

VIRGINIA: AT THE CONTINUATION MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE PAMPLIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE 25th DAY OF APRIL, 2001, AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: HARRISON A. MOODY, CHAIRMAN ELECTION DISTRICT #1
EDWARD A. BRACEY, JR., VICE -CHAIR ELECTION DISTRICT #4
DONALD L. HARAWAY ELECTION DISTRICT #2
ROBERT L. BOWMAN IV ELECTION DISTRICT #3
AUBREY S. CLAY ELECTION DISTRICT #5

IN RE: INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Harrison Moody, Chairman, called the continuation meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone to the public hearings.

IN RE: BUDGET PRESENTATION – R. MARTIN LONG

Mr. Long presented the Proposed FY 2001-2002 Budget including the following areas: Revenues, Salaries, School Board, Administration, Registrar's Office, Public Safety, Recreation, Waste Management, Jail and Detention Home, and miscellaneous items. He stated that he appreciated the Department Heads and Agency Directors for putting up with him as he went through the process this year. He thanked everyone for being understanding with the level of uncertainty because of the lack of State numbers. He thanked the employees who put in countless hours as they worked on the budget and thought the county was fortunate to have them here. He also thanked the Board of Supervisors for their patience and commitment.

IN RE: CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Moody asked if there were any citizens signed up to speak or present who wished to address the Board during this portion of the meeting.

The following citizens signed up to address the Board:

1. Harold Walker of 20608 Carson Road, School Board Member, District 4, said he was concerned about the amount of money budgeted for the School Capital Fund. The Fund was reduced from \$222,460 to only \$100,000. He thought the reduction was to last one year only and that the balance of this fund would be restored if the funds were left at the end of the year. Through a joint agreement with the Board of Supervisors several years ago, the \$222,460 was transferred from the School Operating Fund into the Capital Fund for a roof project. This was how the \$222,460 was established. The school division desperately needs the funds restored. Using the \$222,460 as a guide, the School Board has identified projects that will consume these funds for the next five years. If the amount is allowed to remain at the reduced number, these projects will take at least ten years to complete assuming there are no price increases. Most of the projects listed are too small for the county CIP and too costly to be included in the year-to-year maintenance budget. He asked that the \$222,460 be considered for the Capital Fund.
2. James E. Harrison of 9204 Squirrel Level Road, School Board Member, District 3, stated that the school divisions just like anyone else are dealing with increasing costs for materials, supplies and services. Dinwiddie Elementary will be brought back into use, health insurance premium cost increases will be ten percent, different cost increases associated with the addition of about 70 more students, the need for additional telecommunication service to support the instruction program will result in an increase in payment to the

telephone company. The need for funds is critical as indicated in the memo from March 13, 2001. The School Board is in desperate need of \$1,885,705.00 to be transferred from the County General Fund to the School Operating Fund; more than last year. The salaries need to be increased for qualified employees so they won't be lost to higher paying localities.

3. Carol Fisher of 19405 Oxford Lane, School Board Member expressed appreciation for the \$1 million in new money already budgeted for the Schools next year. She stated she was concerned that they will not be able to meet their needs for the 2001-2002 school year without additional funding. Budgeting for additional students requires increased dollars. They budgeted for 4,260 students but fear they will have students above that number. She reiterated Mr. Walker's statement about increased fuel bills, utility bills and health insurance premium increases. She stated that current indications are that State funding will be decreased for them. After subtracting the costs of which they have no control from the \$1 million, it is apparent that they cannot fund even a five percent salary increase for teachers. It is a grave concern as addressed in their March 13, 2001 memo. She urged the Board to provide an additional local contribution for schools.
4. Donna King of 10523 Rives Avenue, School Board Member conveyed appreciation for the Board's strong support shown to the School Division by providing funding last year for a significant increase in teacher's salaries. She also appreciates the increase of \$1 million in the proposed local funding for the 2001-2002 school year. She stated her purpose was to focus on the impact last year's increase and next year's proposed increase will have on the ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers for all of the children's classrooms. She stated, "... Dinwiddie County Schools is in a very competitive job market, qualified teachers are in increasingly short supply, while demand for qualified teachers is growing due to increases in student populations, as well as the retirement of Baby-Boom Generation Teachers from classrooms. Like it or not, we are in competition with our neighboring divisions when it comes to hiring new teachers. Last year's raise of \$3,000 for teachers was significant and moved Dinwiddie County School System up in the State rankings, however, ... we surpassed only Amelia County in terms of starting salary." She stated that a 7% increase would be needed to pass the \$30,000 per year threshold that has become the standard in the surrounding areas to remain close to the nearest competitors. To maintain the status quo, an increase of 7% next year will be needed. She stated that failing to keep up with local competition and retain teachers has far reaching consequences. New teachers are attracted but lost as they gain experience. Unless turnovers decrease, accreditation will be in jeopardy. There are 34 openings for next year due to retirements and transfers to other divisions. She asked that the Board explore ways to provide the additional funding the School Board needs.
5. James Maitland of 6967 Grubby Road, Chairman of the School Board reemphasized the need for 1.8 million additional local dollars as stated in the March 13, 2001 memo. The need for the funds has not changed as his fellow Board Members have reported this evening. He stated that these needs could only be addressed with additional local funding: competitive salary scale, projects that do not fit into CIP or a maintenance budget, increased insurance rates, utility costs, increased building space, and additional instructional positions. He stated that he appreciated all the Board's previous efforts to support the schools. He strongly believes that the needs warrant the \$800,000 beyond the \$1 million already budgeted. He stated that he hoped the Board would once again show their commitment to the schools and the children.
6. Darnell Law of the Appomattox Regional Library System thanked the Board for supporting their budget request for FY 2001-2002. She stated that the money would assist them in maintaining the quality of

services and facilities that the residents of Dinwiddie have come to expect. She stated that the funds would allow them to broaden their programs and services to meet growing demands. On behalf of the Library System, she once again thanked the Board for their continued support of Dinwiddie County Libraries.

7. Ann Scarborough stated that she could understand the School System asking for money but that she also understands that there are quite a few in the County that are no longer earning salaries and they are having a very difficult time making ends meet. She stated that she was here to give another insight as to why the Board should decrease the tax base of 79 cents. She stated that the paper said that the reassessment was about 18%. She asked, "As a result, how much would you have to lower our tax rate of 79 cents to collect the same amount of revenue next fiscal year as you did this year?" She then discussed what goes across the Building Inspector's desk concerning manufactured homes and certificates of occupancy. She stated that from July 1, 2000 through March 2001, material concerning 71 manufactured homes crossed his desk. She stated that conservatively, you can figure an average of \$50,000 and 71 came across the desk, there is a sizeable amount of money right there. She then talked about the 99 dwellings that paperwork came across the desk for with a value of \$9,000,367.87. She stated that what is put on the permit is low. She then talked about land value. For a lot, she was told \$25,000 but it could be lowered to \$15,000 and it would still be a lot of money for land. She stated that you would have well over \$4 million and go ahead and cut that in half. She stated that if you take the two things she mentioned, reassessment and the building department, you have a large amount of money, so she wanted to know why the Board couldn't decrease the taxes since last year citizens were overcharged when the budget was balanced because it was said the 79 cents was not needed. She said, "So give it back to us." She stated that she expects three months of high dollar value for building when the weather gets warm and she would like that considered. She wants to know where the money is going. She stated briefly that if the Board was content to sit there and say 50 cents for a luxury airplane and for people finding it difficult to survive having to pay 79 cents for a house, she cannot understand it. She said what would it hurt to give the luxury airplane owners a little more of the burden, if they can afford an airplane, they can afford to pay more than 50 cents. She then discussed the budget. She noticed in County Administration that telecommunications more than doubled and she did not know what the reason was. She stated that cell phone and pager allocation could go someplace better. She noticed a vehicle allowance for Mr. Long and for this year, it is blank in the budget. Where did that money come from? She then mentioned the County Attorney. She wanted to know where to find the information in the budget for the thousands of dollars paid to Sands, Anderson Firm for the lawsuits and etc. She stated that they are robbing us as far as she was concerned. She wants the Board to consider a lower tax rate because it is rough on the citizens.
8. David Johnson of 21113 Westover Drive, stated he wanted to reiterate what the School Board Members said. He stated he is not a member of the School Board. He stated he did want to talk about the school funding. He stated that research shows that great teachers are the most important ingredients in any school. He stated if we desire our students to be competitive and our test scores to be respectable then we need to find ways to recruit and retain high quality teachers. He applauded the Board for stepping up to the plate last year and providing additional funding for the School System, allowing it to elevate the teacher's pay scale. He stated that it went a long way in the ability to attract new teachers and showed our competitor school systems that we value our teachers. He urged the Board to keep the

momentum going. He stated that we are so close that we can't afford to fall behind. He stated that we have a golden opportunity to place Dinwiddie County among the leaders in the region rather than in a position of continually playing catch up with starting salaries. He stated that the amount of the current budget surplus in the county has grown considerably and current revenue projections should show how that surplus would be maintained. He asked how large we intended to let the surplus get before we started addressing some of these real needs. He stated that the surplus was a blessing and fiscal responsibility is wise. He stated that it was a wise way to run a county and he respects that. To summarize, he stated that success in the classroom was directly related to the quality of our teachers. He said, "Let's use a portion of the current financial surplus to allow our school system to align our entry level teacher's salaries to above the 30,000 a year mark as the chart shows." He stated that this will keep Dinwiddie County competitive and send a message to our citizens that we are pro education.

9. Christopher White of 545 High Street, Petersburg stated that he was a democrat and a candidate for the district seat in the House of Delegates and he was here to learn about the issues in Dinwiddie County.
10. Angela Orrell of 16563 Cantree Road stated that she wanted to make a very elementary note but that the greatest resource that a community has is a safe, healthy and educated population. She stated that support for expanding our EMS services and improving educational services will directly influence our future. She respectfully asked for the Board's support concerning the very important budget issues and appreciates the past support.

Mr. Moody closed the Public Hearing on the FY 2001-2002 Budget Proposal at 7:50 P.M.

IN RE: PROPOSED FY 2001 TAX RATES

Mrs. Ralph reviewed the proposed Tax Rates for FY 2001 – 2002. The proposed rates are:

Real Estate - .79
Mobile Homes - .79
Mineral Lands - .79
Public Services - .79
Personal Property – 4.90
Personal Property – Volunteer Vehicles - .25
Machinery and Tools – 3.30
Heavy Construction Machinery – 3.30
Airplanes - .50
Certified Pollution Control Equipment – 3.30.

Mr. Moody opened the Public Hearing on the Tax Rates.

No one signed up to speak.

Mr. Moody closed the Public Hearing on Tax Rates at 7:51 P.M.

He stated that the Board would vote on the Budget and the Tax Rate next Wednesday, May 2, allowing a week's waiting period before their decision is made on these issues.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Bracey moved that the Board now convene in a closed meeting to discuss matters exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

The purpose of the closed meeting is to discuss subject matters identified as Personnel. Matters to include:

- **Personnel Matters, § 2.1-344 A - 1 of the Code of Virginia,** (candidates for employment OR the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, resignation of employees) Commissioner of the Revenue; Building Inspections.

Mr. Clay seconded the motion. Mr. Clay, Mr. Haraway, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Moody voting "Aye" the Board moved into the Closed Meeting at 7:53 P.M.

A vote having been made and approved the meeting reconvened into Open Session at 9:02 P.M.

IN RE: CERTIFICATION

Whereas, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

Whereas, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Upon Motion of Mr. Clay, Seconded by Mr. Haraway, Mr. Clay, Mr. Haraway, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Moody voting "Aye". This Certification Resolution was adopted.

IN RE: COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HELP

Mrs. Ralph stated that there was a request from the Commissioner of Revenue for an additional \$2,255 to meet the payroll for extra help for the month of April. Ms. Ralph said the Board would need to appropriate these funds in order to make payroll.

Mr. Bracey asked if there were any stipulations.

Mrs. Ralph stated yes, the same conditions that were previously placed on the Commissioner of Revenue last month.

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1. The Board may appropriate an additional \$14,843 for 12310-1301 Extra Help with the Commissioner's FY2001 budget, on a monthly basis, to match the allocation provided by the Compensation Board.
 2. The County's share, \$17,422, is already contained in the budget within the Extra Help and Retirement categories, so there will be no additional appropriation of local funds.

3. Based on expenditures in the Extra Help category through March 31st, there will be a remaining balance of \$6,425 which may be used towards the real estate and personal property job functions as outlined by the Commissioner of the Revenue in her request.
4. The additional monthly appropriation will be contingent upon the following:
 - a. All State reimbursements are to be brought up to date. At the present time, reimbursements for this category have not been submitted since November of 2000.
 - b. Mobile Home Titling Tax reimbursements are to be submitted for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. That amount is estimated to be \$200,000.
 - c. Public Service Corporation billing is to be provided to the Treasurer. This billing has not been sent out since June of 2000, which is estimated to be \$533,000 for the year.
5. No additional expenditures from the Extra Help category will be approved until the above items are accomplished and evidence is provided to the Board of Supervisors.

Upon Motion of Mr. Bracey, Seconded by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Clay, Mr. Haraway, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Moody voting "Aye",

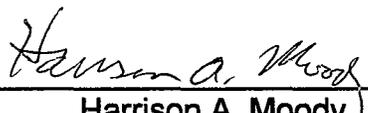
BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia that \$2,255 of State Compensation Board funds be appropriated for Extra Help for the month of April, 2001 in the Commissioner of the Revenue's budget contingent upon the above stated conditions.

IN RE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

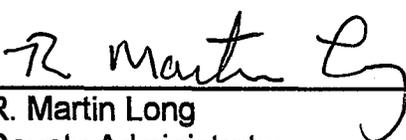
Mr. Long stated that he felt the Board should meet early Wednesday to discuss what, if any, changes need to be made before the Budget is adopted during the regular meeting. Mr. Long told the Board that there would be an explanation in their Board Packet of the ability to decrease the real estate taxes by 4 cents but it will probably have to go back up next year. Mr. Long suggested a time of 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday for the continuation meeting.

Mrs. Ralph cautioned that whatever they do with the tax rate right now will effect the Budget they are in because the June 5th billing will balance the budget for the year. There might be enough surplus to cover it but they won't know that until September or October.

Upon Motion of Mr. Clay, Seconded by Mr. Bracey, Mr. Clay, Mr. Haraway, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Bracey, Mr. Moody voting "Aye", the meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M. to be continued until 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 2, 2001 in the Multi-purpose Room of the Pamplin Administration Building for a budget workshop and tax rate session.



Harrison A. Moody
Chairman

ATTEST: 
R. Martin Long
County Administrator