

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 May 19, 2010 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)
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
Beth Lewis, Principal Planner
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

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

Chairman Jones asked the Board for their thoughts regarding the budget public hearing Monday night.

Vice-Chairman Young stated that up until Monday night, he thought the Board had done a good job. He did not know that they were unreasonable, irresponsible, and arrogant.

Supervisor Faison indicated that he felt good about the job they were doing until Monday night. He was very concerned about the County and the schools. We needed to come up with a budget we could live with. He did not want to increase taxes but there had to be some give and take.

Supervisor Felts stated that they were all “roasted” Monday night. Some of the comments made were true, but some were not. She did not want to raise taxes either, but we all had to share the pain. However, she did think that the Board needed to make some more cuts.

Supervisor West advised that he saw Monday night as a wake up call. The citizens had put a limit on the County’s credit card. He had seen neighboring localities cut their budgets. He recognized that our vision had been to provide the best schools. They were doing the best they could. It was difficult for him to impose tax increases with the economy down and the closure of I.P. He noted that the price of wheat was down, houses were being foreclosed, etc. He was living with significantly less money. He was not willing to support the current budget. He could only support a 50¢ increase from \$4.50 to \$5.00 on the personal property rate.

Supervisor Brown stated that he was awestruck Monday night. The meeting was supposed to be a public hearing about the budget – not character bashing. He thought the gavel should have been dropped when the character bashing began. As far as the budget, he recommended the following cuts:

- Reduce the days of operation for our refuse collection sites from 6 days to 4 days
- No new fences at the refuse collection sites
- No new truck for Public Works
- Leave the new animal control officer position vacant

Supervisor Brown noted that those cuts would save approximately \$200,000, which was equivalent to about 1¢ on the real estate tax rate.

Supervisor Wyche stated that the situation we were in did not happen overnight. Lots of time had been spent on the budget. You could not compare Southampton County to neighboring counties. Businesses would come here but we needed to offer them something. He was very concerned

about the comments made at the public hearing. There was just not much left to cut. The schools were already cut enough.

Chairman Jones indicated that he thought they were doing a good job until Monday. He noted that we already had one of the smallest governments. He remarked that he thought Supervisor Brown's recommendations for cuts were worthwhile.

Supervisors Brown and Faison stressed the importance funding the schools.

Supervisor West stated that the students at Capron Elementary did extremely well. The school was not going to make the students. The teachers made the students, and it started at home. Again he was willing to increase the personal property tax rate by only 50¢. It was about living within your means. They were not asking the schools to endure the same sacrifice as everyone else. They really needed to start at the top and reduce equally all the way down.

Supervisor Wyche commented that there were a decreased number of fire and rescue volunteers. Paid firemen and rescue personnel was coming down the road.

Supervisor Faison advised that when taxes were increased, they were increased on everybody. He did not like raising taxes, but that was the County's only income. They were doing what they could to hopefully bring industry in. He did not want to sacrifice our children's education.

Vice-Chairman Young stated that he wanted to fund the schools as much as possible. He also thought Supervisor Brown's suggested cuts were worthwhile, but he wanted to make sure Public Works could operate efficiently with the reduced hours of operation at the refuse collection sites.

Supervisor Brown informed that he had talked with some employees at the sites. He had learned that Saturdays and Wednesdays were busy days at the sites, but Tuesdays and Saturdays were not.

Mr. Michael Johnson, County Administrator, clarified for Supervisor Brown that while he appreciated his suggested cuts, the new truck for Public Works was requested, but was not proposed to be funded. Also, the fences at the refuse collection sites would come out of the building fund, which had no impact on the general fund.

Mr. Johnson advised that he had reviewed the budget again and had taken the liberty to further reduce it. He presented the following information:

CLOSING THE GAP
 "THE GAP" = (\$1,850,483 - 300,000 - 195,206 = \$1,355,277)

First Round of Reductions

	<u>FY 2011 DRAFT BUDGET</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL CUT</u>	<u>FY 2011 REVISED</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL REDUCTION</u>
Schools	29,493,734	(51,228)	29,442,506	0.17%
Social Services	2,489,150	(16,310)	2,472,840	0.66%
General Fund	14,027,965	(110,729)	13,917,236	0.79%
Enterprise Fund	3,573,958	(16,939)	3,557,019	0.47%
	<u>49,584,807</u>	<u>(195,206)</u>	<u>49,389,601</u>	<u>0.39%</u>

Deeper Proposed Reductions

	<u>FY 2011 REVISED BUDGET</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL CUT</u>	<u>FY 2011 REVISED</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL REDUCTION</u>
Schools	29,442,506	(264,771)	29,177,735	0.90%
Social Services	2,472,840	(16,525)	2,456,315	0.67%
General Fund	13,917,236	(315,795)	13,601,441	2.27%
Enterprise Fund	3,557,019	(71,140)	3,485,879	2.00%
	<u>49,389,601</u>	<u>(668,231)</u>	<u>48,721,370</u>	<u>1.35%</u>

50¢ Increase in the Personal Property Tax Rate (total rate of \$5.00)

<u>FY 2011 ORIGINAL</u>	<u>NET ADDITIONAL</u>	<u>FY 2011 FINAL</u>
5,581,115	545,036	6,126,151

Additional 1¢ Increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate (total rate of \$0.76)

<u>FY 2011 DRAFT BUDGET</u>	<u>NET ADDITIONAL</u>	<u>FY 2011 REVISED</u>
10,374,708	142,010	10,516,718

GENERAL FUND

		<u>FY 2011 DRAFT BUDGET</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL CUT</u>	<u>FY 2011 REVISED</u>
Refuse Disposal				
42400-3845	Transfer Refuse to Suffolk	1,611,600	(80,729)	1,530,871
42400-3846	Transfer Refuse to Waverly	0	20,000	20,000
			<u>(60,729)</u>	

EXPLANATION - In accordance with the Use and Support Agreement with SPSA, we intend to divert 5% of the municipal waste stream to Atlantic Waste Disposal in Waverly at a substantially lower tipping fee for a net reduction of \$60,729.

Economic Development				
81500-7006	Economic Development Office	150,000	<u>(50,000)</u>	100,000
			<u>(50,000)</u>	

EXPLANATION - Reduces the Annual Appropriation to FSEDI by \$50,000

ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS - GENERAL FUND (110,729)

ENTERPRISE FUND

89500-3310	Repair & Maintenance	65,927	(2,189)	63,738
89500-5110	Electrical Services	96,750	(6,750)	90,000
89500-6007	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	55,000	(5,000)	50,000
89500-8201	Equipment	30,000	(1,000)	29,000
89600-6007	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	18,000	<u>(2,000)</u>	16,000
			<u>(16,939)</u>	

ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS - ENTERPRISE FUND (16,939)

**GENERAL FUND
DEEPER REDUCTIONS FOR FY 2011**

		<u>Original</u>	<u>Cut</u>	<u>Revised</u>
Board of Supervisors				
11010-5500	Travel, Convention, Education	6,900	(1,000)	5,900
11010-5642	Genieve Shelter	9,500	(475)	9,025
11010-5646	The Children's Center	4,050	(203)	3,847
11010-5619	Virginia Legal Aid Society	2,964	(148)	2,816
11010-5660	Franklin-Southampton Fair	4,750	(238)	4,512
11010-5695	Southeast Rural Com Asst Project	950	(48)	902
11010-5710	Western Tidewater Free Clinic	4,750	(238)	4,512
11010-5775	Youth Activities	10,000	<u>(5,000)</u>	5,000
			<u>(7,350)</u>	
County Administrator				
12110-5500	Travel, Convention, Education	2,000	(1,000)	1,000
12110-5810	Dues & Memberships Chamber of Commerce	4,988	<u>(250)</u>	4,738
			<u>(1,250)</u>	
Commissioner of the Revenue				
12310-1300	Part-Time Salaries	12,000	(2,000)	10,000
12310-1700	Proration/Elderly & Handicap	11,000	(1,000)	10,000
12310-5500	Travel, Convention, Education	2,500	<u>(1,500)</u>	1,000
			<u>(4,500)</u>	
Treasurer				
12410-3150	Legal Services	300	(150)	150
12410-3310	Repair & Maintenance	170	<u>(170)</u>	-
			<u>(320)</u>	
Accounting				
12430-5500	Travel, Convention, Education	125	(125)	-
12430-6001	Office Supplies	1,400	<u>(100)</u>	1,300
			<u>(225)</u>	
Data Processing				
12510-3325	Contractual Services	15,000	(5,000)	10,000
12510-5230	Telecommunications	1,900	(250)	1,650
12510-8201	Equipment	11,000	<u>(2,000)</u>	9,000
			<u>(7,250)</u>	
Registrar				
13200-5510	Travel - Board/LGOC/VEBA	1,250	(500)	750
13200-6001	Office Supplies	7,039	<u>(1,901)</u>	5,138
			<u>(2,401)</u>	
General District Court				
21200-1300	Part-Time Salaries	10,147	(1,500)	8,647
21200-1700	Court Appointed Attorney's Fee	4,280	(1,000)	3,280
21200-6012	Books/Dues/Subscriptions	200	<u>(200)</u>	-
			<u>(2,700)</u>	
Special Magistrates				
21300-3320	Maintenance Service Contracts	108	(108)	-
21300-5230	Telecommunications	1,058	(400)	658
21300-6001	Office Supplies	200	<u>(200)</u>	-
			<u>(708)</u>	
Clerk of the Circuit Court				
21600-3310	Repair & Maintenance	750	(750)	-
21600-6001	Office Supplies	5,500	(500)	5,000
21600-6005	Housekeeping & Janitorial Supplies	150	(150)	-

73200-5680	Payment to Regional Library	257,897	<u>(5,000)</u> (5,000)	252,897
Rawls Museum Arts				
72200-5604	RMA Operational/Educ Outreach	9,250	<u>(463)</u> (463)	8,787
Southampton County Historical Society				
72500-5650	Rebecca Vaughan House Project	23,750	<u>(3,750)</u> (3,750)	20,000
Planning & Zoning				
81100-5500	Travel, Convention, Education	3,000	(1,000)	2,000
81100-6014	Other Operating Supplies	1,200	<u>(1,000)</u> (2,000)	200
Coop Extension Serv Program				
83500-1100	Salaries & Wages	31,273	(7,818)	23,455
83500-2215	Retirement - Employee/Employer	11,024	(2,756)	8,268
83500-5812	4H Camp-Airfield Conf Center	3,000	<u>(200)</u> (10,774)	2,800
TOTAL OF ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS			(315,795)	

Vice-Chairman Young stated that he was concerned about cuts to fire/rescue and schools.

Supervisor Faison shared the concerns of Vice-Chairman Young.

Supervisor West stated that we were still saying we did not want the schools to be cut, but we did not want to raise taxes. We needed to bite the bullet this year. We were doing the best we could. We had an outstanding county administrator and the cheapest and best government around.

Supervisor Felts stated that Mr. Johnson did an outstanding job. She did not want to cut the schools or fire/rescue, but we had to draw the line. They had to make do with what they had.

Supervisor Wyche advised that he hated to see any cuts. We were not going to make everyone happy. He did not want to see the schools cuts further. We had one of the best school systems.

Supervisor Brown commended Mr. Johnson for an outstanding job. He was very worried about the school cuts. As per his suggested cuts, he would like staff to evaluate the feasibility of reducing the number of operating days of the refuse collection sites from 6 to 4 days.

Supervisor Brown asked Mr. Johnson what another 15¢ increase on the personal property tax rate would do? Mr. Johnson replied approximately \$167,000.

Supervisor Brown indicated that he would like for them to consider increasing the personal property tax rate an additional 15¢ for a total rate of \$5.15, and designate the revenue to the schools. And if determined that it would be feasible to operate the refuse collection sites efficiently 4 days instead of 6, he would also like those cost savings to go to the schools.

Supervisor West informed that he would not be at Monday's meeting, and subsequently, would not be able to vote on the budget. He apologized but indicated that he had planned a trip months ago to visit his family out of state.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk