

April 5, 2016

Clarke County Board Of Supervisors
Clarke County School Board
FY2017 Budget and CY2016 Tax Rate Public Hearing
Main Meeting Room

7:30 p.m.

At a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors and the School Board of Clarke County, Virginia, held in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Supervisors Present

Mary L.C. Daniel – Berryville District; David S. Weiss - Buckmarsh / Blue Ridge District; Terri T. Catlett - Millwood / Pine Grove District; Barbara J. Byrd – Russell District; Bev B. McKay – White Post District

Supervisors Absent

None

School Board Members Present

Chuyen Kochinsky - Berryville District; Monica Singh-Smith - Buckmarsh / Blue Ridge District; Denis Graham - Millwood / Pine Grove District; Tom Parker – Russell District; Chip Schutte – White Post District;

School Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Chuck Bishop, Rick Catlett, Renee Weir; David Ash, Lisa Cooke; Tom Judge; Brian Rosenberry; Barbara Bosserman

Constitutional Officers Present

Sharon Keeler, Tony Roper

Press

Amy Alonzo - The Winchester Star

Others Present

George Archibald, Jason Burns, Paul DiFranco, Matt Pearson and other citizens

Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m., Chairman Weiss called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order. He informed those present that the elected bodies decided to reinstate the tradition of conducting a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the School Board for purpose of jointing conducting the annual budget and tax rate public hearing.

At 7:31 p.m., Chairman Kochinsky called the School Board meeting to order.

Adoption of the Agenda

Supervisor Bev McKay moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Barbara J. Byrd	- Aye
Terri T. Catlett	- Aye
Mary L.C. Daniel	- Aye
Beverly B. McKay	- Aye
David S. Weiss	- Aye

Comments

Chairman Weiss commented on the recent passing of Val Van Meter, long-standing journalist covering Clarke County, who, at the time of her death, was reporting for The Winchester Star. He noted that Mrs. Van Meter was a wonderful person, had a warm and friendly nature, was always accurate in reporting, and possessed a phenomenal love for her adopted community. He opined that she would be greatly missed. He extended to the Van Meter family the Board's thoughts and prayers. He concluded that Val was a tremendous person, one of the greatest and best.

Dr. Bishop informed the Boards that this past Saturday Clarke County Public Schools Boyce Elementary School lost its principal, Amy Angelo, after a very brief battle with cancer diagnosed on Wednesday and passing away on Saturday. He told the Boards that

during her two years with CCPS she had a great impact on Boyce Elementary. He, too, extended the Schools' condolences to the Van Meter family noting that Val occasionally covered school meetings.

FY2017 Budget Public Hearing

Tom Judge, Director Joint Administrative Services, provided highlights of the proposed FY2017 Budget:

- Key Revenue Changes:
 - o Real estate tax: \$291,759 increase primarily due to construction activities
 - o Personal property tax: \$452,392 increase primarily due to increased vehicle sales.
 - o Emergency Medical Services: \$50,000 increase based on best estimates from this new program.
 - o Court fines and forfeitures: \$60,095 increase; a portion of this attributable to the e-ticket program.
 - o Schools local funds: \$90,384 increase; a large portion of this is attributable to dual enrollment at Lord Fairfax Community College.
- Expenditures
 - o Salary increase: \$551,000 increase for a 3% average salary increase for general government and school employees.
 - o Health Insurance: \$172,000 increase
 - o New Positions General Government and Schools: \$242,000 increase
 - o Convenience Center: \$612,000 construction project.
 - o Berryville Primary School Renovation: \$3.5MM construction project. This amount will be added to the \$500,000 already budgeted to bring the total budget to \$4MM.
- Fund Balance
 - o Deficit: -\$4.5MM. Will be using fund balance to cover \$4.3MM.
 - o Net of Pay As You Go: -\$292,000 deficit.
 - o FY2018 expect debt service to decrease by \$800,000 creating flexibility providing a financial buffer.
- CY2016 Tax Rate
 - o Real Estate: Increasing from \$0.655 to \$0.72, which is the equalized rate that will generate the same revenue under the reassessed land values to take effect January 1, 2016.
 - o Personal Property: no rate change.

Following review, Chairman Weiss called for questions from the Board; and being none, he called for technical questions from the audience. Hearing no questions, at 7:43 p.m., Chairman Weiss opened the public comment portion of the public hearing.

George Archibald, Berryville Resident: Spoke in support of the proposed budget. He praised the Berryville Primary School renovation project and urged the Boards to consider the historic character of the building.

Jason Burns, 241 Ebenezer Road, Bluemont: Urged the Supervisors to consider offering LEOS to fire and rescue personnel and providing in-date certified gear to career staff. He thanked the Supervisors for funding the insurance for volunteer stations. He noted the high cost of fire and rescue apparatus advising that the recent purchase of a pumper would financially strain the Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company. He opined that the Supervisors must research better ways to fund volunteer stations in the future.

Chairman Weiss thanked Mr. Burns and expressed the Board's appreciation for his work with Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire and Rescues Company. He assured that the budget did include funding for turn out gear.

Matt Pearson, Chair Property Owners of Shenandoah Farms Board of Directors, Montgomery Hill Road, Front Royal: Spoke in support of the proposed budget. He stated that the Shenandoah Farms Sanitary District was not funded in the proposed budget and formerly offered his board's availability to discuss the Sanitary District budget in the future.

Chairman Weiss commented that a \$20,000 "place marker" was included in the budget and the Board was still determining how to move forward on the district. He added that by law the Shenandoah Farms Sanitary District would always have its own fund.

Being no other persons desiring to speak, Chairman Weiss closed the budget public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

CY2016 Tax Rate

At 7:54 p.m., Chairman Weiss opened the public hearing for public comment. There being no persons desiring to speak, Chairman Weiss closed the tax rate public hearing.

Comments

Supervisor Byrd commented that with the completion of the Berryville Primary renovation the County would end the myriad school construction projects it has dealt with during her tenure on the Board. She noted that completion of the

construction projects would give the School Board a chance to concentrate its full attention on education. She opined that the proposed renovation of Berryville Primary was a good plan and she looked forward to seeing the finished product. She concluded by thanking all those that worked on the budget.

Supervisor Daniel remarked that she came in to office at the end of the budget process and appreciated the fact that she could review a budget that was straightforward and very detailed. She opined that it spoke highly of staff that no citizens chose to speak to the tax rate.

School Board Chair Kochinsky commented that she joined the School Board in 2013 and appreciated the invitation from Supervisor Chair Weiss to participate in the budget and tax rate public hearing, which she characterized as historic and something that needed to continue. She opined that the Boards were moving forward doing a great collaborative work. She also expressed appreciation for the relationship between the Boards and staff.

Supervisor Chair Weiss put forth that he was glad that the Boards met jointly. He opined that working together benefited the community and that the budget met citizen's needs. He noted that both the Schools and general government restored positions cut during leaner times.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at 7:59 p.m. Chairman Weiss adjourned the Board of Supervisors FY2017 Budget and CY2016 Tax Rate Public Hearing. Immediately after, Chairman Kochinsky adjourned the School Board meeting.

Next Regular Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center, Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: April 5, 2016

David S. Weiss, Chair

David L. Ash, County Administrator

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by:
Lora B. Walburn, Deputy Clerk, Board of Supervisors