

April 2, 2019

Clarke County Board of Supervisors  
Budget and Tax Rate Public Hearing  
Main Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

At a budget and tax rate public hearing of the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Virginia, with the Clarke County School Board held in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Berryville, Virginia conducted on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

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

Absent: None

Present: School Board: Katie Kerr-Hobert – Berryville District; Monica Singh-Smith – Buckmarsh / Blue Ridge District; Jon Turkel – Millwood / Pine Grove District; Chip Schutte – White Post District

Absent: Zara Ryan – Russell District

County Staff Present

David Ash, Cathy Kuehner, Brian Lichty, Brianna R. Taylor, Lora B. Walburn

Constitutional / State Offices / Other Agencies

Tony Roper, Tom Judge

Chuck Bishop, Rick Catlett, Renee Weir

Press

Mickey Powell – The Winchester Star

Others Present

George Archibald, Robina Rich Bouffault, Rod De Arment, Danielle Donohue, Amanda Kelly, Deb Pelletier, David Pratt, Pam Thompson, and others

1) Call to Order

Chairman Weiss called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Chairwoman Singh-Smith called the School Board meeting to order immediately thereafter.

2) Adoption of Agenda

Supervisor Byrd moved to adopt the agenda as presented. No vote was called and the Supervisors adopted by consensus.

School Board Member Jon Turkel moved to adopt the agenda as presented. No vote was called and the School Board adopted by consensus.

3) FY2020 Budget Public Hearing

Tom Judge, Director Joint Administrative Services, provided highlights of the proposed FY2020 Budget:

- Budget variances over \$100K.
  - o Expenditure
    - Sheriff +194,162. Salary increase, health insurance, Communications Specialist, SRO
    - Fire/EMS/EM +151,534. Salary increase, health insurance, Additional 1.5 EMT
    - Social Services +\$116,508. Salary increase, health insurance, Medicaid position
    - School Operations +562,676. Salary increase, health insurance, NOAA position
    - General Capital Improvements +523,537. Communications project=522,085. Next Gen E911 = 209,858
    - School Debt Service -423,083. 1998 Johnson Williams Renovation paid off
  - o Revenue
    - Real Estate Taxes -142,299. Reduced rate of increase, not a decrease in actual collection
    - Personal Property Taxes +366,385. More vehicles, average vehicle more expensive

- Commonwealth Revenue for Government Capital +241,452. Next Gen E911, and Phone System Recorder/EMD
- Federal Revenue for School Operations +270,352. Utilize excess grant authority
- Tax Rates Public Hearing. No change

Chairman Weiss called for any requests for clarification from the Boards. Hearing no questions, he called for clarification from the audience, again, with no questions raised.

On behalf of the Boards, Chairman Weiss expressed condolence to Tom Judge over the recent loss of his father.

At 7:11 pm, Chairman Weiss opened the public comment portion of the public hearing.

David Pratt, Smithfield Lane, Berryville: Spoke against returning School Board funds to the general operating fund. He identified himself as a parent that supports teachers and education. He noted that the funds could be used to cover expenses associated with a new program in Virginia that might require additional training and/or professional development.

When Mr. Pratt began to comment on behalf of Castlerock Lane constituents, who had previously expressed concern about a neighbor's target shooting, a matter not before the Board for public hearing, Chairman Weiss stopped him from further comment on this unrelated matter.

George Archibald, Main Street, Berryville: Read from a prepared statement that he provided for the public record. Shortly after commencing his recitation, Chairman Weiss asked if Mr. Archibald's comments would touch on the budget, which was the matter before the Board. Mr. Archibald assured that they would going on to reference the Supervisors' legislative priorities asking the Board to amend its' priorities as part of the budget process.

Robina Rich Bouffault, Boyce: Read from a prepared statement with visual aids that she provided for the public record. Ms. Bouffault questioned automatic carry-overs and school funding.

