

At a budget workshop meeting (draft budget finalized and ready for publication) held at the Southampton County Office Center, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on May 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)  
Dr. Alan W. Edwards, Vice-Chairman (Jerusalem)  
Glenn H. Updike (Newsoms)  
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)  
Barry T. Porter (Franklin)  
Ronald M. West (Berlin-Ivor)  
S. Bruce Phillips (Capron)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)  
Jon Mendenhall, Assistant County Administrator  
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director  
Cynthia J. Edwards, Administrative Secretary

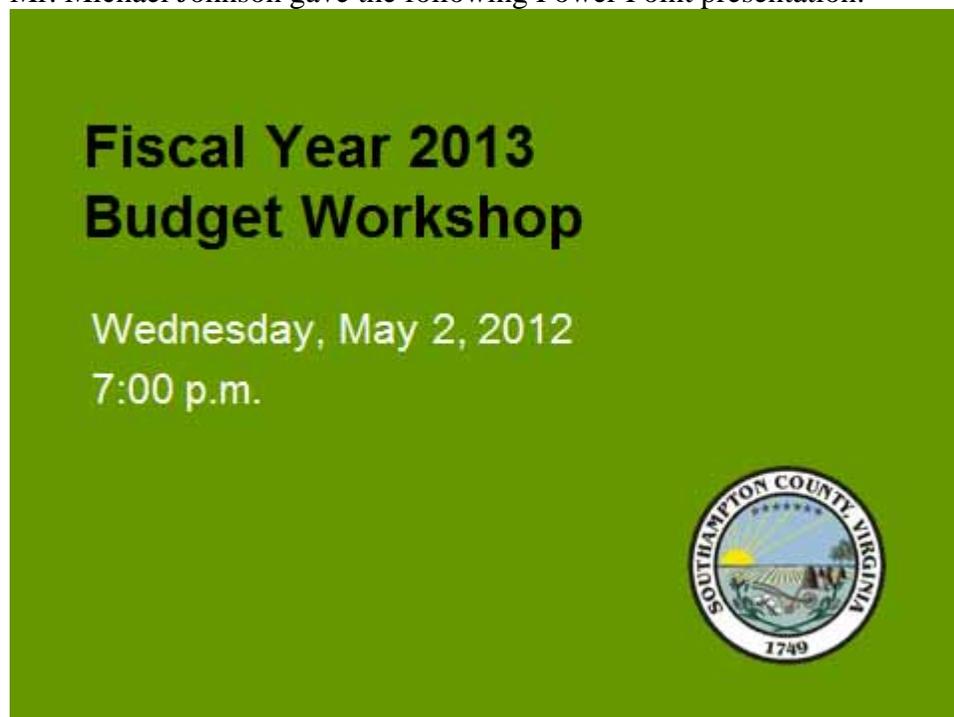
Chairman Jones called the meeting to order. After the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Supervisor Faison gave the invocation.

Chairman Jones thanked the citizens for coming. He stated that it was nice to have citizens interested in their local government.

Chairman Jones stated at this time we would have a Power Point presentation by Mr. Michael Johnson our County Administrator.

Mr. Michael Johnson stated he was going to start again with the calendar just so everybody knows where we are in the approval process. This will be the ninth budget workshop that we have conducted since February 15, 2012 and if we are to stay on schedule for the adoption date of May 29, 2012 tonight is the night that we would need to finalize a draft budget so that it may be advertised for public comment. The public hearing would be held on May 21, 2012 at Southampton High School. From there we have a tentative date set up for May 23, 2012 for one final workshop so that you can discuss the input that you receive at the public hearing. Then the budget would be slated for final consideration of adoption on May 29, 2012. So that is where we are in the process.

Mr. Michael Johnson gave the following Power Point presentation:



## Budget Development and Approval Process

February 15, 2012	BOS/School Board Workshop (compensation/benefits)
March 14, 2012	BOS/School Board Workshop (state/local revenue estimates)
March 21, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop (department/agency presentations)
March 28, 2012	BOS/School Board Workshop
April 4, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop (initial draft budget distributed)
April 11, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop
April 18, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop
April 25, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop
<b>May 2, 2012</b>	<b>BOS Budget Workshop</b> <small>Finalize Draft Budget and Advertise for Public Comment</small>
May 21, 2012	Public Hearing on FY 2013 Budget/Tax Rates/Fees
May 23, 2012	BOS Budget Workshop (if necessary)
May 29, 2012	BOS Regular Session (adoption)

## “The Gap”

### WHERE WE LEFT IT LAST WEEK

Projected Revenue	\$ 52,275,303.00
Projected Expenses	(52,565,303.00)
	<u>\$ (290,000.00)</u>

## Direction

- Reduce the proposed real property tax rate to \$0.75 and identify additional revenues or expenditure reductions to make up the \$290,000 difference
- Incorporate no further funding reductions to Southampton County Schools

# Gap Closure Strategy

## Adjustments to the Revised Draft Budget

CHANGES IN REVENUE		CHANGES IN EXPENSES	
Additional State Revenue for Sheriff	\$ 104,806	Department of Social Services (incorporates VR3 Phase-In)	\$ (7,151)
Wetland Bank Rental Payment	100,000		
Revised Sales Tax Estimate	31,896	BO \$ salaries	(16,500)
Revised Recordation Tax Estimate	13,913		\$ (23,651)
Additional State Revenue for COR	11,027		
Additional State Revenue for Clerk	2,130		
Adjust Delinquent PP Tax Revenue	1,421		
Additional State Revenue for CA	1,083		
Additional State Revenue for Treasurer	33		
	<b>\$ 266,309</b>		

# Total Revenues

REVENUE \$	FY 2013		FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
	FY 2012	Initial Draft			
General Property Taxes	\$ 18,154,870	\$ 18,436,637	\$ 18,554,714	\$ 399,844	2.2%
Other Local Taxes	1,594,349	1,596,105	1,683,155	88,806	5.6%
Permits, Fees, Licenses	105,050	105,930	116,530	11,480	10.9%
Fines & Forfeitures	589,000	597,250	597,250	8,250	1.4%
Interest	35,000	4,000	4,000	(31,000)	-88.6%
Charges for Services	396,664	408,773	1,790,546	1,393,882	351.4%
Miscellaneous Revenue	979,128	823,268	824,693	(15,435)	-15.8%
Operating Efficiencies*	1,400,777	530,709	452,262	(985,515)	-67.7%
Transfer - Inmate Enterprise	160,000	207,013	207,013	47,013	100.0%
Other County Sources	403,600	435,700	435,700	32,100	8.0%
Enterprise Fund	1,952,259	1,123,460	1,148,888	(803,371)	-41.2%
Building Fund	1,645,507	1,302,985	1,402,985	(242,522)	-14.7%
State Revenue	22,303,849	22,492,559	22,573,429	269,580	1.2%
Federal Revenue	2,423,908	2,720,043	2,720,043	296,135	12.2%
	<b>\$ 52,143,961</b>	<b>\$ 50,784,432</b>	<b>\$ 52,511,208</b>	<b>\$ 367,247</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

# Total Expenditures

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE \$	FY 2013		FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
	FY 2012	Initial Draft			
General & Financial Administration	\$ 2,200,344	\$ 2,154,840	\$ 2,109,948	\$ (90,396)	-4.1%
Judicial Administration	1,728,487	1,749,800	1,696,581	(29,906)	-1.7%
Public Safety	6,263,798	6,488,351	6,368,725	105,927	1.7%
Public Works	2,564,691	2,479,815	2,429,635	(135,056)	-5.3%
Health and Welfare	567,631	675,330	663,715	96,084	16.9%
Parks, Recreation, Culture	272,836	277,024	269,568	(3,268)	-1.2%
Community Development	353,102	381,126	380,187	27,085	7.7%
Non-Departmental	19,100	19,158	19,158	58	0.3%
School Fund	28,892,027	30,749,154	29,483,960	591,933	2.0%
School Food	1,072,600	1,137,620	1,137,620	65,020	6.1%
Public Assistance Fund	2,446,506	2,430,304	2,383,914	(62,592)	-2.6%
Building Fund	2,210,971	1,836,203	1,836,203	(374,768)	-17.0%
Enterprise Fund	3,553,868	3,731,690	3,730,954	177,126	5.0%
	<b>\$ 52,143,961</b>	<b>\$ 54,110,415</b>	<b>\$ 52,511,208</b>	<b>\$ 367,247</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

## General and Financial

GENERAL & FINANCIAL	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Board of Supervisors	\$ 188,732	\$ 177,328	\$ 160,828	\$ (27,904)	-14.8%
County Administrator	307,871	307,098	305,369	(2,502)	-0.8%
Commissioner of the Revenue	286,717	301,358	294,047	7,330	2.6%
Property Assessment	211,212	8,839	8,839	(202,373)	-95.8%
Treasurer	274,817	323,039	306,993	32,176	11.7%
Delinquent Tax Collection	5,000	10,959	10,959	5,959	119.2%
Accounting	211,721	226,931	225,597	13,876	6.6%
Data Processing	312,012	342,613	341,243	29,231	9.4%
Insurance/County Code	227,800	296,203	296,203	68,403	30.0%
Registrar	174,462	160,472	159,870	(14,592)	-8.4%
	<b>\$ 2,200,344</b>	<b>\$ 2,154,840</b>	<b>\$ 2,109,948</b>	<b>\$ (90,396)</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>

## Judicial Administration

JUDICIAL	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Circuit Court Judge	34,890	34,535	\$ 34,535	\$ (355)	-1.0%
General District Court	22,839	22,559	22,559	(280)	-1.2%
Magistrates	908	658	658	(250)	-27.5%
Clerk of Circuit Court	472,498	502,463	499,583	27,085	5.7%
Sheriff - Bailiff	388,181	363,199	361,026	(27,155)	-7.0%
Courthouse Security	239,975	237,156	193,874	(46,101)	-19.2%
Commonwealth's Attorney/V.P.	567,196	589,230	584,346	17,150	3.0%
	<b>\$ 1,726,487</b>	<b>\$ 1,749,800</b>	<b>\$ 1,696,581</b>	<b>\$ (29,906)</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

## Public Safety

PUBLIC SAFETY	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	1,647,790	1,674,722	1,650,571	\$ 2,781	0.2%
Enhanced 911	163,880	175,771	161,603	(2,277)	-1.4%
Wireless 911	46,022	47,796	47,543	1,521	3.3%
School Resource Officer	50,528	52,637	52,337	1,809	3.6%
Volunteer Fire Departments	301,647	302,396	295,726	(5,921)	-2.0%
Volunteer Rescue Squads	929,273	951,112	947,612	18,334	2.0%
State Forestry Service	21,730	21,730	21,730	-	0.0%
Sheriff - Detention	2,657,239	2,811,708	2,788,639	131,400	4.9%
Probation	102,701	91,669	91,669	(11,032)	-10.7%
Inspections	131,379	131,187	85,083	(46,296)	-35.2%
Animal Control	98,031	99,327	98,916	885	0.9%
Medical Examiner	500	420	420	(80)	-16.0%
Emergency Services	113,073	127,876	127,876	14,803	13.1%
	<b>\$ 6,263,798</b>	<b>\$ 6,488,351</b>	<b>\$ 6,369,725</b>	<b>\$ 105,927</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

## Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Streetlights	\$ 45,987	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 2,013	4.4%
Assign-A-Highway	54,379	52,437	5,189	(49,190)	-90.5%
Refuse Collection	715,488	763,504	761,714	46,226	6.5%
Refuse Disposal	1,274,300	1,116,000	1,116,000	(158,300)	-12.4%
Buildings & Grounds	474,537	499,874	498,732	24,195	5.1%
	<b>\$ 2,564,691</b>	<b>\$ 2,479,815</b>	<b>\$ 2,429,635</b>	<b>\$ (135,056)</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>

## Health & Welfare

HEALTH AND WELFARE	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Health Department	\$ 304,000	\$ 304,000	\$ 294,800	(\$ 1,200)	-3.0%
WTC&B	68,944	68,944	66,876	(2,068)	-3.0%
Senior Services	13,000	12,700	12,319	(681)	-5.2%
Comprehensive Services Act	190,147	288,146	288,146	107,999	60.0%
STOP Organization	1,540	1,540	1,494	(46)	-3.0%
	<b>\$ 567,631</b>	<b>\$ 675,330</b>	<b>\$ 663,715</b>	<b>\$ 96,084</b>	<b>16.9%</b>

## Parks, Recreation, Cultural

PARKS, RECREATION, CULTURE	FY 2012	Initial Draft FY 2013	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Community Concert Association	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,141	\$ (259)	-4.8%
Rawls Museum Arts	14,000	14,000	13,730	(270)	-1.9%
Historical Society	24,750	23,500	23,500	(1,250)	-5.1%
W.C. Rawls Library	228,686	234,224	227,197	(1,489)	-0.7%
	<b>\$ 272,836</b>	<b>\$ 277,024</b>	<b>\$ 269,568</b>	<b>\$ (3,269)</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>

# Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	FY 2012	FY 2013 Initial Draft	FY 2013 Revised	Variance	Percent Change
Planning	\$ 202,319	\$ 225,697	\$ 224,758	\$ 22,439	11.1%
Economic Development	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%
Soil & Water Conservation	9,768	9,768	9,768	-	0.0%
Cooperative Extension	41,015	45,661	45,661	4,646	11.3%
	\$ 353,102	\$ 381,126	\$ 380,187	27,085	7.7%

# Funding Sources

## Southampton County Schools

Revenues	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Budgeted	FY 2013 Projected	Increase (Decrease)	% Change
State	\$ 18,353,500	\$ 18,232,779	\$ 16,891,495	\$ 18,039,648	\$ 18,388,882	\$ 328,718	2.04
Federal	1,507,860	4,182,870	2,709,879	1,772,808	2,005,428	231,616	13.06
Local	9,230,300	9,432,462	11,683,080	11,078,473	11,078,473	-	-
Other	836,068	664,127	1,018,480	2,000	35,700	33,700	1,886.00
	\$ 31,377,348	\$ 30,994,268	\$ 31,188,724	\$ 28,892,027	\$ 29,483,968	\$ 691,941	2.06

# Funding Uses

## Southampton County Schools

SCHOOL FUND	FY 2012 Budgeted	FY 2013 Projected	% Change
Instruction	15,950,784	17,192,476	7.78
Administration, Attendance & Health	1,220,657	1,142,041	(6.44)
Management & Direction - Transportation	2,818,191	2,901,852	2.97
Operation and Maintenance Services	3,392,690	3,165,661	(6.69)
School Food Service and Non Operating	129,818	64,909	(50.00)
Facilities	154,026	154,026	0.00
Debt Service	2,524,381	2,297,795	(8.98)
Technology/School Operating	409,236	402,744	(1.59)
Rental Textbooks	78,175	166,342	112.75
Technology	206,000	206,000	0.00
At-Risk 4 Year Olds	200,333	233,552	16.58
Early Reading Intervention	45,328	46,906	3.48
Federal School Funds			
Title I	658,276	625,579	(4.97)
Title VI B Flow-Through	604,750	597,324	(1.15)
Vocational Special Education	53,052	46,887	(11.43)
Pre-School Incentive	12,897	12,358	(4.30)
Title III Training and Recruitment	153,574	125,408	(17.69)
Title III Ed. Tech.	4,859	-	(100.00)
21st Century Community Learning	175,000	-	(100.00)
Opportunity, Inc.	100,000	100,000	0.00
Total School Funds	28,892,027	29,483,968	2.05

## Proposed Tax Levies

	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2013</u>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>		
General	\$0.77/\$100	\$0.75/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$0.77/\$100	\$0.75/\$100
<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>		
General	\$5.00/\$100	\$5.00/\$100
Machinery & Tools	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Mobile Homes	\$0.77/\$100	\$0.75/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$5.00/\$100	\$5.00/\$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

## Proposed Water/Sewer Rates

	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2013</u>
<b><u>WATER</u></b>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$24.00	\$26.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$24.00	\$26.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$5.00	\$5.00
<b><u>SEWER</u></b>		
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$32.00	\$34.00
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$32.00	\$34.00
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$7.00	\$7.00
Narricot Industries per 1,000 (Industrial Process)	\$1.40	\$1.50

## Proposed Fees

- Solid Waste Management Fee - \$200 per Residential Household

## Fee Exceptions (Current Draft)

- Multifamily complexes that contract for private refuse collection and disposal services
- Households that are unoccupied for at least 180 days prior to July 1
- Elderly and disabled that will bear an extraordinary burden in relation to their income and net worth

Mr. Michael Johnson said he would be glad to answer any questions.

Chairman Jones asked if any of the Board members had any questions.

Supervisor West asked if that was elderly and disabled or elderly or disabled.

Mr. Michael Johnson said or. If you are 65 and meet the financial elements you are eligible.

Supervisor Phillips asked as the money becomes available, if it becomes available, would this fee be drawn down.

Mr. Michael Johnson said you would consider it on an annual basis as part of your budget process.

Chairman Jones asked Supervisor Edwards if he had anything.

Chairman Jones asked Supervisor Faison if he had anything.

Chairman Jones asked Supervisor Porter if he had anything.

Supervisor Porter stated he noticed that we are proposing to increase the rezoning fees from \$500.00 to \$600.00. He said it is his understanding that they cost us about \$1,400.00 out of pocket to do a rezoning request. He said he would like to see those this year go up to \$1,000.00 and to go to the full \$1,400.00 the following year in two steps because he doesn't think the tax payers should be subsidizing an activity that specifically has a benefit to a unique individual. That unique individual should shoulder those out of pocket costs.

Mr. Michael Johnson said that is left up to the consensus of the Board, but we could certainly incorporate that.

Supervisor Updike said under the circumstances first of all these fees should be only out of pocket. First off he recommends the Planning Commission should only meet every other month. By doing that they will reduce the total cost of operation, total cost of advertising low as possible because we are providing a service to the people. He doesn't think it should be a money making proposition on these. He thinks this is a step to save money. Let's look at those avenues before jumping the fees up unnecessarily. Cover the cost that is it. That is it and meets every other month to reduce the cost of operation, the cost of advertisement. He stated again he thinks we need to look at these areas before we jump the fees up.

Supervisor Edwards said if the Planning Commission doesn't meet it is only a savings of \$540.00.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone else had anything.

Supervisor Faison said he felt like the Planning Commission should continue to meet on a monthly basis to satisfy the needs of the County.

Supervisor Edwards said in the past if they hadn't had anything scheduled they cancelled the meeting. He thought in the past three years they had cancelled three or four meetings when they did not have any business.

Chairman Jones said cancelling the meeting delays the people who have an item on the agenda. We don't need to delay the citizens.

Chairman Jones asked what they wanted to do.

Supervisor Porter said he moved that they increase the rezoning fee to \$1,000.00.

Supervisor Edwards seconded the motion.

Chairman Jones said it has been moved and seconded that we increase the rezoning fee to \$1,000.00.

Supervisor West asked approximately how many are affected with these fees – about ten a year.

Mr. Michael Johnson said it was less than ten last year. That is probably a reasonable average.

Supervisor West said so you are talking about 10 x \$400.00.

Supervisor Phillips said 10 x \$1,000.00.

Supervisor West asked if it was currently between \$600.00 and \$1,000.00

Mr. Michael Johnson said it is currently \$500.00 so with the increase it will be \$1,000.00.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other concerns.

Supervisor West said he does struggle with it a little bit from the standpoint that everything else is going up. It is just one more hit in the pocket if you want to do a little business, or change something and you need the ordinance changed it is just one more way of getting in the pocket so you are kind of stifling business any time you want to turn that way.

Supervisor Porter said he doesn't agree with that assessment. He thinks that most of these rezoning fees are specifically for the benefit of the person who does it and they get much more than the value of the cost to them. He just doesn't think it is fair to ask the taxpayers to subsidize that activity. They are still subsidizing it at \$1,000.00. He thinks we need to get more appropriately to that.

Supervisor West asked what are the comparables. He asked do you know as far as the City of Franklin or Isle of Wight.

Mr. Michael Johnson said Mrs. Beth Lewis has recently done that, but he doesn't remember the numbers right off the top of his head. He said he could get those.

Supervisor Porter said Mrs. Beth Lewis recommended \$500.00 or \$600.00 wasn't that right? She did an analysis and recommended recovering more of the cost.

Supervisor West said she did.

Supervisor Porter said \$1,000.00 is in line; isn't that correct?

Mr. Michael Johnson said that is correct.

Chairman Jones said everybody knows that \$1,000.00 doesn't cover the cost.

Supervisor Edwards said \$1,000.00 is still \$400.00 or \$500.00 dollars short.

Chairman Jones called for the vote which carried with Supervisor Updike voting nay.

Supervisor Phillips said we have several positions vacant at this time. He didn't know if a hiring freeze would be in order, but something along the line of maybe coming back before the Board if we were going to fill those positions just to maintain a closer control. He was wondering how the rest of the Board felt about that.

Chairman Jones said with the budget that Mr. Michael Johnson presented everything that is not filled now will not be filled because we didn't budget any money for any new jobs.

Supervisor Porter said what he thinks is that during the year, and he didn't want to put any words in Supervisor Phillips mouth, when we do have vacancies that we don't automatically fill the vacancies without an evaluation of the need and we basically justify each position. We need to maximum ways to increase revenues and reduce costs and he thinks that the only way we can do that is maintain complete control over our personnel costs.

Chairman Jones asked if he was speaking of someone leaves a position or retires not to fill it. He asked wasn't that what he was saying.

Supervisor Phillips said he was asking them to come back before the Board before it was filled to determine the need at the time. For example the other inspectors job that has been left vacant. If the economy is such that we don't need to fill the position let's leave that vacant and save that money.

Chairman Jones said that is what we are doing with it now.

Supervisor Phillips said this would just be in addition to what we were talking about.

Supervisor West asked did you say there were 38 or just how many jobs are controlled by the Board and the County Administrators Office.

Mr. Michael Johnson said he needed some clarification. He asked are you referring to the jobs that report to the constitutional officers as well. If so that total would be 145 positions.

Supervisor Phillips said at this point as tight as our budget is he didn't think it would take that much time to look at each one. He would say to invite the constitutional officer in to explain the need at the time. He said he was putting that in the form of a motion.

Supervisor Edwards seconded the motion.

Chairman Jones said it was his understanding that if we have a vacancy in any office that we do not fill it until it comes before us. He asked is that what you are saying.

Supervisor Phillips said yes sir.

Chairman Jones asked if there was any other discussion on this before they voted. There being none the vote was taken with the motion carrying unanimously.

Chairman Jones asked if there was any other discussion on the budget.

Supervisor Updike said we need to continue the process at looking at what can be cut. He thinks there are still a lot of things in the budget that can be cut. We may be able to get the trash fee down to \$175.00 or even less. He said he would make a few suggestions. He might be run out of here but you are going to get them. He said he thought we had enough personnel to cover equipment maintenance without contracting outside and he is suggesting this position be eliminated.

Chairman Jones asked what position is this now.

Supervisor Updike said you want me to name them.

Chairman Jones said yes.

Supervisor Updike said I'm talking about Vernie Francis' position. The contract we have with him.

Chairman Jones said you are talking about his consulting position.

Supervisor Updike said yes. There are enough people in the Sheriff's office that can handle that. If they can't we are in bad shape. He said the next thing is he wants the lights out. We are charging every citizen for trash. That is a tax. He asked why we should be paying a few people's light bills at the expense of everyone else. Less than 10% of the people benefit from this \$48,000.00 electric bill we have. Another thing is looking down the list of contributions he thinks everybody that requested a contribution should have received at least a 5% cut in their budget. He is asking and challenging the official dues. If you are a professional you should be willing to pay your own dues and not require the citizens to pay your dues. Step up to the plate and pay your own dues. He wants to know from looking at the enterprise how much are we receiving from industry that is using the sewer system. Like Hubs for example, he wanted to know their fees.

Mr. Michael Johnson said they aren't currently using it.

Supervisor Updike asked how much money we spent so they could use it. Again he would like to see the Planning Commission meet every other month. This would affect very little or no projects and this will reduce the cost to the county. Besides the Board's fees we have attorney fees, secretary fees, and you could just go on and on with a whole lot of expense plus advertising. You could advertise all at one time and have one charge. He thought we needed to look at that aspect of it. Also while we are in the mood, we need to look at contracting services such as building and grounds, maintenance and various things. We need to look at the car pools and last but not least, and he wasn't blaming anybody or any personnel, it is the exact reason we are in this trouble, but Jay Randolph was taking care of the Planning and Assistant Administrator positions. Even before they hired an Assistant County Administrator comments were made that we could do without an Assistant County Administrator at this time. His question was how we can constantly hire personnel that we could really get by without and just not spend the money. There are a lot of cuts we can make and do away with these huge tax fees. You can call them what you want they are still taxes. You can call them fees, taxes, or whatever you want to but they are still taxes. We need to look hard at what we are spending.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone wanted to comment on Supervisor Updike's thoughts.

Supervisor Porter said he agrees with Supervisor Updike so he would like to remind him they put a \$400,000.00 target in the budget to try to improve the way they do things and those activities are listed that we need to look at to try to reach this \$400,000.00 goal.

