

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
April 23, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zaremba, Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, George S. Hrichak, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Also in attendance were J. Mark Carter, Interim County Administrator; Vivian A. Calkins-McGettigan, Deputy County Administrator; and Melanie Economou, Assistant County Attorney.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

Chairman Shepperd explained the meeting allowed citizens to provide input on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and Calendar Year 2016 Tax Rates.

Mr. Carter provided the Board with a brief overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and the Calendar Year 2015 Tax Rates. He reviewed the budget highlights which included funding for the school division, employee compensation, programs, services, and capital improvements. He stated the real estate tax rate would remain unchanged at 75.15 cents, as well as the personal property tax rate remaining unchanged at \$4.00 per \$100. He explained revenue had increased \$950,000 (0.7%) from Fiscal Year 2015. School operations were being funded at \$51.3 million, an increase of \$361,000 (0.7%). The Capital Improvements Program was being funded at \$20.5 million, with \$8.89 million allocated to the School Division capital projects. He then reminded the Board of important upcoming budget dates.

Chairman Shepperd explained the Board had received input from phone calls, emails, and the public forum, and the Board would consider these comments concerning the budget deliberations. He stated the Board may elect to have additional meetings concerning the budget if changes needed to be made. Chairman Shepperd then called to order a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016 budget that was duly advertised as required by law.

Mr. Joseph Taylor, 109 Marlbank Drive, stated that he had reviewed the budget document and had difficulty finding certain information. Mr. Taylor urged the Board to fully fund the School budget which should be used to compensate its teachers. He liked the suggestion Mr. Carter had made regarding the use of surplus funds to address replacing school buses and upgrading the technology at the schools. He also stated more funding needed to be appropriated to the library. He noted he had visited the library and felt the magazine racks, in particular, were very bare. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Board to fund the library at the level consistent with funding the Williamsburg Regional Library received.

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Ms. Karen Riordan, President and CEO of Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, 421 N. Boundary Street, spoke concerning the funding they had received from the Board. She thanked the Board for the funding and expressed her hope that the Board saw the Chamber as a good steward of the County's funding. She noted the Alliance continued to build an events schedule which encouraged people to travel to this area, and she displayed an overview of the events for the upcoming year. Ms. Riordan stated the Alliance goal for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was to increase visitation to ensure the region was competitive over the next three to five years. She then provided the Board with strategies for 2015-2016 and data related to sports marketing, Williamsburg fall arts, and holiday marketing.

There being no one else present who wished to speak concerning the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, Chairman Shepperd closed the public hearing.

Chairman Shepperd then called to order a public hearing on the Calendar Year 2015 Tax Rates that was duly advertised as required by law. Proposed Ordinance No. 15-1 is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE TAX LEVIES UPON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, UPON MACHINERY AND TOOLS, UPON MOBILE HOMES, AND UPON REAL ESTATE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015, AND TO PRORATE TAXES ON MOBILE HOMES AS AUTHORIZED BY SEC. 58.1- 3521 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

There being no one present who wished to speak concerning the Calendar Year 2015 Tax Rates, proposed Ordinance No. 15-1, Chairman Shepperd closed the public hearing.

Mr. Zaremba stated the Board had not heard from many citizens, and he felt this meant the citizens were pleased with the job the Board was doing related to the budget.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET SUBMITTED BY OTHER MEANS

As directed by the Board of Supervisors, included in the proceedings of this meeting are the following comments on the proposed budget and tax rates that were received from citizens by way of email, phone call, or letter prior to close of business this date:

January 27, 2015—

I would like to see more funding for the schools, police and emergency services (fire, emt). While no one wants to see taxes increase, sometimes it becomes necessary to continue to provide the level of services that we have come to expect in York County. There are always places where someone thinks cuts and savings can be made, but please, PLEASE, do not decrease the level of funding for those things that really make York County a great place to live -- the schools and safety.

Barbara Conley
202 Treis Trail

March 12, 2015—

Dear Supervisors:

I had hoped to deliver a few short remarks during a citizen comment period, but I didn't get to do that before having knee replacement surgery, so I will make the comments by email.

Each year in the past, during the public hearing on the budget, a number of citizens appeared to plead that their real estate taxes not be raised. Rarely has one of these citizens previously appeared before you to oppose decisions that might have a negative impact on future budgets. That is reality and is to be expected this year as well.

Of course, an individual's real estate tax bill is the product of the assessment of their property value and the tax rate, but in spite of that, the focus is always on the tax rate. Although the County's tax rate has increased during the great recession and the continuing deflation of residential property values, the net change in tax bills has not been large.

My family's real estate tax bill increased by \$146.02 between 2010 and 2014. This represents a 7.2% increase over 4 years, or 1.7% per year. This small increase was only possible because of your careful use of taxpayer funds and freezing employee compensation during most of the great recession. Much of the increase was caused by increases in the County's contribution to the school budget.

I was happy to see that you recently approved a study of the competitiveness of the County's compensation system. Although I am aware that a few young County employees, whose salaries were frozen at entry level, have left for higher pay in Norfolk and Newport News governments, I don't know what the general impact on employee morale and retention has been.

Although I have appeared before you to oppose some rezoning for developments with negative budget impacts, I have been supportive of most of your actions.

From a brief review of a dozen house sales during the past year in my part of the County, I anticipate that the reductions in residential assessments may continue in the immediate future.

The bottom line is that I want the County to continue to have a desirable environment to live in and an excellent school system. I am willing to pay a little more in real estate tax to support that desire.

Sincerely,

Don Phillips
200 Dogwood Ct
(757) 898 8438

April 9, 2015—

This year is a perfect opportunity to give the school board what they NEED to operate a quality system. The pay bumps for employees who have gone many years without raises or step increases are long overdue, and the school board's new leader should not have to fight with the county over a very conservative request from the school board. Please do not cut their request!!!

Sheila Majka
129 York Point Dr
Seaford 23696

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A brief discussion ensued concerning the need for the two scheduled work sessions on April 28 and April 30.

By consensus the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, but Chairman Shepperd would poll each of the Board members the next day to determine whether or not the two work sessions needed to be held. He stated once he had contacted all of the Board members, he would apprise the Interim County Administrator of the Board's decision.

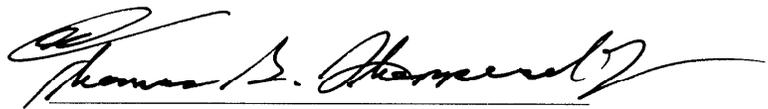
Meeting Adjourned. At 7:14 p.m. Chairman Shepperd moved that the meeting be adjourned to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2015, in the East Room, York Hall, for the purpose of conducting a work session concerning the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (5) Zaremba, Noll, Wiggins, Hrichak, Shepperd
Nay: (0)



J. Mark Carter
Interim County Administrator



Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors