

At a budget public hearing of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the auditorium of Southampton County High School at 22350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia on May 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)
Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Franklin)
Walter D. Brown, III (Newsoms)
Anita T. Felts (Jerusalem)
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)
Ronald 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
Sandi Plyler, Information Technology Manager
Beth Lewis, Principal Planner
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

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

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone and announced that public hearings were being held this evening regarding the proposed FY 2011 annual budget and annual tax levies. The public hearings would begin following a presentation. Mr. Johnson presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the budget process and outlining what was included in the FY 2011 proposed budget.

Supervisor Brown advised that he thought they had decided not to include the new animal control officer position in the budget. Mr. Johnson stated that the position was included in the budget as presently drafted.

Chairman Jones opened the public hearings regarding the proposed FY 2011 annual budget and tax levies:

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011**

The Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the following proposed county budget, school budget, and associated property tax levies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011 on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Southampton High School, 23350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia 23837.

REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2009-2010	2010-2011		2009-2010	2010-2011
COUNTY SOURCES					
General Property Taxes	\$ 16,914,365	\$ 17,992,580	BUILDING FUND		
Other Local Taxes	1,540,000	1,552,849	Utility Taxes	464,000	464,000
Permits, Fees, Licenses	98,190	112,690	Carryover - Utility Reserve	3,373,079	1,340,823
Fines & Forfeitures	554,554	560,238	Rental of Property	60,556	60,556
Use of Money & Property	87,000	45,000	Meal Taxes/Refunds	-	154,920
Charges for Service	374,401	413,526	TOTAL BUILDING FUND	3,897,635	2,020,299
Miscellaneous Revenue	763,705	751,612	REVENUE FROM COMMONWEALTH		
TOTAL COUNTY SOURCES	20,332,215	21,428,495	Non-Categorical Aid	170,000	185,000
OTHER COUNTY SOURCES					
Transfer-In/General Fund Reserve	1,102,671	851,336	Categorical Aid	3,688,251	3,456,946
Transfer-In/Inmate Enterprise	-	145,380	Other Categorical Aid	585,745	462,864
School Funds (School Food)	527,680	523,000	School Aid (School Operating)	15,468,578	14,263,175
School Funds (School Operating)	2,000	2,000	School Aid (School Food)	14,500	14,000
TOTAL OTHER COUNTY SOURCES	1,632,351	1,521,716	School Aid (Sales Tax)	2,537,138	2,418,685
ENTERPRISE REVENUE					
Water Service Fees	329,000	326,700	Public Assistance	2,144,041	2,153,432
Sewer Service Fees	814,342	795,000	TOTAL STATE REVENUE	24,608,253	22,952,102
Other Fees/Connections	54,815	49,815	REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES		
Capitalized Interest	1,646,888	1,646,888	School Aid (School Operating)	1,130,721	11,500
TOTAL ENTERPRISE REVENUE	2,845,045	2,818,403	School Aid (Federal Programs)	1,888,179	1,759,849
			School Aid (School Food)	550,820	556,000
			TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	3,569,720	2,327,349
			TOTAL REVENUE - ALL SOURCES	\$ 56,885,219	\$ 53,068,364

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

	2009-2010	2010-2011		2009-2010	2010-2011
GENERAL FUND					
General Government Administration			ENTERPRISE FUND		
Board of Supervisors	\$ 261,563	\$ 212,986	Enterprise/Sewer	2,545,670	2,817,917
County Administration	334,654	309,736	Enterprise/Water	641,465	739,102
Commissioner of the Revenue	274,401	264,468		3,187,135	3,557,019
Board of Assessors	7,600	180,000	BUILDING FUND		
Treasurer	276,516	271,709	Capital Projects/Debt Service	4,197,635	2,585,763
Delinquent Tax Collection	20,000	5,000		4,197,635	2,585,763
Accounting	233,543	220,232	SCHOOL FUND		
Data Processing	217,407	215,331	Instruction	18,650,917	16,118,020
Insurance/County Code	168,300	177,820	Administration, Attendance & Health	1,314,417	1,150,674
Registrar	151,411	148,916	Management & Direction - Transportation	2,745,051	2,821,974
	1,945,395	2,006,198	Operation and Maintenance Services	3,437,332	3,389,633
Judicial Administration			School Food Service and Non Operating	117,593	133,888
Circuit Court	72,865	64,771	Facilities	204,026	204,026
Combined District Court	24,866	24,866	Debt Service	2,618,154	2,889,829
Special Magistrates	1,366	1,366	Technology/School Operating	423,375	411,967
Clerk of Circuit Court	469,273	469,545	Rental Textbooks	-	104,509
Sheriff - Bailiff	430,556	378,194	Technology	206,000	206,000
Courthouse Security	69,008	70,154	At-Risk 4 Year Olds	138,049	200,333
Commonwealth's Attorney	509,580	481,981	Early Reading Intervention	52,374	51,804
Victim Witness Assistance Program	68,154	69,211			
	1,645,668	1,560,088	Federal School Funds		
Public Safety			Title I	513,151	578,416
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	1,665,682	1,642,095	Title VIB Flow-Through	644,836	605,504
Enhanced 911	155,513	162,433	Substance & Drug Prevention	12,308	-
Wireless 911	44,375	45,256	Vocation Special Education	49,596	48,597
School Resource Officer	48,482	49,656	Pre-School Incentive	13,852	12,898
Volunteer Fire Departments	293,413	293,413	Title IIA Training and Recruitment	146,458	150,436
Volunteer Rescue Squads	920,879	920,879	Title IID Ed. Tech.	5,446	5,998
State Forestry Service	23,367	23,367	Reading First Grant	166,662	-
Sheriff - Detention	2,667,937	2,565,629	21st Century Community Learning	135,870	175,000
Probation	105,614	105,355	Opportunity, Inc.	200,000	183,000
Inspections	120,838	123,553	Total School Funds	31,795,467	29,442,506
Animal Control	98,571	150,559	SCHOOL FOOD		
Medical Examiner	500	500	School Food	1,093,000	1,093,000
Emergency Services	93,123	114,828		1,093,000	1,093,000
	6,238,284	6,197,523	VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND		
Public Works			Eligibility Administration	966,750	968,540
Streetlights	45,987	45,987	Service Administration	736,250	697,750
Assign-A-Highway	53,415	54,320	Benefit Programs	793,400	806,550
Refuse Collection	730,810	679,774		2,496,400	2,472,840
Refuse Disposal	1,665,562	1,605,643	TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 56,885,219	\$ 53,068,364
Buildings & Grounds	470,948	476,594	General Fund Reserve	\$ 2,638,934	2,719,069
	2,966,722	2,862,318			
Health & Welfare					
Health Department	316,606	304,000			
WTCSB	76,605	68,944			
State & Local Hospitalization	-	-			
Senior Services	13,825	13,000			
Comprehensive Services Act	80,882	117,159			
STOP Organization	1,621	1,621			
	489,539	504,724			
Parks, Recreation & Cultural					
Community Concert Association	5,700	5,500			
Rawls Museum Arts	14,250	14,250			
Historical Society	28,500	28,500			
W.C. Rawls Library	253,433	257,897			
	301,883	306,147			
Community Development					
Planning	279,376	283,388			
Economic Development	150,000	100,000			
Soil & Water Conservation	9,766	9,911			
Cooperative Extension	52,939	52,939			
	492,081	446,238			
Non-Departmental					
Non-Departmental Operating	36,000	34,000			
	36,000	34,000			
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 14,115,582	\$ 13,917,236			

This publication is intended as a brief synopsis of the proposed budget for informative and fiscal planning purposes only. Full copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection in the County Administrator's Office, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia during normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or online at www.southamptoncounty.org. All citizens of Southampton County are invited to attend this hearing and state their views thereon.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY 
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section(s) 15.2-1427 and 58.1-3007, *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the auditorium of Southampton High School, 23350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia to consider an ordinance to impose the following tax levies for 2010fiscal year 2011. All levies will be due on or before December 5, 2010

	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2011</u>
REAL ESTATE		
General	\$0.72/\$100	\$0.77\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$0.72/\$100	\$0.77\$100
PERSONAL PROPERTY		
General	\$4.50/\$100	\$5.50/\$100
Machinery & Tools	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Mobile Homes	\$0.72/\$100	\$0.77/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$4.50/\$100	\$5.50/\$100
Merchants Capital	\$0.50/\$100	\$0.50/\$100
Farm Machinery	\$1.95/\$100	\$1.95/\$100
Farm Machinery/Single Product	\$1.25/\$100	\$1.25/\$100
Construction Machinery	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Motor Carriers	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is on file and available for public inspection at the County Administrator’s Office, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia during normal business hours. Any persons wishing to speak in favor of or in opposition to the above referenced ordinance are encouraged to appear and be heard at the aforementioned place and hour. Any persons wishing to attend this hearing who may have special needs should contact the County Administrator at (757) 653-3015 (voice) or (757) 653-3013 (TDD), preferably seven days prior to the hearing.

Southampton County Board of Supervisors
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section(s) 15.2-107 and 15.2-1427, *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the auditorium of Southampton High School, 23350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia to consider an ordinance to impose the following utility fees pursuant to Section 15.2-2119 and 15.2-2604, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended:

	<u>FY 2010</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2011</u>
<u>WATER</u>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$23.00	\$24.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$23.00	\$24.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$4.00	\$5.00
<u>SEWER</u>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$31.00	\$32.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$31.00	\$32.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$5.00	\$7.00
Narricot Industries per 1,000 (Industrial Process)	\$1.35	\$1.40

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Southampton County Board of Supervisors
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

The following remarks are those of individuals who spoke at the public hearings:

Ms. Kay Pope of Capron addressed the Board. She advised that she did not approve of a tax increase. To propose tax increases in this economy was unreasonable, arrogant, and irresponsible. The County was \$77 million in debt, which was out of control. We needed to wake up. What was being done to collect delinquent taxes? She also felt certain the school budget could be reduced without the laying off of teachers. She stressed that the fallout from the I.P. closure was just beginning. She asked the Board to go back and review the budget and cut line items. In tough economic times, you had to make tough decisions. She presented a petition that was signed by over 1200 landowners asking them to leave the taxes the same and reduce line items in the budget.

Ms. Elisha Barnes of Branchville spoke. She asked that they leave the taxes as they were. The jobs people had been counting on had evaporated. They needed to pay greater attention to the citizens who were struggling to keep themselves afloat. Proposing to raise taxes only added more weight to a bad situation. She thought the school board could look at other ways to cut their budget other than the laying off of teachers. To every tax increase, there was a face. Consider each one of the citizens who had lived and worked here all of their life.

Ms. Judith Radford of Ivor spoke. She stated that she was concerned about the taxes. She was retired and on a fixed income. Once things went up, they never came back down. She asked the Board to not raise real estate or personal property taxes.

Mr. Spier Edwards, Mayor of Boykins, addressed the Board. He advised that he was representing 650 of our County citizens. The citizens could not endure increased taxes. What were we getting for our tax money? For 15 years, the sewer system in Boykins had only gotten a band-aid. They needed to cut expenses and come with a solution to help the schools without raising taxes.

Mr. Dan Hohman of Ivor spoke. He stated that he had been a resident of Ivor for 16 years. One way or another, they had increased taxes each year. He addressed the Board 5 years ago about industrial decline and he was ignored. The benefits of school employees were excessive. The Board was creating a situation comparable to California – low property values and people commuting to Norfolk to work. They needed to reduce the budget of each department. If one county administrator could not do it, they needed to find one who could. If one board of supervisors could not do it, they needed to find one who could.

Mr. Larry Brown of Newsoms addressed the Board. He advised that he was one of a very large group in the County known as the “silent majority.” He had been following the budget process closely and what our neighboring counties were doing. Isle of Wight County’s real estate tax rate was 52¢, and Greensville County’s was 45¢. The City of Franklin’s personal property tax rate could not exceed \$4.50. We were in a severe financial situation and had ever-increasing debt. The County’s debt went from \$19 million to \$77 million over the past 14 years due to decisions made by the County Administrator. The budget was out of control and painful decisions had to be made. Taxpayers should not have to pay for the County Administrator’s excessive spending over the past 14 years. There was an article in the paper indicating that June Fleming, City Manager for the City of Franklin, should be commended for balancing their budget without any tax increases. If we evaluated every possible savings, we could reduce expenses considerably. If there was a net cost associated with educating non-county students, it should be eliminated. Riverdale Elementary was built to replace a deteriorating Hunterdale Elementary, yet it was still being used. There was an overabundance of lights at the schools at night. We needed to look at community development. The Board authorized the acceptance of a \$50,000 planning grant that should have gone before the Planning Commission first. He stated that being disappointed in Newsoms Supervisor, Walt Brown, was a gross understatement. He did not hold community meetings as promised. He talked the Board into spending \$1,000 on an ad for the PowWow. If he did not know better, he would think Walt Brown was Chairman instead of Dallas Jones because of his antics of trying to convince other board members to agree with him. Supervisor Brown was often out to further his own agenda. He asked the Board to reduce expenses so taxes would not have to be increased.

Mr. Jay O’Berry of Sedley spoke. He commented that there were a lot of line items that could be reduced. They were going to “dollar” the citizens to death.

Mr. Richard Harris of Courtland spoke. He stated that he was a former city councilman in Suffolk. He already had more government than he wanted or needed, from the federal government right down to this room. The closure of I.P. would have great effects. He found it irresponsible for the

Board to propose tax increases. The County Administrator did not set policy for this Board. They were all paying for first class tickets but the citizens were sitting in second class. He was not getting much for the taxes he already paid. If they did pass this budget, the large majority needed to go to the schools. Also the Sheriff's Office and Commonwealth Attorney's Office needed personnel and equipment, as there was a gang and drug problem in the County. He commented that the U.S. Army trained him very well and he had not forgotten.

Mr. M.L. Everette, Jr. of Capron spoke. He advised that he was concerned about agriculture. He was fortunate enough to have 3 generations in attendance tonight. Their farm was average size. Farmers were getting less and less every year. When farm rent went up due to increased taxes, it was difficult for the farmer to rent the land. It gave him a lot of pride to tell people he was from Southampton County. He and his family paid \$25,000/year in taxes. But what did he get in return for his farming operation? Right now, the County had \$1,672,275 in delinquent taxes. Some were over 20 years old. He would like the Board to spend time trying to collect those delinquent taxes. He hoped some ideas and suggestions would come from this meeting. He wanted to pay his part but thought he should get something out of it.

Mr. Barry Porter of Waterview Lane, Franklin, spoke. He stated that he was very disappointed in the Board. Leadership was an issue in this County. Anybody could be a leader in good times. If the Board did not do as the citizens wanted, they were not doing their job.

Mr. Lloyd Bradshaw spoke. He advised that most of us would agree that we need more business and industry. Low tax rates attracted business and industry. We needed to lower our tax rates so we could be more competitive. He noted that our citizens were burdened enough.

Mr. Gary Cross of Black Creek addressed the Board. He stated that tough times called for tough economic measures. No business that had to lay off staff wanted to do so. Localities around us were downsizing. He did not think the economy would turn around next year. He did not know why employees of Southampton County were above losing their job. The County had accumulated \$77 million in debt over the last 14 years. That was \$14,000 of debt for every house in the County. There were problems with soils at the Industrial Park. Did the engineer not disclose that? He had 2 children at Nottoway Elementary and he was very proud of our schools. He did not see anything in the school budget about unexpended funds the Board of Supervisors reappropriated back to them. The Board was not asking the right questions, at least not at the meetings he had attended. It was hard to see where the budget needed to be cut because the County Administrator did not present enough information to the Board. Citizens could not keep paying for their mismanagement.

Ms. Carolyn Drake Majors of Newsoms spoke. She stated that raising fees or taxes was not good. She had taught school for 33 years in 5 different states. There was never enough money, but there was always some way to make it. The citizens could do positive things for the community by spending money in this County – hire local contractors, buy appliances here, etc. We needed to think of everything we could do to keep this County solvent.

Ms. Kathryn Hill of Courtland spoke. She stated that she had been employed with schools for 37 years. She loved the students. Schools were important to everyone because children were our future. Our schools were great, and they were not always. People were moving here because our schools were great. We could not continue to progress without adequate funding for the schools.

Mr. John Burchett of Sebrell spoke. He requested that Supervisor Wyche, who represented his district, to vote to oppose any tax increases. They spent \$30 million - \$40 million on a sewer plant. There were numerous knowledgeable people who asked them not to build it, but they would not listen. They were going to hire 6 more people to operate the new plant at a cost of \$370,000. That was a lot of money. And they wanted to hire another dog catcher. Hiring new employees at this time was irresponsible. He asked the Board not to increase taxes.

Ms. Fran Edwards of Boykins spoke. She advised that she had taught school here for over 30 years. She asked the Board to do what was in the best interest of all the citizens. They could teach a class of 30-35 students, but individual attention would be diminished. She would like to see expenses reduced or additional revenue found. Nobody liked tax increases. However, she could tighten her belt another notch for education.

Mr. Demetreious Mathews of Capron spoke. He stated that he was confused. The slide presentation was supposed to inform, but he was still confused. He shared a short story about a woman who got off the bus several days in a row to find a boy on his porch crying and hollering. She finally walked over and asked why the boy was crying, and a gentleman told her he was sitting on a nail. She asked why didn't he get off? The gentleman told her that he was not hurting badly enough yet. Mr. Mathews told the Board that he had had enough. People in uniform were dying everyday so we could have it better over here. The voters needed to know that the Board was still working on their behalf. I.P. had closed and the economy was down. We needed reassurance from the Board that our children would have the best education. Our children were competing with the world and needed every advantage. He asked the Board the following:

- 1) Why was there so much month left at the end of the money?
- 2) Could you get blood out of a turnip?
- 3) Would they be willing to give up their salaries?

He asked the Board if they would answer the questions? Chairman Jones replied no, not tonight.

Mr. Elliott Cobb, Attorney, addressed the Board. He advised that he was representing "concerned citizens of Southampton County." Those he represented were shocked to learn of a proposed tax increase. We had lost our largest employer, I.P., and 1,100 jobs were lost. The closing of I.P. would directly affect the logging industry and retail stores and businesses would also be affected. But the Board chose not to hold the line. It was business as usual regardless of our economic situation. It was tax and spend when it should be cut and save. He asked the Board to instruct the County Administrator to go back to the drawing board and cut expenses. The Board was not the insurer of jobs. They must cut unnecessary expenses. That was what families and businesses had to do, and that was what our neighboring localities were doing. The Board was proposing an unbelievable 5¢ increase in the real estate tax rate. Our County debt had increased from \$19 million to \$77 million, which was more than a 300% increase. Many people were looking for jobs and trying to hold on to their homes. The Board needed to practice fiscal discipline. The City of Franklin made the necessary adjustments, but not Southampton. It was tax and spend. This course of action was unacceptable. He asked that they balance the budget with no tax increases and no borrowing. They needed to examine every line item. If the Board could not listen to their constituents, they would find replacements.

Mr. Larry Rose, athletic coach at Southampton High School, spoke. He stated that they appreciated Supervisor Brown's support of the school system. Our schools were not always great, but they were now. They offered \$2 million in scholarships. He was concerned that if they did not pay more now towards education, they would be paying more later to the Sheriff's Department. He understood that people did not like tax increases, but they should show the Board another way. We could not be compared to Greensville County or Isle of Wight County.

Mr. Bruce Phillips of Sebrell spoke. He advised that Elliott Cobb did a much better job than he could do, but he wanted to make a few comments. The Board needed to direct the County Administrator to do what the citizens wanted. We were paying a new county planner, but Jay Randolph, Assistant County Administrator, was a certified planner. Did we need 2 planners?

Ms. Florence Reynolds of Ivor spoke. She indicated that she also did not like tax increases. She did not understand why people were always saying, don't tax the farmer. The Board did not eliminate land use and did not increase taxes on farm equipment.

Ms. Allene Atkinson, Principal of Southampton County High School, spoke. She advised that she taught in the classroom for 25 years and had been an administrator for the past 10 years. Southampton County Schools had moved right to the top and were respected across the state. Our teachers were excellent. It had taken a long time to get to where we were today, and quality would continue. The high school was the last stop for students before going out into the world, and they were tasked with ensuring the students were good citizens. She shared something a student wrote in the yearbook about being a teacher. The student wrote, "When we lose our jobs, we still have children to teach." With reduced funding for schools, they were at risk of losing the dual credit program. She asked the Board to always keep in mind the resource of a human being and what that brought back to the County.

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Washington of Boykins spoke. She advised that she was representing Boykins Town Council, the citizens of Boykins, and Delegate Roslyn Tyler and the 75th District.

Our area would be affected by the closure of I.P. We would continue to see foreclosures. Where was our quality of life headed? What happened to the Board? They took an oath to serve the people. The citizens could not be burdened anymore. The Boykins water/sewer system was in very poor condition. A new business in Boykins had to install filters in their appliances, and in a few months, they were clogged up with gook. She had gook in her sink that turned into slime. She had come to the conclusion that it was coming from the water. She asked the Board to go back and look at the budget. They needed to cut salaries. The County Administrator was not the boss – the Board of Supervisors was the boss.

Mr. Ash Cutchin of Courtland addressed the Board. He stated that he was concerned about the County's debt. We could not keep spending money we did not have. He was bothered by the schools laying off teachers. He commended the Board of Supervisors for taking a 10% salary cut. He asked if Mr. Charles Turner, School Superintendent, had considered taking a salary cut? Had Mr. Turner asked the teachers to consider taking a slight pay cut to help save their colleagues' jobs? Virginia ranked 13th in money spent to educate illegal immigrants. Was that a problem in Southampton County? Were non-resident students costing us? He quoted Supervisor Faison as stating at a budget workshop, "First we need to see how much we can stand taxes to go up, and see how much we can take out of the Reserve, and then look at services we can cut if any." He thought it should be the other way around. He asked the Board to look at cutting expenses, especially redundant expenses. He thanked the Board for leaving the land use program in place.

Mr. Glenn Updike of Newsoms spoke. He advised that Mr. Elliott Cobb and Mr. Ash Cutchin had stated most of what he wanted to say. Teachers' health insurance and retirements were expensive. County employees making over \$100,000 needed to take pay cuts. He hoped and prayed that the people in here would call and tell the Board that they did not want anything to do with the \$50,000 planning grant from VDOT. High-density development in the County would be a direct result of the grant. The Planning Commission was against acceptance of the grant. He commended the Planning Commission for saying it was not the direction we needed to go.

Ms. Pat Johnson of Courtland spoke. She stated that she had only lived here 2 ½ years, but the taxes had gone up each year. Out of 95 counties, we ranked # 17 in real estate tax rates and # 3 in personal property tax rates. The trash decals were a waste of money. How much did they save eliminating County decals, when they turned around and sent out trash decals?

Mr. Charles Turner, School Superintendent, addressed the Board. He advised that he took this job 11 years ago. At that time, the Board of Supervisors asked how many schools were fully accredited? His reply at that time was that none were currently fully accredited. He was proud to say today that all 6 schools were fully accredited. He spoke to a group of 5th graders today. He looked at their faces, and in that group were future county administrators, attorneys, and teachers. He was grateful that someone had paid for him to have an education. Last year the schools were cut \$1.8 million, and \$2.6 million this year. And yes they had unexpended carry-over funds. They purposely saved \$1 million. As a result of that, they would be saving 37 jobs. The administrators and teachers were dedicated and had done all they could do to save money. They had eliminated some positions and had consolidated some positions in his office. Many of the spouses of those laid off from I.P. were employees of the school system. He would never play games or hold something over the heads of the Board of Supervisors. The schools did not have anywhere else to cut but teachers. The future of education in Southampton County was critical. They were seeing a return on their investment with children. Someone had mentioned that Hunterdale Elementary was still being used. He noted that the school system was not bearing all of the responsibility/cost of the program there. The schools provided tremendous programs such as Dual Credit and the Associates Degree program. The schools needed the help of the Board of Supervisors. They were asking for help because they were cut so drastically by the state. They needed everyone's support. He asked the Board to help them maintain their excellence.

Mr. Turner's comments concluded the public comment.

It was consensus of the Board to hold another budget workshop on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 PM.