

FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Budget Work Session on Expenditures
Circuit Courtroom
Fluvanna Courts Building
February 11th 2009
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marvin F. Moss, Chairman
Charles W. Allbaugh, Vice Chairman
Mozell H. Booker
John Y. Gooch
Gene F. Ott
Donald W. Weaver

ALSO PRESENT: G. Cabell Lawton, IV, County Administrator
Shelly H. Wright, Assistant County Administrator
Crystal Besecker, Budget Analyst
Linda H. Lenherr, Treasurer
Susan Muir, Social Services Director
Cindi Hoffman, Library Director
Garland Nuckols, Director of Facilities
Manny Rodriguez, IT Director
Barbara Wall-Magee, Human Resources Manager
Ryant L. Washington, Sheriff

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Moss called the budget work session on expenditures to order at 7:05 p.m. in the former Board Room, Palmyra, Virginia.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

Mr. Cabell Lawton, County Administrator, began the presentation by reviewing some housekeeping items. Additions to the budget included the litter grant, debt service administrative fees and the Lake Monticello gate project approved at the February 4th BOS meeting. Reductions to the budget included reduced federal and state funding for Social Services as they correlate to the level of local funding. The CSA budget was also decreased based on further review by the CSA Program Manager.

PRESENTATION ON EXPENDITURES

Mr. Lawton continued the presentation by discussing the expenditure highlights, which included the recommended increases, decreases and capital improvement plan. During the presentation Supervisor Ott inquired about the level of funding for the constitutional officers' budgets. Mr. Lawton stated that the Senate version of the budget shows a 5% reduction, this may change on the House side. Once final decisions are made, staff will adjust those figures accordingly.

Vice Chairman Allbaugh inquired about the impact of the federal stimulus package on the schools funding. Chairman Moss stated the impact is unknown at this time.

Chairman Moss then turned the discussion to the Capital Improvement Plan, stating that this is a topic that needs to be discussed. Chairman Moss stated that, based on work being done in the building committee, the funding recommendation for the fire buildings could be reduced to \$1.1 million for each building. Supervisor Weaver stated he felt the construction of the buildings should be staggered.

Mr. Lawton concluded the main part of the presentation and proceeded to discuss the timing of the next two meetings. The March 4th meeting for Agency Presentations was originally slated to begin at 7:00 p.m. This follows a regular 2:00 p.m. Board meeting. The consensus of the Board was to move the meeting time up to 6:00 p.m. on March 4th 2009.

The March 11th 2009 budget work session was also discussed. This meeting was listed in the Budget Calendar for 6:00 p.m. The question was posed whether or not the Board members wanted to reschedule the March 11th meeting to 7:00 p.m. instead of the previously scheduled 6:00 p.m. The consensus of the Board was to leave the time as posted [6:00 p.m.] with Supervisor Gooch dissenting.

COMMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Supervisor Ott stated that since the Board had heard Mr. Lawton's philosophy on how the budget should be laid out, the Board members should now discuss their own philosophies. He emphasized that the current recommended budget will put hardship on employees and managers. He further emphasized that we need to follow the original debt savings plan outlined by the County's financial advisors. Supervisor Ott stated he would vote for a 3-5¢ tax increase to support additional funding for the schools, Social Services, public safety, debt reserve, and staff.

Chairman Moss stated that he felt that Mr. Lawton's recommended budget reflected a combination of the Board members' wishes.

Supervisor Ott stated he would like to see 1¢ go to the schools; 1¢ go to debt service and 1¢ to everybody else.

At this time Vice Chairman Allbaugh stated that his philosophy is that if the Board can go one (1) year without increasing taxes this will be very meaningful to the citizens who are going to have to absorb a tax increase soon enough when the full school loan payments are due. There is also room to adjust the collection rates assumed in this budget. Mr. Allbaugh stated that he and the other Board members need to find out how

their constituents feel about incrementally increasing taxes starting with FY10 or delaying the impact until FY11. Mr. Allbaugh stated that he plans to speak to as many citizens as he can before finalizing his decision.

Supervisor Allbaugh suggested that if a department can save money this year, the Board should consider allowing them to carry it forward to next year to support proposed cuts in their operations. Supervisor Allbaugh has spoken with Dr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools about this and there is an indication that if this policy is approved it would enable the schools operate next year with the funds allocated in the current recommended budget for FY10. Vice Chairman Allbaugh and Chairman Moss asked Mr. Lawton how a one-time carryover policy would impact administration. Mr. Lawton responded that FY09 revenues may not meet the original budget projection, therefore we would not be able to carryover 100% of the savings.

Supervisor Weaver stated that he had nothing to add to help deal with this situation that should have been avoided.

Supervisor Booker stated that she felt as if the focus needed to be on core services- schools, Social Services, public safety and citizens. Supervisor Booker feels that the Board needs to be optimistic about the future and let everyone know they are doing everything they can to not raise taxes.

Supervisor Gooch stated that he is hesitant to rely on the federal stimulus funding because it is only two years worth of funding. Furthermore, Dr. Smith has communicated to him that the schools will be reducing their staff through attrition.

The question was then posed by several board members, “if we do not put 3¢ into the debt reserve how will this affect our long-term goals?” Supervisor Gooch then stated that he would consider a 3¢ tax rate increase for those core services and debt reserve.

Supervisor Ott asked Mr. Lawton to show how he would distribute 2¢ of additional funding.

Chairman Moss then reconfirmed the directives for staff for the next budget work session. These directives also include looking at the building inspections and planning department fees. They want to: 1) see if they are supporting their departments and 2) see if they are comparable to the local market.

NEXT BUDGET WORK SESSION

February 25th 2009 from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. in the former BOS room to discuss revenues.

ADJOURN

With unanimous consent, the Board adjourned the work session of Wednesday, February 11th 2009 at 8:25 p.m.