

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
April 15, 2010      Special Meeting      7:30 p.m.  
Meeting Room AB

At a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors of Clarke County, Virginia, held in the Main Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Berryville Clarke County Joint Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Berryville, Virginia on Thursday, April 15, 2010.

Board of Supervisors Members Present

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

Staff Present

Warren Arthur, Donna Peake, David Ash, Lisa Cooke, Tom Judge, Lora Walburn

Others Present

Becky Layne, Chanel Caraway

Call to Order

Chairman Hobert called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

**Supervisor Dunning moved to adopt the agenda as presented.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

Public Hearing FY2011 Budget

Tom Judge, Director Joint Administrative Services, presented an overview of the proposed FY2011 budget.

At 7:39 pm, Chairman Hobert opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. There being no citizens desiring to address the Supervisors regarding this matter the public comment portion of the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Hobert reminded that by law the Supervisors could not act on the budget until at least one week following the public hearing.

### Public Hearing FY2011 Tax Rate

Tom Judge, Director Joint Administrative Services, presented an overview of the proposed 2010 tax rate including the equalized rate with the planned two-cent increase. He noted that beginning in FY2011 the method by which land-use values are established was changed resulting in a modest increase.

Supervisor Staelin provided a brief explanation of the handout [*below*] distributed at the meeting detailing the expected tax increase versus actual noting that taxes have not risen as fast as forecasted.

In March 2007 the Board of Supervisors made a public presentation summarizing how they expected to fund the cost of construction for both the new High School and the Joint Administration Building. In that presentation the Board noted that it had raised taxes a total of 17.3% in the prior two years to set aside funds for the projects. Further, the Board noted that it expected taxes would have to rise another 26.5% over the next three years to cover all the interest payments associated with the two projects.

The specific forecast was for tax increases of:

Expected Increase		Actual Increase	
CY07	3¢ or 6.6%	CY07	3¢ or 6.6%
CY8	4¢ or 8.3%	CY08	2¢ or 4.2%
CY09	5¢ or 9.6%	CY09	3¢ or 6.0%
CY10		CY10	2¢ or 3.3%
Total	12¢ or 26.5%	Total	10¢ or 21.6%

The reason that taxes did not rise as fast as expected is that the high school project was delayed due to the switch in sites. That meant the funds that had been borrowed from bondholders back in 2006 were sitting in the "bank" earning interest that could be used to offset the payments the County had to make to those same bondholders. As those funds are spent on the school the County will now have to shoulder the cost of the interest payments from tax revenues.

Warren Arthur explained the new methodology used to develop land-use values developed in a cooperative effort between six regional counties with input from the state and local farm bureaus.

Vice Chairman Weiss commented that he supported the increase land-use values however he would classify the increase as more than modest from the farmers' perspective going from a high of \$240 per acre to \$400 per acre.

Warren Arthur advised the Board that the reassessment was complete and there are no additional persons seeking review by the Board of Equalization. Responding to Supervisor Staelin's inquiry, he said that he did not know of any persons seeking legal redress.

At 8:00 pm, Chairman Hobert opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. There being no citizens desiring to address the Supervisors regarding this matter the public comment portion of the public hearing was closed.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Boards at 8:01 pm Chairman Hobert adjourned the Board of Supervisors meeting.

#### Next Regular Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: April 15, 2010

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J. Michael Hobert, Chair

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David L. Ash, County Administrator

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