

April 5, 2011

CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Budget and Tax Rate Public Hearing
Meeting Room AB

7:30 p.m.

At a public hearing of the Clarke County Board of Supervisors held in the Main Meeting Room, 2nd Floor Berryville Clarke County Joint Government Center, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia on Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

Board of Supervisors Members Present

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

School Members Present

Barbara Lee; Robina Rich Bouffault; Michael Murphy

Staff Present

David Ash, Lisa Cooke, Tom Judge, Lora Walburn

Others Present

Wilson Kirby, Bonnie Dodson, Bill Bell, Katrina Bush, Ed Leonard, Becky Layne

Call to Order

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

PH 11-08 FY2012 Budget Public Hearing

Public Hearing Notice (PH 11-08) Clarke County Proposed Budget For The Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2011 And Ending June 30, 2012

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, VA, to consider the following matter: This budget has been prepared on the basis of the estimates and requests submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the several officers and department heads of this County including the Clarke County Public Schools. Any citizen of the County shall have the right to attend said hearing and

comment on the budget. Written copies of statements made at public hearings are requested but not required. Information relative to the complete budget is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clarke County Administrator during regular working hours, and at www.clarkecounty.gov. This budget is prepared and published for informative and fiscal planning purposes only. The inclusion in the budget of any item does not constitute an obligation or commitment on the part of the Board of Supervisors of this County to appropriate any funds for that item.

Chairman Hobert provided an overview of the evenings topics advising that it would follow the standard format with review by Tom Judge, Director – Joint Administrative Services, question and answer period, budget public hearing, followed by the tax rate public hearing. He informed those present that the law required the Supervisors to delay action on the budget until seven days following public hearing.

Tom Judge reviewed highlights of the FY2012 budget including revenues, debt service, and capital expenditures:

- Decrease in conservation easements - grant funding reductions from state and federal sources.
- Increased school capital improvement largely due to additional technology expenditures.
- Increase in volunteer fire companies due to line of duty act – an unfunded mandate.
- To balance the budget, funding was reduced where possible.
- Decreased state funding may cause problems later in the year.

Supervisor Staelin, with Tom Judge, reviewed the Recreation Center Capital Improvement Project. Highlights include:

- Three projects combined: Recreation Center repairs, Senior Center addition and Park Office Addition.
- Combining the projects is more cost effective but they can be done separately.
- Recreation Center Repairs: \$207,000 including roof, wall repair and HVAC.
- Park Office Addition: \$390,902.
- Senior Center: \$900,000 estimated additional cost.
 - \$300,000 from BOS in Government Capital Projects Fund.
 - SAAA has committed a fair amount of funds and paid for the design.
 - An additional \$400,000 in donations is expected.
 - Half of the anticipated funding is from the sell of a house that the SAAA owns. SAAA places the value at over \$200,000, down from \$250,000; however, actual value may be below \$200,000.
 - When not being used by the seniors, the Senior Center addition will be available for use by other groups.

Following the budget summary by Tom Judge, Chairman Hobert called for any questions, clarifications, and/or document definitions from the audience. There being no questions, at 7:41 pm, Chairman Hobert opened the public comment portion of the public hearing.

Martha Myer, White Post resident and Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee for Senior Center: spoke in support of the Senior Center project. Mrs. Myer put forth that the Committee had been working hard for the past five and half years on the fundraising campaign stating that well over four hundred individuals had contributed thus far. She also recognized the countless others that have contributed to fundraising events including the bar-be-que and art show. She opined that the area seniors were anxious to see the Center become a reality. In conclusion, Mrs. Myers thanked the Supervisors for recognizing the benefit of the active living center to the whole community.

Chairman Hobert thanked Mrs. Myer and the members of the Capital Campaign Committee for their labor on behalf of the Senior Center.

Daniel Sheetz, Berryville resident and Chair of the Clarke County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: spoke in support of the Senior Center project and the shared use by Parks and Recreation. He stated that the current house in which Parks and Recreation offices are located had served its purpose opining that the old house was a maintenance nightmare and had various HVAC, as well as pest control issues. He asked to recognize the outstanding performance of Lisa Cook, Director Parks and Recreation, and praised Park staff for their excellent service. Mr. Sheetz also addressed the maintenance needs of the Recreation Center and commended the Board for combining this project with the Senior Center. He concluded by stating that this would be good partnership that would bring together members of the community from infants to seniors and provide Park staff with a work location that would allow them to be even more efficient.

Wilson Kirby, Berryville resident and Mayor – Town of Berryville: spoke in support of the Senior Center project. Mayor Kirby stated that the current Senior Center was a great place for seniors to gather and the level of management was outstanding. He also praised the volunteers for their time and effort. He asked the Supervisors to give the seniors what they deserved, a new facility that would better meet the needs of local seniors, as well as a facility that would allow them to better compete in the Senior Olympics, an event where County seniors have won in several categories. He concluded by expressing his appreciation for the Supervisors focus on the Senior Center and encouraging them to move forward with the project.

Cindy Palmer, Frederick County resident and Vice President Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging, Inc.: spoke in support of the Senior Center project. Mrs. Palmer thanked the Board of Supervisors for including the new senior center in the FY2012 budget. She also thanked the members of the Capital Campaign Committee, the donors, as well as Clarke County Parks and Recreation staff.

Bonnie Dodson, Berryville resident and Director Clarke County Senior Center: spoke in support of the Senior Center project that is to be built adjacent to the Park building in Chet Hobert Park. She stated they had been actively raising funds for this project for five and half years and had received good support from the Board of Supervisors, local businesses, organizations, as well as individuals for this worth-while project: She opined that the Senior Center would benefit members of the community of all ages. Mrs. Dodson informed the Board that last year the current Senior Center had served over 10,000 meals and had provided services to benefit seniors, such as transportation, insurance counseling, and other much needed services, that allowed seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible. She concluded by expressing her appreciation for the cooperative effort of the entire community and encouraging the Board of Supervisors to move forward.

Supervisor Dunning said that he had heard good things about the senior program from citizens throughout the County. He stated that Mrs. Dodson and her staff were doing a great job and their efforts were appreciated.

Supervisor Weiss put forth that the money for the Senior Center came as a result of long-term planning being set aside over a period of years. He opined that partnership was a good deal for the community that would allow the County to meet several needs and, done together, at a reduced cost. He did express some hesitation with regard to the amount SAAA anticipated for the sell of a donated house. He complimented County staff and the Finance Committee on a job well done.

Supervisor Byrd expressed support for the Senior Center project. She noted that the project also included much needed offices for Parks and Recreation staff. She opined that repairs to the Ramsburg House had been a drain on resources and how to proceed with regard to this structure must be carefully considered.

Supervisor Staelin stated that he was supportive of the Senior Center project. He also commented on school funding noting that there was over \$600,000 in additional funding of which \$500,000 was for debt services for school construction projects. Mr. Staelin put forward that the Senior Center project had been crowded out over the years due to limited funding and competing needs. He opined that there was good news for debt service for the school construction projects would soon cap out and start declining.

Supervisor Dunning commended School Board members Barbara Lee, Chair, and Robina Rich Bouffault on the excellent progress of the high school construction project that remained on budget and on time.

Chairman Hobert stated that Clarke County was a community that knew how to build partnerships noting that the Berryville Clarke County Government Center was a partnership with the Town and the Senior Center was a partnership with the Shenandoah Agency on Aging. He opined that such partnerships benefited everyone in the community. He further recognized that there had been sacrifice and expressed his hope that the County and SAAA would continue to work together.

Supervisor Byrd thanked Tom Judge, David Ash, John Staelin and Michael Hobert for a great job in difficult economic times.

There being no additional persons desiring to address the Supervisors on the matter of the FY2012 Budget, at 8:08 pm, **Supervisor Dunning moved to close the public hearing. The motion was approved 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

PH 11-09 Tax Rate Public Hearing

Public Hearing Notice (PH 11-09) Clarke County Tax Rates For The Calendar Year 2011

The Clarke County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Berryville Clarke County Government Center Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, VA, to consider the following matter:

This public hearing is held for the purpose of hearing citizens who wish to comment on the proposed local tax levy for the year beginning January 1, 2011 in accordance with Section 58.1-3007 et. seq. of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended:

ALL TAX RATES ARE BASED ON EACH \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION

	2011	
	Current	Proposed
1. Tangible personal property except machinery and tools and qualified Fire and Rescue Vehicles	4.83\$	4.69\$
2. Tangible Machinery and tools	1.25\$	1.25\$
3. Tangible personal property of qualified Fire & Rescue Vehicles	2.42\$	2.35\$
4. Real Estate, including the real estate of public service corporations**	0.62\$	0.62\$

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

It should be noted that no tax rate for the current year has been adopted by the Board of Supervisors at this time. The rates listed above reflect the rates that would be necessary to raise the required revenue if the budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 should be adopted as advertised.

View this document at www.clarkecounty.gov

The Board Of Supervisors Of Clarke County
By: David L. Ash, County Administrator

Clarke County Does Not Discriminate On The Basis Of Handicapped Status In Admission Or Access To Its Programs And Activities. Accommodations Will Be Made For Handicapped Persons Upon Prior Request.

Tom Judge provided an overview of the FY2012 Tax Rate noting the proposed decrease in tangible personal property tax rate and no change in the real estate tax rate.

At 8:09 pm, Chairman Hobert opened the public comment portion of the public hearing.

There being no persons desiring to address the Supervisors on the matter of the FY2012 Tax rate, at 8:10 pm, **Supervisor Dunning moved to close the public hearing. The motion was approved 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

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at 8:10 pm Chairman Hobert adjourned the meeting.

Next Regular Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, 101 Chalmers Court, 2nd Floor, Berryville, Virginia.

ATTEST: April 5, 2011

J. Michael Hobert, Chair

David L. Ash, County Administrator

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