

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 13, 2011 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)
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director
Sandi Plyler, Information Technology Manager
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

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

Mrs. Michelle Stivers, Director of Southampton County Department of Social Services, spoke to their budget. She advised that most of their budget was comprised of state and federal funds. Although local funds were a small portion, they were important as they helped to draw down other state and federal funds. The demand for their services had increased. For example, food stamps had increased 36%. One in seven persons in Southampton County now received food stamps. Their FY 2012 budget request had decreased from last year. She recognized staff members who were present to support the budget. She noted that April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and distributed pinwheel pins to the Board. She thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Vernie Francis, Southampton County Sheriff, spoke to their respective budget. He advised that they had requested funding for a second animal control officer. They needed to prepare for the future, as new facilities were needed and they may need to start addressing the cat problems. They also requested funds for courthouse security improvements (phase 1). Security at our courthouse was minimal – it was actually the least secure courthouse in the area. There was nothing stopping someone from bringing a gun into the courtroom with the intent to shoot a witness, for example. Moseley Architects performed a security study/evaluation of our courthouse in 2008 and gave some security improvements recommendations. He was requesting that the improvements be implemented in phases. Phase 1 would include metal detectors and 2 civilian part-time employees manning the entrance/exit of the courthouse. It would also include securing (with alarms) all the other entrances/exits to the courthouse except for the main entrance/exit so that everyone, including employees, would enter and exit at the same location and be subject to the metal detectors/checkpoint. He stated that the funding source, courthouse security fees, which was earmarked for personnel and equipment, could cover about 85% of the estimated cost of \$164,000. He noted that he and the Commonwealth's Attorney had a meeting with the Judge tomorrow to discuss this issue. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

Ms. Ellen Couch, Director of Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, spoke to their budget. She advised that there were 36 active members on their Board of Directors including Mrs. Anita Felts (Supervisor) and Mrs. Michelle Stivers (Director of Social Services). Their focus was on children 0-5 years. Their "Raising a Reader" program had been very successful. They were currently rating/evaluating 16 child care centers in Western Tidewater, and would provide assistance in any under-performing areas. She thanked the Board for supporting them.

Mr. Eric Cooke, Southampton County Commonwealth's Attorney, spoke to their respective budget. He agreed with Sheriff Francis in that courthouse security improvements were imperative. Improvements had been needed for a long time and it seemed that they were waiting for something bad to happen. There were more criminals at the courthouse than non-criminals on any given day. He advised that he had 3 assistants in his office right now. They were all young and inexperienced. They had become a training ground for young lawyers. He was not asking for

salary increases, but he wanted the Board to be aware that in order to keep competent attorneys, the salaries needed to be much higher. He thanked the Board for their support.

Mrs. Yvonne Hilliard-Bradley, Director of the Walter Cecil Rawls Library, spoke to their budget. She advised that the number of patrons visiting the library had increased. They had 322 participants in the Summer Reading Program and over 500 participants in their Sand Art workshop. The Renaissance Fair on April 2 was very successful. Parents and kids were hungry for something to do together. Teens were coming to the library in droves. They had submitted a decreased budget for FY 2012. They had made reductions and some temporary and permanent cuts. Any further reductions from what they were requesting would be catastrophic. She respectfully asked the Board to approve their submitted budget.

Ms. Joyelle Saunders, Program Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), spoke to their respective budget. She advised that CASA volunteers were advocates for children that had been abused and neglected. She introduced their Treasurer, Mr. Rick Morris. He advised that they served 47 children last year in Franklin and Southampton County social service systems. They also served over 70 children not in the system. Over 95% of recommendations made to the courts by CASA volunteers were accepted and followed. He noted that they tried to raise money each year by having fundraisers.

Supervisor Brown asked what percent of the 47 children (in the system) were from Southampton County. Ms. Saunders replied 35% were from Southampton County and 65% from Franklin. Supervisor Brown asked how much funding Southampton County provided in the current fiscal year. Mr. Morris replied \$16,771. Supervisor Brown asked how much funding Franklin provided. Mr. Morris replied \$2,000. Supervisor Brown confirmed that 65% of the children served (in the system) were from Franklin, but yet Franklin only contributed \$2,000.

Ms. Saunders and Mr. Morris thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Clete Lassiter, Chief of Boykins Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department spoke. He advised that he was also speaking for the other volunteer fire and rescue departments in Southampton County. He stated that in 1982 when he joined the Department, they had 1 annual fundraiser – now they had 3 major annual fundraisers and a Sunday dinner every quarter. It seemed as though they had become a fundraising department. It was getting hard to operate with the funds they received. His Department spent \$2,000 last month just to keep the building warm enough for the drugs and medicines kept in the ambulances. They had also lost a lot of members. He asked the Board to support the volunteer fire and rescue departments as much as possible.

Supervisor Brown personally thanked Mr. Lassiter and the volunteer fire and rescue departments in the County for their service.

Mr. Vernie Francis, III, of Southampton County EMS spoke. In 2005, Advance Life Support (ALS) personnel were placed in Courtland 24/7. Due to the decreasing number of volunteers, the same was needed in Boykins, Capron, and Ivor. The total cost was approximately \$366,750. However, they wanted to implement this in stages and do one at a time. They wanted to begin with Ivor, which had the most need. The estimated cost for Ivor was \$122,250. He thanked the Board for their support and consideration of the request.

Mr. Demetrios Peratsakis, Executive Director of Western Tidewater Community Services Board, spoke to their respective budget. He shared their mission statement: "It is the mission of Western Tidewater Community Services Board to provide a coordinated system of quality recovery oriented care in Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the citizens of Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Suffolk. We continually strive to value staff, support diversity, and promote excellence in the provisions of consumer care." From FY 2000 to FY 2010, service for Southampton County expanded from 11,605 units to 19,724 units, and service hours increased 70%. In FY 2010, they received \$76,605.00 in funding from Southampton County, and in return, they provided Southampton County with \$888,047.42 in services. WTCSB was faced with a significant upcoming policy change. Effective July 1, 2011, they would become responsible for determining the clinical needs and service eligibility for any child recommended for Medicaid treatment services. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mrs. Stacey Bradshaw of the Chowan Basin Soil and Water Conservation District spoke to their budget. She advised that thus far this calendar year in Southampton County, they had collected 2,335 gallons of oil and 38.85 tons of tires. They had reached 235 children in their Education Program and 25 adults in their Outreach Program. She thanked the Board for their support.

Mrs. Stacey Bradshaw of South Centre Corridors Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, spoke to their respective budget. She stated that their mission was to “Develop partnerships to advocate and promote the conservation, preservation and development of our resources to enhance the quality of life in the region.” She shared some of their projects:

- Recently completed the development of their first **Buy Fresh Buy Local Food Guide**. The guide consisted of 32 farmers, farm markets, specialty vendors, restaurants, and specialty stores that buy or sell locally grown foods;
- For the 4th consecutive year, through their **Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program**, they had provided mini-grants up to \$500 to teachers at area schools and Soil and Conservation Districts to purchase supplies and equipment for classroom projects;
- Currently developing a **Living in Your Watershed Booklet** for 4th grade students. The booklet would be an education resource for teachers to educate students on watersheds, natural resources and the environment; and
- Recently became involved in the “**Save the Barn**” project. They were working with organizations in Emporia and Greensville County to restore the livestock barn (which was used for 4-H livestock shows each year) on the property of the Greensville Ruritan Club.

She thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Charles Turner, Superintendent of Southampton County Public Schools, spoke to their budget and presented a PowerPoint presentation. He recognized the students, parents, staff and school board members who were present to support education. He stated that the mission of Southampton Public Schools, through the combined efforts of staff, students, families and the community, was to ensure a quality education in a safe environment that will prepare students to be successful learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing society. All 6 schools were fully accredited. He shared the outstanding SOL scores of each of the schools. He stated that their focus areas were student achievement, school safety, school facilities, technology, transportation, communication and professionalism. The academic programs offered included distance learning courses, dual credit classes, and associate degree program. Career tech programs included culinary arts, technical drawing, building trade, electricity, business and information technology, cosmetology, and early childhood. Fine arts programs included Governor’s School of Arts, jazz band, and drama. He noted that they started with one Odyssey of the Minds team, and now had nine teams.

Mr. Turner shared the following information:

Proposed School Budget Summary 2011-2012

2011-2012 Decrease in Budget	\$476,851
Local Request	130,553
Increase in VRS & Health Insurance	288,016
Total Deficit	\$895,420

Proposed School Operating Budget 2011-2012

Category Description	2010-2011 Budget	2011-2012 Request	Change in Funds
61000 Instruction	\$15,994,521	\$15,775,059	\$(219,462)
62000 Administration/Health	1,127,693	1,208,040	80,347
63000 Transportation	2,769,046	2,800,215	31,169
64000 Maintenance	3,384,271	3,381,462	(2,809)
65000 Food Service Hospitalization	133,888	129,818	(4,070)
66000 Site Improvement	154,026	154,026	0
68000 Technology	401,967	405,388	3,421
Sub Total for Operating	\$23,965,412	\$23,854,008	\$(111,404)
67000 Debt Service	2,889,828	2,524,381	(365,447)
Grand Total	\$26,855,240	\$26,378,389	\$(476,851)

Proposed School Operating Budget Recap 2011-2012

11-12 Adopted Budget	\$26,855,240
11-12 Requested Budget	26,378,389 (Includes Debt Service)
Projected State Revenue (ADM 2713)	15,509,810 (General Assembly's)
Requested Local Funding	10,855,079
Local Tuition & Federal to School Operating	13,500
Total Revenue	\$26,378,389
Current Local Funding	10,724,526
Total Increase in Local Funding	130,553

Proposed School Budget Local, State & Federal 2011-2012

Category Description	2010-2011 Budget	2011-2012 Request
Total Operating Budget	\$23,965,412	\$23,854,008
Debt Service	2,889,828	2,524,381
Textbooks	104,509	78,175
Technology	206,000	206,000
Other State Programs	252,137	245,661
Federal Programs	1,759,849	1,762,408
Total	\$29,177,735	\$28,670,663

Mr. Turner stated that they had made great strides, and must continue. He thanked the Board for their generous support.

Supervisor Brown thanked Mr. Turner, the principals, teachers and staff. He appreciated the quality teachers we had.

Chairman Jones advised that he was very proud of the accomplishments of Southampton County Schools.

Supervisor Brown stated that our FY 2011-2012 proposed budget was the best first draft budget he had seen since he had been on the Board.

Chairman Jones noted that we had an outstanding staff.

Mr. Johnson, County Administrator, advised that the next budget workshop was scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk