. He also stated EMS Service is not sending out bills on time. He would appreciate the Board looking into the billing not being sent out.

Annette Roberts, 14314 Sandy Point Road, Charles City, Va., stated in reference to the Animal Control Officer she knows one person that has 176 cows, 200 sheep and a Llama business. The County needs more than one Animal Control Officer. She also stated the shelter needs to be updated. It is time for the County to do their part.

John Lamb, 6800 Mill Trail Road, Charles City, Va., stated he has an issue with the tax increase. If the County could assure that no money is being wasted he would not have an issue. He asked if delinquent taxes were being collected. Why was the money coming from people that are paying their taxes?

Charles Tench, 18100 The Glebe Lane, Charles City, Va., stated he is against the tax increase. The farmers and timberlands do not make any money, they now break even. He thanked EMS for doing what they do.

Leslie Carr, 10801 Harrison Lake Drive, Charles City, Va., stated she has listened to all the comments. Why is the library a focus when there are e-readers, etc? Most residents cannot make a living here. Instead of spending 2M on a library get some retail or factory to keep money here. Create ways to keep it here. She also stated it is a shame the Animal Control Officer was terminated, as she was more than qualified to do the job.

Witt Copeland, 16221 The Glebe Lane, Charles City, Va., stated as a business owner his business has shrunk. The County needs to be more fiscal responsible. EMS is fairly deployable in this County. They need resources. This needs to be addressed. If dollars are going in the right place he doesn't have a problem.

John Hofmeyer, 17000 Holly Point Road, Williamsburg, Va., stated his family owns a lot of land in the County. One problem he has is the farm and timberland assessment went up. West Point did the same thing and they came down. China is cutting back, not selling grain overseas. Building is not going on to sell timber. He stated he already has a problem with paying taxes. Assessment value of land is too high.

Steve Binn, 8921 Sturgeon Point Road, Charles City, Va., stated there are a lot of vacant buildings in the County for a library. EMS is a life or death issue. This should come before a library.

Public Hearing was closed by Floyd Miles.

Floyd Miles stated the Board will take all comments into consideration before the FY2017 budget is approved. It was agreed upon that the Board would meet to discuss comments on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

There being no further business, the Board **recessed until Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 5:30 p.m.**