

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 16, 2011 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)
Jon Mendenhall, Assistant County Administrator
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director
Sandi Plyler, Information Technology Manager
Beth Lewis, Director of Community Development
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 to receive public comment regarding the proposed FY 2012 annual budget and annual tax levies. He noted that per the state statute, the Board would not take any action this evening.

Chairman Jones opened the public hearings:

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012**

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, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Southampton High School, 23350 Southampton Parkway, Courtland, Virginia 23837.

REVENUE ESTIMATES

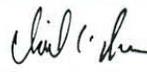
	2010-2011	2011-2012	%▲		2010-2011	2011-2012	%▲
COUNTY SOURCES				BUILDING FUND			
General Property Taxes	\$ 17,324,205	\$ 18,435,314	6.41	Utility Taxes	464,000	490,000	5.60
Other Local Taxes	1,552,849	1,594,349	2.67	Carryover - Utility Reserve	1,340,823	970,031	(27.65)
Permits, Fees, Licenses	112,690	105,050	(6.78)	Rental of Property	60,556	60,556	0.00
Fines & Forfeitures	560,238	589,000	5.13	Meal Taxes/Refunds	154,920	124,920	(19.36)
Use of Money & Property	45,000	35,000	(22.22)	TOTAL BUILDING FUND	2,020,299	1,645,507	(18.55)
Charges for Service	413,526	396,664	(4.08)	REVENUE FROM COMMONWEALTH			
Miscellaneous Revenue	751,612	752,055	0.06	Non-Categorical Aid	185,000	190,000	2.70
TOTAL COUNTY SOURCES	20,760,120	21,907,432	5.53	Categorical Aid	3,456,946	3,460,396	0.10
OTHER COUNTY SOURCES				Other Categorical Aid	462,864	467,554	1.01
Transfer-In/General Fund Reserve	867,861	1,404,394	61.82	School Aid (School Operating)	14,263,175	13,435,907	(5.80)
Transfer-In/Inmate Enterprise	145,380	160,000	10.06	School Aid (School Food)	14,000	21,000	50.00
School Funds (School Food)	523,000	401,600	(23.21)	School Aid (Sales Tax)	2,416,685	2,603,739	7.74
School Funds (School Operating)	2,000	2,000	0.00	Public Assistance	2,153,576	2,125,253	(1.32)
TOTAL OTHER COUNTY SOURCES	1,538,241	1,967,994	27.94	TOTAL STATE REVENUE	22,952,246	22,303,849	(2.82)
ENTERPRISE REVENUE				REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES			
Water Service Fees	326,700	305,000	(6.64)	School Aid (School Operating)	11,500	11,500	0.00
Sewer Service Fees	795,000	774,000	(2.64)	School Aid (Federal Programs)	1,759,849	1,762,408	0.15
Other Fees/Connections	49,815	49,815	0.00	School Aid (School Food)	556,000	650,000	16.91
Capitalized Interest	1,646,888	823,444	(50.00)	TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	2,327,349	2,423,908	4.15
TOTAL ENTERPRISE REVENUE	2,818,403	1,952,259	(30.73)	TOTAL REVENUE - ALL SOURCES	\$ 52,416,658	\$ 52,200,949	(0.41)

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

	2010-2011	2011-2012	%▲		2010-2011	2011-2012	%▲
GENERAL FUND				ENTERPRISE FUND			
General Government Administration				Enterprise/Sewer	2,746,777	2,840,840	3.42
Board of Supervisors	\$ 205,636	\$ 188,732	(8.22)	Enterprise/Water	739,102	713,028	(3.53)
County Administration	308,486	307,871	(0.20)		3,485,879	3,553,868	1.95
Commissioner of the Revenue	259,968	286,717	10.29	BUILDING FUND			
Board of Assessors	180,000	211,212	17.34	Capital Projects/Debt Service	2,585,763	2,210,971	(14.49)
Treasurer	271,389	274,817	1.26		2,585,763	2,210,971	(14.49)
Delinquent Tax Collection	5,000	5,000	0.00	SCHOOL FUND			
Accounting	220,007	211,721	(3.77)	Instruction	15,994,521	15,950,784	(0.27)
Data Processing	208,081	312,012	49.95	Administration, Attendance & Health	1,127,693	1,220,657	8.24
Insurance/County Code	177,820	227,800	28.11	Management & Direction - Transportation	2,769,046	2,818,191	1.77
Registrar	146,515	174,462	19.07	Operation and Maintenance Services	3,384,271	3,392,690	0.25
	1,982,902	2,200,344	10.97	School Food Service and Non Operating Facilities	133,888	129,818	(3.04)
					154,026	154,026	0.00
Judicial Administration				Debt Service	2,889,828	2,524,381	(12.65)
Circuit Court	64,771	34,890	(46.13)	Technology/School Operating	401,967	409,236	1.81
Combined District Court	22,166	22,839	3.04	Rental Textbooks	104,509	78,175	(25.20)
Special Magistrates	658	908	37.99	Technology	206,000	206,000	0.00
Clerk of Circuit Court	467,645	472,498	1.04	At-Risk 4 Year Olds	200,333	200,333	0.00
Sheriff - Bailiff	378,194	388,181	2.64	Early Reading Intervention	51,804	45,328	(12.50)
Courthouse Security	70,154	239,975	242.07	Federal School Funds			
Commonwealth's Attorney	481,781	497,105	3.18	Title I	578,416	658,276	13.81
Victim Witness Assistance Program	69,211	70,091	1.27	Title VIB Flow-Through	605,504	604,750	(0.12)
	1,554,580	1,726,487	11.06	Vocation Special Education	48,597	53,052	9.17
Public Safety				Pre-School Incentive	12,898	12,897	(0.01)
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	1,642,095	1,647,790	0.35	Title IIA Training and Recruitment	150,436	153,574	2.09
Enhanced 911	162,433	163,880	0.89	Title IID Ed. Tech.	5,998	4,859	(18.99)
Wireless 911	45,256	46,022	1.69	21st Century Community Learning	175,000	175,000	0.00
School Resource Officer	49,656	50,528	1.76	Opportunity, Inc.	183,000	100,000	(45.36)
Volunteer Fire Departments	281,790	301,647	7.05	Total School Funds	29,177,735	28,892,027	(0.98)
Volunteer Rescue Squads	914,799	929,278	1.58	SCHOOL FOOD			
State Forestry Service	23,367	21,730	(7.01)	School Food	1,093,000	1,072,600	(1.87)
Sheriff - Detention	2,565,629	2,657,239	3.57		1,093,000	1,072,600	(1.87)
Probation	104,472	102,701	(1.70)	VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND			
Inspections	122,253	131,379	7.46	Eligibility Administration	968,540	1,004,788	3.74
Animal Control	99,988	141,519	41.54	Service Administration	697,750	714,376	2.38
Medical Examiner	500	500	0.00	Benefit Programs	806,550	727,342	(9.82)
Emergency Services	113,033	113,073	0.04		2,472,840	2,446,506	(1.06)
	6,125,271	6,307,286	2.97	TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 52,416,658	\$ 52,200,949	(0.41)
Public Works				General Fund Reserve	\$ 2,719,069	\$ 2,238,805	
Streetlights	45,987	45,987	0.00				
Assign-A-Highway	52,320	54,379	3.94				
Refuse Collection	677,074	715,488	5.67				
Refuse Disposal	1,424,772	1,274,300	(10.56)				
Buildings & Grounds	469,494	488,037	3.95				
	2,669,647	2,578,191	(3.43)				
Health & Welfare							
Health Department	304,000	304,000	0.00				
WTCSB	68,944	68,944	0.00				
Senior Services	13,000	13,000	0.00				
Comprehensive Services Act	117,159	180,147	53.76				
STOP Organization	1,540	1,540	0.00				
	504,643	567,631	12.48				
Parks, Recreation & Cultural							
Community Concert Association	5,500	5,400	(1.82)				
Rawls Museum Arts	13,787	14,000	1.54				
Historical Society	24,750	24,750	0.00				
W.C. Rawls Library	252,897	228,686	(9.57)				
	296,934	272,836	(8.12)				
Community Development							
Planning	281,388	202,319	(28.10)				
Economic Development	100,000	100,000	0.00				
Soil & Water Conservation	9,911	9,768	(1.44)				
Cooperative Extension	42,165	41,015	(2.73)				
	433,464	353,102	(18.54)				
Non-Departmental							
Non-Departmental Operating	34,000	19,100	(43.82)				
	34,000	19,100	(43.82)				
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,601,441	\$ 14,024,977	3.11				

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 16, 2011 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 2011 (fiscal year 2012). All levies will be due on or before December 5, 2011:

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2012</u>
REAL ESTATE		
General	\$0.76/\$10 0	\$0.79/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$0.76/\$10 0	\$0.79/\$100
PERSONAL PROPERTY		
General	\$5.00/\$10 0	\$5.00/\$100
Machinery & Tools	\$2.40/\$10 0	\$2.40/\$100
Mobile Homes	\$0.76/\$10 0	\$0.79/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$5.00/\$10 0	\$5.00/\$100
Merchants Capital	\$0.50/\$10 0	\$0.50/\$100
Farm Machinery	\$1.95/\$10 0	\$1.95/\$100
Farm Machinery/Single Product	\$1.25/\$10 0	\$1.25/\$100
Construction Machinery	\$2.40/\$10 0	\$2.40/\$100
Motor Carriers	\$2.40/\$10 0	\$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, 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 16, 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 utility fees pursuant to Section 15.2-2119 and 15.2-2604, *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended:

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2012</u>
<u>WATER</u>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$24.00	\$24.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$24.00	\$24.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$5.00	\$5.00
<u>SEWER</u>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$32.00	\$32.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$32.00	\$32.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$7.00	\$7.00
Narricot Industries per 1,000 (Industrial Process)	\$1.40	\$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. Allene Atkinson, Principal of Southampton County High School, addressed the Board. She stated that even though she was not a resident, she felt as though she was due to being Principal of Southampton High School for many years and her vested interest in the students. She welcomed everyone to their high school, their building, and their auditorium, which was made possible because of the Board of Supervisors. She thanked the Board for their support all these years. They had created a school system that was known and respected across the state. That was no accident – the School Board, staff, and teachers working together with the Board of Supervisors made that possible. Under Mr. Charles Turner, Division Superintendent, all schools were accredited. Southampton High School was one of the only schools in the state with a Pre-School program. Their students were competitive regionally and at the state level. On June 18, over 200 students would graduate. The students kept getting better and better, and the teachers kept teaching harder and harder. She sincerely thanked the Board for their support.

Ms. Dawn Gunn spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Walter Cecil Rawls Library in Courtland. She advised that the Library was essential to the vitality of this County. The Library was a great community resource. Our local Library ranked 3rd from the top in program attendance, yet ranked next to the bottom in local funding. The budget request presented by the Library was 10% less than requested last year. She asked that they not cut the Library's budget any further than what they had already cut themselves. She thanked the Board for supporting the Library.

Several members of the Walter Cecil Rawls Library Teen Book Club spoke. They advised that they very much enjoyed coming to the Library on Wednesday nights for the Book Club. They utilized the Library at other times for help with school projects, and also enjoyed attending the many programs and activities, including The Renaissance Fair, pumpkin carving, and problem-solving activities. One young man indicated that he was a troubled kid and the Library helped to keep him out of trouble. Another young lady indicated that she was new the area, and the best part of Southampton County was the Library. She shared a poem she had written about the Library.

Ms. Cynthia Sherrill spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Walter Cecil Rawls Library. She advised that she had a background in juvenile detention and probation, and could really appreciate the services the Library provided to our young people. The Library was a safe place for teens to go on Wednesdays (for the Book Club) or any other time. She thanked the Board for their support.

Ms. Annetta Moore spoke. She stated that was an employee of Southampton County Schools. She noted that her daughter recently graduated from Paul D. Camp Community College. Without the Board of Supervisors, they could not provide a quality education. She thanked the Board for all they did to support education.

Ms. Sonja Cromwell spoke. She advised that he children attended Capron Elementary School. With the quality teachers and family-oriented administration, she could not ask for a better learning environment for her children. She asked the Board to support the School budget. To have the very best required an investment.

Ms. Raechelle Ferrante spoke. She advised that she was a resident of Boykins, VA and also a teacher with Southampton County Schools. She supported the proposed 2% pay increase for all County employees including the teachers. The employees deserved a raise. The School Board and staff continue to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Ms. Susan Fowler spoke. She stated that she was a Southampton County taxpayer, parent, and teacher. She was born and raised in Courtland. She supported the Board of Supervisors' proposed budget. You get out what you put into the Schools.

Mrs. Connie Burgess spoke. She advised that she was a lifelong resident of Southampton County and was a Kindergarten teacher with Southampton County Schools. She had the pleasure of experiencing each day what our tax dollars were doing. She had witnessed a Board of Supervisors' member substituting in the classroom, and the County Administrator volunteering to help a child read. Children remained our responsibility. Getting an education was hard work. She pointed out that for every \$1 invested in education, there was a \$7 return on investment.

Mr. Dan Hohman of the Berlin-Ivor District spoke. There was economic stress around the world. The United States had fallen from 3rd to 27th worldwide in math. There were lots of County employees with high salaries, as shown in *The Tidewater News*. The County salaries needed to be comparable to the private sector. There were no longer significant jobs in the County, and there were so many people that worked outside of the County. But here we were in debt, and proposing a gross exaggeration of funds to the Schools, and raises to all County employees. Each year he asked the Board for their support, and each year the Board said, "We hear you," but yet they unanimously approved tax increases each year.

Mr. Richard Harris spoke. He stated that he was opposed to any tax increase. He could not believe they were even considering proposing a tax increase this year. What benefits was he receiving for the taxes he paid? He should a monthly check or credit to compensate him for services that he paid for but did not receive. The Board needed to make due with what they had and leave the taxes as they were.

Mr. Frankie Quintanilla spoke. He advised that he attended Paul D. Camp Community College and the Walter Cecil Rawls Library had greatly benefited them. He asked that they support the Library.

Ms. Trish Edwards spoke. She advised that she was a resident and on the PTO Board at Riverdale Elementary. Not many people could say they had a child in the gifted program and a child in special education. Her child had received excellent special education.

Ms. Sandra Lindsey spoke. She stated that her 2 children attended Nottoway Elementary and she taught Preschool at Meherrin Elementary. She asked the Board to support the school budget.

Ms. Syretha Wright, Principal of Meherrin Elementary School, spoke. She advised that she had been in education for 35 years. There had been lots of changes over the years, but the children did not change. It did her heart good to see children come to school. She always considered any child that had come through Meherrin Elementary as her child.

Ms. Wanda Wise spoke. She advised that she had been teaching here in Southampton County for 22 years. She was currently a science teacher at Southampton Middle School. Her sons went to school here. She loved her students and loved where she worked. She thanked the Board for the proposed 2% raise for all County employees.

Mr. Charles Turner, Division Superintendent of Southampton County Schools, addressed the Board. He advised that he was a lifelong resident and taxpayer of Southampton County. He asked those persons in support of the budget (particularly the School budget) to please stand. When he became Superintendent 12 years ago, none of our schools were fully accredited – now they were all fully accredited. A friend told him when he took the job that if you get all schools accredited, and get new buildings, you will have made a difference. Southampton County Schools was compared academically (accreditation, SAT scores, etc.), and not geographically. They had a very capable staff and Southampton County Schools was respected every where they go. He stated that someone allowed him to receive an education. Someone was willing to do whatever it took to help him get a quality education. We had a responsibility to our young people. He commended the efforts of Mr. Michael Johnson, County Administrator, in preparing the proposed budget. He appreciated the 2% salary increase for all employees. Although they had been without a raise for several years, he had not heard any complaints. It was all about the children. We had a seasoned School Board, and very competent and hard-working teachers and administrative staff. Our young people represented the finest anywhere. He thanked the parents and Board of Supervisors for their support. Together they would make a difference. The Schools would do their part.

Mr. William Gillette spoke. He commended the Library Teen Book Club members for speaking on behalf of the Library. He stated that \$93 million was restored to the Schools per Delegate William Barlow. The school systems in Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, and other Hampton Roads

localities had proposed budget cuts. Isle of Wight County was proposing a 25% increase in the real estate tax rate, but their rate would still be lower than that of Southampton County. He did not support any increase in taxes. High taxes deterred innovation. He suggested that they encourage employees to share their ideas to reduce spending by providing monetary incentives to those whose ideas lead to actual cost savings. He agreed that pay increases were needed, but suggested that they only be applicable to those employees whose salaries were in the bottom quarter. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Mrs. Allison Francis spoke. She stated that she was a resident of Capron and teacher at Capron Elementary School. She fully supported the budget.

Ms. Jennifer Peace spoke. She advised that she was a teacher at Southampton Middle School. She was also a Southampton County resident and parent of a child who would become a student in the Southampton School system. She encouraged the Board to approve the School budget request.

Mr. Jay O'Berry spoke. He stated that the County spent \$32 million for a sewer treatment plant that would not benefit that many people, and \$750,000 for a building that we didn't need. The County was \$77 million in debt. He asked the Board not to raise the taxes.

Mr. Barry Porter spoke. He commended Mr. Johnson for his efforts regarding the budget. He advised that some of the Board members had indicated that this was the best budget they had ever seen. He could not disagree with them more. Expenditures exceeded revenues, they were raiding the Reserve, and proposing a tax increase. If they did not have the Reserve to transfer funds out of, they would have to raise real estate taxes 13¢. He was all for technology, but what were the cost savings. The Board gave Mr. Turner a free pass – they did not ask him any questions at all. The proposed 2% raise would not benefit a \$20,000/year employee much, but it was quite a lot of money for a \$100,000/year employee. He had a problem paying taxes to benefit high-paid employees. And the lower-paid employees could really use the 2% raise more.

Ms. Nakeilla Price spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Walter Cecil Rawls Library. She stated that she had home-schooled in the past and the Library provided many resources. She asked the Board to support the Library.

Ms. Mary Howald spoke. She stated that the County funded a lot of good programs, and nobody wanted to see any of them cut, but sometimes you had to make choices. She would like to fix her car because it leaks water, but life was that way. The personal property tax rate went up significantly last year. And a lot of people had lost their jobs or taken pay cuts, including her husband who took a big pay cut. She did not think they should raise taxes right now.

Mr. Don Wilson spoke. He advised that he was a Southampton County homeowner, landowner, and taxpayer, and was also a Friend of the Library. His 2 sons were products of Southampton County Schools. His job in the Navy was to man, train, and equip. There were many nice things they would like to have, but they made do with what they had. The Navy looked at a documented Return on Investment (ROI) with every purchase decision. He read an article in *The Tidewater News* that an old meat packing plant on Route 616 was only paying \$400/year in taxes. However, he was paying \$2,400/year in taxes. Something was wrong. The Board needed to take a hard look at each line item in the budget. Raising taxes should be a last resort.

Mr. David Edwards spoke. He advised that he was a farmer in Southampton County. He asked the Board to not raise taxes for the first time since 2006. Give all our taxpayers a raise by not increasing taxes.

Mr. Glenn Updike spoke. He stated that 1 out of 6 people in Southampton County now received food stamps. How could the Board sit there with any conscience and ask these people to pay more taxes, when there were County employees making \$100,000/year or more. Southampton County School employees had already received a pay increase. They got a \$500 bonus last year – that was a raise. Mr. Turner had more money going to administration than instruction. The average salary of school administration employees was \$45,000/year. Educating out-of-County students in our school system was costing us money and could cause us to need additional teachers. They just kept kicking the can down the road. They could not afford to give employees a 2% raise at this time. We had the worst drought last year since 1980 and the agricultural community suffered.

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Mr. Larry Rose spoke. He stated that often people that did not have a child in the school system did not think about schools. His job was school safety. He and others worked on bullying, cyber bullying, and keeping gangs away from the schools. People move to this area so their kids could go to school here. He got offended when people were negatively talking about Southampton County Schools. Our people worked hard. He did not know where the \$45,000/year average salary came from. He had been working there 20 years and he did not make that much money – in fact, he made about \$10,000 less than that. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mr. Larry Brown spoke. He advised that the salary of the employees at the Southampton County Schools Central Office was top-heavy. Everyone would like to have a lower tax rate, but the only way to do was to merge with the City of Franklin.

Mr. M.L. Everett, Jr. spoke. He stated that he was concerned about our future generation. We have incurred debt that our young people would have a hard time overcoming. He had the pleasure of visiting Mrs. Connie Burgess's kindergarten class – it was very rewarding. We were investing in education for our children, but we were not doing anything to keep them here after college. There were no jobs here. He commended the ideas shared by Mr. William Gillette. He personally thought it was a good idea to hire an Assistant County Administrator in the event something happened to Mr. Johnson, County Administrator. He hoped the new Assistant would be requested to go around and see what the different departments do. He was opposed to any tax increases. When taxes go up, the land owner would raise the rent on the farmer, and they would already be faced with a new Farm Bill in 2012. He thought they needed to be more aggressive on the collection of delinquent taxes. He pointed out that people who did not live in Southampton County should not stand up and say they were for or against this budget.

It was consensus of the Board to hold another budget workshop on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

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

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk