

At a budget work session of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on April 23, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)
Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Franklin)
Walter D. Brown, III (Newsoms)
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)
Anita T. Felts (Jerusalem)
Ronal M. West (Berlin-Ivor)
Moses Wyche (Capron)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
James A. Randolph, Assistant County Administrator
Julia G. Williams, Finance Director
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. After the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Supervisor Faison gave the invocation.

Mr. Johnson, County Administrator, clarified for Vice-Chairman Young that when calculating years of service for an employee, the employee must be employed prior to September of any year.

Mr. Johnson clarified for Vice-Chairman Young that our Finance Director, Julia Williams, would reach her 35-year service anniversary, and therefore, was entitled to a 5% step increase.

Vice-Chairman Young stated that \$14.88 per capita that we were contributing to the Blackwater Regional Library seemed rather high. Mr. Johnson advised that per FY 2006 information, we were actually contributing less per capita to the library than our neighbors in Accomack, Albemarle, Isle of Wight, Greensville, and Brunswick. Those figures ranged from \$15.06 per capita for Brunswick to \$23.93 per capita for Accomack.

Vice-Chairman Young observed that on page 4-56, Isle of Wight had the lowest paid school secretaries. He noted that it appeared that some secretaries made more than some teachers at Southampton County Public Schools.

Supervisor Felts asked Mr. Johnson, regarding the \$100,000 included in the proposed budget for the OLF attorney, if other localities backed out and decided not to contribute funds towards the fight against the OLF, would our funding level change? Mr. Johnson advised that including funding in the budget was different than actually appropriating funds. We should have a clearer idea in the future on what other localities may do. But yes, our appropriation could possibly be greater.

Supervisor Faison asked about the Judicial Clerkship position mentioned on page 2-138. Mr. Johnson clarified that the salary for that position was funded cooperatively by localities throughout the circuit court based on population and caseload – Suffolk at 50%, Isle of Wight at 20%, and Southampton/Franklin at 30%. The position had not been filled. Funding for the position had actually been included in budget for the past 9 years, but they had never chosen to fill it.

Supervisor Faison asked about the cost related to the medical examiner on page 2-263. Mr. Johnson clarified that formerly, the cost of death investigations was \$50 each, of which the state reimbursed us \$30. Now, no reimbursement was involved – we simply paid \$20 per investigation.

Supervisor Brown asked about the funding of 33¢ per capita for the Community Concert Association (under *Parks, Recreation and Culture*) on page 2-333. Mr. Johnson confirmed that 33¢ was what we were spending per person, or for each citizen in Southampton County.

Mr. Jay Randolph, Assistant County Administrator, advised that a potential future source of revenue that our neighbors were already enjoying was a food tax. We did not have a lot of restaurants in the County today, but long-term, it may be something to look at. It would require

educating the citizens and a voter referendum. Mr. Johnson clarified that it would not apply to any restaurants in the incorporated towns, but would apply to those in Southampton County. It would also apply to pre-packaged sandwiches, etc. sold at 7-Eleven, for example. It certainly may be something to look into long-term. Supervisor Brown stated that he thought it was a super idea.

Mr. Johnson advised that he wanted to share the funding included in the draft budget for the 9 agencies/organizations whose representatives spoke at the budget workshop last week, as compared to what they requested:

Western Tidewater Community Services Board	(\$4,743)
Legal Aid	(\$ 125)
Blackwater Regional Library	Fully-Funded
Franklin/Southampton Office of Early Childhood	Fully-Funded
Social Services	Fully-Funded
Clerk of the Circuit Court	(\$10,353)
Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA)	Did Not Fund
Commonwealth Attorney	Fully Funded
Southampton County Public Schools	(\$567,113)

Mr. Johnson stated that they did not fund any new requests, tried to level-fund most organizations, and tried to hold meritorious increases to 2%, with the exception of the Library (due to the new contract).

Supervisor Brown advised that he would like to see more money go to Southampton County Schools, but it was just not possible this year. The proposed budget was the very best they could do.

Supervisor Jones mentioned that the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) was looking for a new landfill. A site in the Drewryville area could possibly be looked at.

Supervisor West stated that he thought we needed to look at partnering with Sussex or Greenville to take care of our trash. We had no friends in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake.

Supervisor Jones advised that the community that would host a new landfill would have control over it and determine what it would get out of it. He commented that he would rather have the smell than an OLF. He and others in the Drewryville area already had the smell because of Valley Proteins.

Supervisor West stated that the paper indicated that the Navy would cut a rosy deal with landowners to purchase their land for an OLF. He commented that if the price were right, people may sell out.

Supervisor Brown asked if a motion to advertise the proposed budget, as presented, would be appropriate this evening? Mr. Johnson replied that they could make a motion this evening or wait until their regular meeting on April 28.

Supervisor Brown moved, seconded by Supervisor Faison, to advertise the proposed budget, as presented, for a public hearing on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 PM. All were in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk