

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 7, 2009 Public Hearing 7:30 p.m.
John Enders Social Hall

At a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Virginia in the John Enders Social Hall, 9 South Buckmarsh Street, Berryville, Virginia on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Board Members Present

Barbara J. Byrd; A.R. "Pete" Dunning, Jr.; J. Michael Hobert; John R. Staelin; David S. Weiss

Staff Present

David Ash, Tom Judge, Warren Arthur, Donna Peake, Tony Roper

Also Present

Jay Arnold, Robina Rich Bouffault, Alton Echols, Louise McKay, Chanel Caraway, Laura Oleniacz, Layla Wilder, John Williams, and other citizens

Call To Order

Chairman John Staelin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Staelin reviewed the order of items on the agenda. He explained that by law the Supervisors could not adopt the budget until seven days following the public hearing.

PH 09-12 FY10 Budget

Chairman Staelin provided an overview of the budget process. He introduced Tom Judge, Director - Joint Administrative Services, who reviewed the budget providing additional detail on the budget planning process. Mr. Judge explained the primary reasons for revenue shortfalls, as well as primary changes to the department budgets. Highlights of this review included:

- Declining Commonwealth revenues.
- Declining interest on deposits.
- Declining personal property revenues.
- All Commonwealth agencies have reduced departmental budgets.

- Elimination of vacant employee positions.
- No new employment positions.
- No salary increases.
- Reduction or elimination of part-time employees.
- Federal stimulus funds helped restore some budget cuts but it is only a temporary deferral.
- Efforts have been made to position departments for additional deficits, retain fiscal reserves, and to conservatively use federal stimulus funds.
- Real Estate tax increase from .50 to .53 cents.
- Personal Property tax increase from \$4.00 to \$4.81. There is still \$300,000 loss in revenue for the tax increase does not fully offset revenue loss from declining values.

At 7:45 pm Chairman Staelin opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. There being no persons present desiring to address the Supervisors on this matter the public comment portion of the public hearing was closed.

PH 09-13 FY10 Tax Rate

Tom Judge briefly reviewed the FY10 Tax Rate:

- .03-cent real estate tax increase
- .81-cent personal property tax increase
- Tangible Machinery and Tools rate unchanged
- Personal property tax relief from the Commonwealth of Virginia increases from 57.2% to 60.1%.

At 7:49 pm Chairman Staelin opened the public comment portion of the public hearing

Alton Echols, Berryville: addressed the Supervisors requesting that they consider investigating the possibility of providing personal property tax breaks to business owners in an effort to attract service industries to the County.

In response to Mr. Echols' comments, Warren Arthur, Commissioner of the Revenue, provided a brief explanation of farm machinery, personal property, and machinery and tools taxes.

Chairman Staelin commented that Clarke County does not levy a BPOL [Business Professional Occupation License] tax.

At 7:51 pm there being no additional persons desiring to speak Chairman Staelin closed the public comment portion of the public hearing.

Supervisors Byrd expressed appreciation to all the county departments, constitutional offices and schools for their cooperation in this difficult budget year. She commended the members of the Finance Committee – John Staelin, Michael Hobert, David Ash and Tom Judge – for their efforts, dedication and diligence.

Adjournment

Chairman Staelin adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Next Meeting Date

Final review of the FY10 Budget and FY10 Tax Rate is scheduled for the Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in the Main Meeting Room at 101 Chalmers Court, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: April 7, 2009

John Staelin, Chair
Clarke County Board of Supervisors

David L. Ash, County Administrator

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