Amanda Kelly, Hickory Lane, Bluemont: Spoke in support of School funding informing Board members that she had four children in school. She opined that any additional funds should be set aside for the schools. She further commented that the County should invest in schools and improve teacher pay to aid in attracting and retaining. She further opined that after-school activities could be better funded.

Being no other persons desiring to address the Boards, Chairman Weiss closed the public hearing at 7:27 pm.

Jon Turkel, White Post District School Board member, expressed appreciation for being at the meeting with the Board of Supervisors, the School Board, and the community. He opined that a positive, unique relationship existed between the elected bodies that was important as they continue to work together for the betterment of the community. He stated that the public bodies should anticipate critique, criticism, and scrutiny from the community; and, he assured that he took these matters seriously opining that a lot of positive comes through it. He continued that the risk to this was sowing seeds of doubt between the bodies and he encouraged communication and reaching out with questions and concerns to better answer questions for the community to make constituents more comfortable with elected representatives.

Chairwoman Singh-Smith remarked that she echoed Mr. Turkel's sentiments. She, too, expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the School Board in the budget process as it had over the previous years. She concluded by saying that she appreciated the open dialogue this year during the budget process opining that the School Board was able to convey its priorities that were heard by the Supervisors.

Chairman Weiss expressed the Supervisors' appreciation opining that the Supervisors echoed the School Board's sentiments. He stated that the Supervisors appreciated the relationship it had developed with the School Board and its staff, which has led to a better atmosphere and a more productive way to go.

- Supervisors were able to work through numbers and provide substantial increase in some areas the majority of that through communications savings that allowed the County to cover deficits for some projects. He opined that this was a credit to all the agencies, Constitutional Officers, School Board, School Superintendent, and County Staff.
- The County applies end-of-year savings to capital projects.
- Reduction of debt service freed up over \$400,000.
- Personal property came in at a higher rate this year; however, it is variable from year to year.
- Budget funded without a tax increase.

He concluded by expressing his appreciation to staff, specially Joint Administrative Services, County Administration, School Administration, and Constitutional Offices. He commented that citizens do not realize the complexity of the budgets opining that staff submitted budgets that were conservative having already taken the effort to vet the numbers. He further remarked on staff's conservative attitude and dedication.

Supervisor Catlett observed that the budget is a process and every year you learn what you have to work with, which does change from year to year; further, the Board tries to make do with what it has and to do its best for all.

Supervisor Daniel thanked the members of the Finance Committees for their work on the budget.

Chairman Weiss explained that the Finance Committee conducts a very detailed review of the budget going line by line; using a five-year history. He opined that its careful approach works and has well served the community.

Supervisor Byrd praised Tom Judge and County staff for a noteworthy job.

#### 4) FY2019 Tax Rate Public Hearing

Tom Judge reviewed the tax rate resolution for calendar year 2019. He restated that tax rates were unchanged from calendar year 2018.

##### 2019 Tax Rates

1. Real Estate, including the real estate of public service corporations**	\$ 0.710
2. Tangible personal property except machinery and tools and qualified Fire and Rescue Vehicles	\$ 4.496
3. Tangible Machinery and tools	\$ 1.250
4. Tangible personal property of qualified Fire & Rescue Vehicles	\$ 2.248

\*\* Mobile Homes will be assessed as personal property, but taxed at the same rate as real estate.

Chairman Weiss called for any requests for clarification from the Boards. Hearing no questions, he called for clarification from the audience, again, no questions raised.

At 7:39 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.

#### 5) Adjournment

Chairman Weiss adjourned the Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:39 pm.

Immediately following, Chairwoman Singh-Smith adjourned the School Board.

#### Next Regular Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center, Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, Berryville, Virginia.

Approved May 21, 2019

Book 23  
Page 677

ATTEST: April 2, 2019

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David S. Weiss, Chair

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David L. Ash, County Administrator

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Recorded and transcribed by Lora B. Walburn, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors