

**Buckingham County
Board of Supervisors
April 25, 2011
Budget Meeting**

At a Budget Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on April 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Agricultural Center Auditorium the following members were present: E.A. "Bill" Talbert, Chairman; F.D. "Danny" LeSueur, Vice-Chairman; I. Monroe Snoddy; Joe N. Chambers, Jr.; Dr. Brian D. Bates; Danny R. Allen; and John D. Kitchen, Jr. Also present was Rebecca S. Carter, County Administrator, and E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney.

Re: Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Quorum Established

Chairman Talbert called the meeting to order. Supervisor Chambers gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all who were in attendance. Chairman Talbert certified that there was a quorum with all seven Supervisors in attendance. The meeting could continue.

Re: Agenda

Supervisor Kitchen moved, Supervisor Bates and Supervisor LeSueur seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the agenda as presented.

Re: Executive Session

Supervisor Bates moved, Supervisors Kitchen and Snoddy seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to go into executive closed session under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or any employees of any public body.

Re: Certification

Supervisor LeSueur moved, Supervisor Bates seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters as were defined in the motion by which the closed executive meeting as convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the executive closed session.

Re: Consideration of Adoption of the Operating Budget for FY 2011-2012

Supervisor Kitchen moved, Supervisor Bates seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to adopt the 2011- 2012 budget as advertised and presented.

Re: Consideration of Adoption of the Tax Rates for FY 2011-2012

Supervisor Bates moved, Supervisor Kitchen and Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to adopt the tax rates for fiscal year 2011 – 2012 as follows: Real Estate- \$.44, Public Service Corporation -\$.44, Personal Property-\$.4.05, Machinery and Tools-\$.2.90, Merchant’s Capital-\$.1.00, Aircraft-\$.55.

Re: Any Other Action of the Board of Supervisors

Talbert: Is there any other action of the Board of Supervisors?

Bates: Mr. Chairman, the Finance Committee would like to make the Board aware of some concerns that it’s had. It’s been in conversation with the County Administrator and the Assistant County Administrator on Friday we had a meeting between the Finance Committee and also the Chairman of the School Board and the Superintendent. The discrepancy between the budget figures that the school divisions have and the County’s had and the issues surrounding that were the subject of that conversation. There were essentially five things that were of concern to the Finance Committee and the County Administrator. The first was that on the April 8th financial statement from the School Board they have approximately one million six hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$1,688,000) of unencumbered money through the end of the fiscal year even though it looks like all of their basic expenditures were basically covered, we were unclear as to what the expenditures would, that money would be put forward and used for. We had some conversation about that. The second issue was that there’s an approximately three hundred eighty seven thousand (387,000) difference between the prepaid expenses in Fiscal Year 10 that were reported to the auditor versus what were reported to both the School Board and to the Board of Supervisors, that was an issue. The third issue was that Buckingham County according to census figures is among the fourteen poorest counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia, when you figure individuals living below the poverty level, yet when you look at the total spending per pupil, Buckingham County is the eighteenth from the top. So there are only seventeen school divisions out of ninety-eight that are above us in the counties. That begged the question why is it that our school division appears to be running out of money when at least from that it seems to be well funded. That led the County Administrator to offer that she did not believe that it was necessary with the figures that she had for the school division to lay any people off. There’s enough of a question about whose figures are right that we felt it was necessary to get some resolution to this, and that was what we discussed with Chairman Allen and Dr. Blair. The result of that is a recommendation to the Board to do an audit of the school finances, and I have a motion to that affect.

Supervisor Bates moved and Supervisor Kitchen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board that the Board find, pursuant to Virginia Code annotated 2.2-4303, that an emergency exists for services that involve large sums of public money, in that large sums of public money is involved as well as the operation and functioning of the public schools and it's imperative that some resolution be reached as soon as feasibly possible; and competitive negotiation is not practical nor fiscally advantageous since any other audit firm would have to reconstruct an extensive amount of material that the current auditors already have, and the length of time involved to secure additional auditing services would delay a process that needs immediate resolution; and further that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate an addendum to the current contract the Board of Supervisors has with the auditors for the County to examine the receipts, dispersements, invoices, and other relative documents of the School Board, to assess the incoming receipts of the School Board and the source of those receipts, the dispersements of the School Board and the categories from which such dispersements were made, the expenses, the expenditures of the School Board that are considered prepaid, the amount of such expenditures and whether recurring or one time expenditures and the source of revenue for such prepaid expenditures and the category from which the expenditures were made; and to examine the budgeting and accounting process of the School Board, it's ability to forecast and predict it's expenditures and revenue; and any other items helpful in explaining the discrepancy in the budget figures between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors. The Fiscal Years of 2008 – 2009, 2009 – 2010, and 2010 – 2011 and the budgeting figures for this year should be considered. Before executing such contract the County Administrator shall present to the Board for approval the scope of work proposed by the auditors and an estimate of cost.

Talbert: Any questions or discussion on the motion?

Bates: I would just offer this, Mr. Chairman; we expressed to both Chairman Allen and Dr. Blair that nobody is accusing anyone of any wrong doing here whatsoever. There's just a discrepancy in figures and we feel it's in the interest of both Boards and the operation of the school division and the tax payers that we figure that out. There's absolutely no allocation or accusation of wrongdoing.

Kitchen: This would clear up the discrepancies in the figures.

Bates: That's it.

Talbert: Ok. Anybody else have any discussion?

There being no further matters to discuss, Chairman Talbert declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator

E.A. "Bill" Talbert
Chairman