

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 10, 2009 Budget Work Session 5:30 p.m.
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Virginia, held in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Clarke County Circuit Courthouse, Berryville, Virginia on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Board of Supervisors Members Present

Barbara Byrd, J. Michael Hobert, John Staelin, David Weiss

Board Members Present

A. R. Dunning, Jr.

General Government Staff Present

David Ash, Lora Walburn

School Board Members Present

Janet Alger, Robina Rich Bouffault, Philip Embury, Emily Rhodes, Jennifer Welliver

School Staff Present

Rick Catlett, Mike Murphy

Joint Administrative Services Staff Present

Annette Gilley, Tom Judge

Others Present

Laura Oleniacz and other citizens and members of the press.

Call to Order

Chairman John Staelin, Clarke County Board of Supervisors, called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Immediately following, Chairlady Janet Alger, Clarke County School Board, called to order a Special Meeting of the Clarke County School Board.

FY10 Budget Discussion - Clarke County Public Schools FY10 Budget Presentation

School Board Chairlady, Janet Alger, with Dr. Michael Murphy, CCPS Superintendent, presented the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the fund totals on page 15 of the Superintendents FY10 Budget proposal be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors at the School Board's request except that:

- A. Any state revenue changes be reflected in addition; and*
- B. That any detail beyond the fund totals be subject to further action by the School Board.*

Tom Judge, referencing the budget adjusted to reflect changes in state revenue, stated that this revised document had been distributed March 9.

Robina Rich Bouffault challenged the timely receipt of the budget information stating that it had not been distributed with sufficient advance notice to allow for adequate review.

Tom Judge provided a brief synopsis of the School's budget revisions.

- Adjustments affected:
 - Addition of stimulus dollars to Operations.
 - Interest on bond proceeds.
 - Additional lottery proceeds for capital traditionally used for debt service.
- The Commonwealth has not yet indicated how the school system may use the stimulus dollars; therefore, budget details have not been finalized. Further, it is not clear when these details will be made known. Federal stimulus funds, available on a reimbursement basis, are subject to the guidance of America Recovery and Investment Act that will be provided from the federal department of Education at a later date. Tom Judge speculated that it would not be known until after the possible veto session.

There was discussion on the purpose and use of the proposed federal stimulus funds, as well as the reluctance to set the budget using this undefined funding. Chairman Staelin said that he could not endorse adding new programs that might take years to show results if they could not be continued. He opined that it would be wasteful to add short-term programs just to utilize designated federal stimulus dollars.

School Board Chairlady Alger suggested a motion that would allow the budget to be adjusted dependent on receipt of state funds. Chairman Staelin advised that public hearing was required for budget adjustments of one percent or greater.

Chairman Staelin and Vice Chairman Hobert explained the necessity of making annual budgets comparable so as not to skew comparisons.

The Boards discussed the impact of a delay in setting the budget for advertisement. By consensus, both Boards agreed to delay the setting the budget pending further review by the School Board.

The School Board will meet in regular session on March 16, 2009 to further discuss and adopt the FY10 budget.

The Board of Supervisors will meet in regular session on March 17, 2009 to set the FY10 budget and tax rate for advertisement changing the public hearing date from March 31 to April 7.

Tom Judge and Dr. Murphy shall provide the School's adopted budget information at the Supervisors' March 17 meeting.

Chairman Staelin called attention to the \$8.5 million figure listed for elementary school conversion under capital projects. He commented that creating a number sets an expectation; and as of this time, no study has been performed from which a figure could be set. Dr. Murphy assured that this figure was footnoted in the revised budget.

School Board Chairlady Alger concluded by stating that this was an unprecedented budget year. At 6:05 p.m., she called for adjournment.

Jennifer Welliver, seconded by Robina Rich Bouffault, moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Clarke County School Board.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Janet Alger, Chair	- Aye
Jennifer Welliver, Vice Chair	- Aye
Robina Rich Bouffault	- Aye
Phillip Embury	- Aye
Emily Rhodes	- Aye

Consent Agenda

Agreement Frederick Winchester Service Authority and Clarke County

Vice Chairman Hobert moved to approve the item on the Consent Agenda, as presented, authorizing the Board of Supervisors Chair to execute the agreement with Frederick Winchester Service Authority and Clarke County.

The motion carried by the following vote:

John R. Staelin, Chair	- Aye
J. Michael Hobert, Vice Chair	- Aye
Barbara J. Byrd	- Aye
A.R. Dunning, Jr.	- Absent
David S. Weiss	- Aye

FY10 Budget Review

Tom Judge reviewed the list of changes made to the FY10 Budget since the March 4 Work Session. Highlights included:

- New information on assessed values of personal property including the addition of 300 vehicles not previously tallied, as well as new trucks. These two items caused an increase of approximately 4% allowing a drop in the proposed personal property tax rate increase from \$5.02 to \$4.81 cents per hundred.
- Currently, the deficit is at \$205,000.

John Staelin inquired as to the enactment of the changes at the Animal Shelter as proposed by the Humane Foundation.

Supervisor Byrd explained that there has been no defined leadership since the inception of the new shelter; therefore, to resolve this matter, the Humane Foundation proposed funding a Shelter Manager for a period of three years at a salary of \$5,000 above the highest-paid individual at the Shelter. Supervisor Byrd stated that, with the addition of this position, the Humane Foundation hoped to expand programs that would include a Shelter volunteer coordination program.

Supervisor Byrd moved to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Section §2.2.3711-A4 and A7 of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters and contract negotiations. The motion was approved by the following vote:

John R. Staelin, Chair	- Aye
J. Michael Hobert, Vice Chair	- Aye
Barbara J. Byrd	- Aye
A.R. Dunning, Jr.	- Absent
David S. Weiss	- Aye

The members of the Board of Supervisors being assembled within the designated meeting place, with open doors and in the presence of members of the public and/or the media desiring

to attend, **Supervisor Byrd moved to reconvene in open session. The motion carried as follows:**

John R. Staelin, Chair	- Aye
J. Michael Hobert, Vice Chair	- Aye
Barbara J. Byrd	- Aye
A.R. Dunning, Jr.	- Absent
David S. Weiss	- Aye

Vice Chairman Hobert moved to execute the following Certification of Closed Session:

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Clarke, Virginia, has convened a closed meeting on the date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3700 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Clarke, Virginia that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Clarke, Virginia, hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which the certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Clarke, Virginia.

The motion was approved by the following roll-call vote:

John R. Staelin, Chair	- Aye
J. Michael Hobert, Vice Chair	- Aye
Barbara J. Byrd	- Aye
A.R. Dunning, Jr.	- Absent
David S. Weiss	- Aye

Groundwater Study Discussion

John Staelin put forward for consideration continued funding in FY10 for the Groundwater Study Program performed by USGS totaling \$37,544. He noted that USGS would provide an additional \$30,000 in co-op funds for the water-monitoring program. Chairman Staelin stated that USGS has clearly demonstrated a good-faith effort by continuing to invest in the region

Vice Chairman Hobert said that he could see the wisdom in the continuation of the monitoring program. He noted that USGS and the County had already invested a great deal of time and money; and if the program were abandoned now, it could harm the validity of data gathered thus far. He strongly encouraged the Supervisors to press USGS for better reporting. Chairman Staelin concurred commenting that this cannot be a science project.

By consensus, the Supervisors agreed to continue to fund the groundwater study program and instructed Tom Judge to check with Alison Teetor on the additional USGS funding.

Local School Funding

Chairman Staelin drew the Board's attention to the correct number for the increase in local tax funding for Schools, \$446, 891.

Office of Economic Development Funding

Vice Chairman Hobert expressed concern regarding Office of Economic Development funding. He noted that reaction was still coming in from the recent Economic Development study. He opined that ultimately defunding was not in the best interest of the community. Mr. Hobert put forth that the need was heightened by the economic downturn; and in that light, the County should continue to press for an improved tax base. He suggested realigning responsibility to existing staff and clarifying how to fulfill these functions.

Supervisor Byrd offered to share a letter with Mr. Hobert that she had received from a constituent that expressed the same concerns about economic development. She commented that with the downward economic spiral it might be very difficult to effect a change.

Vice Chairman Hobert held that economic development could help existing businesses survive. He urged the Board to be more active and supportive.

Supervisor Weiss interjected that the County must first adopt an action plan that should be implemented. Chairman Staelin concurred noting that the Supervisors had not reached agreement on direction; and until established, a job description could not be developed reminding those present that the previous draft was too broad and too vague.

Supervisor Weiss left the meeting at 6:40 pm

By consensus, the Supervisors restored funding for the Office of Economic Development.

FY10 Budget Advertisement Discussion

Tom Judge put forth for discussion the cost of advertising the budget in the local newspapers advising that last year the cost was \$3,600.

Chairman Staelin suggested that Tom Judge explore the possibility of the following options:

- Place budget information on the County's website.
- Place hard copies in the Administrative Office.
- Post notice; and for those citizens requesting copies, Email or post.
- Check cost of placing the FY10 Budget and Tax Rate as an insert in the local paper.

By consensus, the Supervisors agreed to delay action on the FY10 Budget. The revised dates are:

- Set Budget for Advertisement: March 17, 2009 at 1:00 pm Regular Meeting
- Public Hearing FY10 Budget and FY10 Tax Rate: April 7, 2009 at 7:30 pm John Enders Fire Hall
- Adopt FY10 Budget and FY10 Tax Rate: April 14, 2009 at 5:30 pm Budget Work Session

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, at 7:00 pm Chairman Staelin adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: March 10, 2009

John Staelin, Chair

David L. Ash, County Administrator

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