Supervisor Faison said he is concerned about so much cutting. Obviously we have to do some cutting because the budget is so tight but we can't just assume that everything is unnecessary. A lot of planning has been done to put things in motion. So we can't just make a general assumption that it is not needed.

Supervisor Edwards said he thought Supervisor Updike has some good ideas though. Remember the Planning Commission's duties are to make the Board of Supervisors look good so he thought they needed to have a meeting every month. The other thing is maybe he can get Supervisor Updike to talk to his wife.

Chairman Jones called on Supervisor West.

Supervisor West said he agrees with Supervisor Porter. He does think the \$400,000 that is set up is cost effective and in the long run needed to be reviewed each time. He doesn't think this drastic action should be taken tonight. He thinks each agree in the long run that this budget and getting it under control will not occur in one year. This is a more than one year process. To try to do everything in one year does not make sense at this time to him. He would feel certain that they should look at these things and spend some time on it. We have a relatively new Board and we have some experienced members and if you give them time he thinks in the long run they may face an even worse situation next year. That is unknown, but with that being said, let's give the plan that is in place now time to work.

Chairman Jones called on Supervisor Phillips.

Supervisor Phillips said they had made some strides. He agrees with Supervisor Updike there are some areas to look at. Hopefully the longer they are here he expects that hopefully the County will improve and he hopes they will continue to look at this budget and find ways that they can save money. This fee, he is sure, is a burden on everyone. We will hopefully be able to work our way out of that once we leave the confines of the SPSA agreement. That is in 2018 still he believes, but our tipping fees will go down tremendously. He thinks we can send 5% out without going through SPSA and that is somewhere near \$35.00 a ton opposed to SPSA at \$120.00. So we will realize some savings in the future and hopefully again that fee will not be one that stays with us. As a new Board we are hearing it all the time. This fee one way or another is raising money and you can call it what you want to but it is a tax or fee. He admits that, but it is something they have to do to accomplish what they were elected to do and that is keeps this county solvent. If this County goes bankrupt because we can't pay our bills the value of property and the hope of a business coming to this County will not happen. So he thought we needed to be aware of what the consequences were also.

Chairman Jones said when he came on the Board this was a service. We are supposed to be serving the people. We cannot cut out everything that we are doing. We can cut some of it, but we can't cut it all because we will not be serving our people in the County. We can't cut out all of this at one time, we are going to have to phase it in and see how it goes. That is where we are now. We have got a budget. Let's go with that and then we will see if we can look at the rest of this stuff. Don't try to do it all at one time. It didn't get here all at one time. It took us a few years to get here. We can't do it all at once. We need to look at this and discuss what we can and cannot do without. He said he didn't agree with Supervisor Updike on the Planning Commission meetings. He thought they needed to meet every month just like they do and if they don't have anything to go before the Planning Commission they don't meet. It is about serving the people and that is what we are here to do – to serve you.

Supervisor Porter said he just wanted to make a comment about the fee. He wants to say something that he said last Wednesday night and evidentially some people didn't hear it. After Supervisor Updike made the duck remark about saying it was a tax the ones of you that were here remember I said we are not denying it is not like a tax, but we have learned a lot since we have been here. We don't like it. We ran on campaigns that we were going to keep the taxes down. We don't like it, but we admit that we have got to have a combination of revenues and cuts to get through this budget. There is just no way around it and anybody who thinks differently is just fooling themselves. He said he would like to thank the "Tidewater News" for creating an issue that distracted us from the real purpose that we are trying to achieve. Nobody on this Board denied that this was not the equivalent of a tax increase. He is here just to make sure you understand that he wants the "Tidewater News" to know that and he wants Mr. Steve Stewart to know that. If you read his article you found that he put a whole page in the "Tidewater News" on a false premise. He doesn't like the fee. I don't like the fee, but we have got to have something.

Chairman Jones asked if anyone else had any comments.

Supervisor Faison said he would like to say in the past week he had received more phone calls than during any month of his previous time on the Board and during that time nobody complained about taxes but they were very concerned about safety and what we could do to our Sheriff's Department. They were concerned about our schools and what we could do to it. There were several elderly ladies who called and their main concern was the Bookmobile because it serves a purpose for them. So as we cut and he understands the need for the cuts as they have to have a balanced budget and we don't have a lot of revenue. He thinks they need to be sensitive to everybody's feelings.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other comments.

Supervisor Updike said he had a couple more. We are going to be a collection agency if you will. People are going to be moving in and out and you think they are going to pay a \$200.00 fee. It will be worse than trying to collect personal property tax. On those you can go and boot their cars, but the renters are going to be in and out which is the premise of the fee. He hopes he is wrong. He really does, but he doesn't think you are going to collect it. They don't have the funds to start with and they aren't going to automatically volunteer to pay \$200.00. He doesn't see us as being very successful in the collection of this fee. Only the honest people who are able will pay. The young people who are living, just keeping food on the table are not going to be able to pay that

\$200.00 come July. He is concerned about it. It is hurting the poor, the young people trying to start a family, the ones living on minimum wage. These are the people that you are really putting a tax burden on. He cannot in any way, shape, or form vote for it.

Chairman Jones asked if they were ready to vote on our budget as to what they were going to advertise.

Supervisor West said he didn't want to use the wording "necessary evil" but he will. No one likes higher taxes. It comes down to cutting the lights out, shutting down school situations, cutting employees or requiring the schools to step back several years with the accomplishments they have made, the Sheriff's Department being asked to take away the safety and contentment that we feel in the County. He wants to commend the Sheriff's Department for the "Red Alert" he received from them the other day on the escaped convict. He thought that was fantastic. He also received another note that you had caught him and that is good business. That is his comments and feelings and good job - a job well done. He thinks the schools are doing a good job. We cannot go all the way in one year folks. We will have to share the burden. He said he thanks Mr. Steve Stewart, and he is not his advocate and he is sure that he is not Mr. Steve Stewart's, but nonetheless it comes down to one man's opinion sometimes and we all have opinions. It is kind of like ump, ump, ump. We have all got one. Sometimes these things are certainly hurtful to the public and it becomes hurtful when you have a poll out there and you have had 17 respondents and we have got 83% that is saying we shouldn't do such and such that is a poll okay. That is bologna. Anyway Mr. Steve Stewart still brings to mind what we have to do and hopes he has recognized that some of these things are mandated. He said where are we going to get it from? The federal government has cut. There is no more stimulus. We cannot be the stimulus provider. The state has cut. They are finished and gone home. They are happy about what they have done. It comes down to the burden right here. If you want services, if you want to feel protected and safe, if you want good schools, this is the best we can do folks. It is a hard pill to swallow. But he asked that you do and reach out and say this Board is trying and next year if it is more difficult so be it. In another few years there is an opportunity for another election. Go for it. If you want to turn back the clock to the 50's, go for it. He doesn't. He likes his air conditioning. He doesn't like screen windows and screen doors and stuff like that. He likes having the air condition button in the car. We do a good job. He knew four people came on the Board with this authority, but the realization sitting out there and sitting here are two different ballgames because you realize what situation you are in when you get here and it is not brought on by bad judgment choices. No one predicted this economy turning down. If you want to listen to the news, they are saying this country is going back into a recession. He said he didn't know if it was or not. Who knows? We are in a bind. We are in a tough spot. Everybody get on board with us and give us an opportunity. If you own ten houses and have to pay \$200.00 on each one that is tough. He only owns two that is \$400.00. That is tough. He doesn't like it. It is a tax. He stated we need the employees that we have in this county. He had heard many people say you call over there and you can't get anyone to come out here and do an inspection. I called over there and they don't come. You call over there any you can't get anyone out here. Well you already have one less employee in the inspections department. You are running with a one man department right now so go ahead. When the building starts going we are in trouble and then don't complain because there is nobody out here. If there is one or maybe two deputies working the county at night time, it is a long ways from the Emporia line to the Zuni line or Wakefield to south of Franklin. It's a long way you hear. With this being said he asks for your consideration and he asks that you hang with us, and the "Tidewater News" step up to the positives if you can see any positives, and Mr. Steve Stewart come sit with us sometime.

Chairman Jones thanked Supervisor West. He asked if anyone else had anything.

Supervisor West said he moved that the budget as presented to us tonight with \$0.75 tax rate and the expenses and revenues in balance, this budget as proposed, be advertised in the "Tidewater News" and necessary papers as soon as possible with the public hearing on May 21, 2012 to follow.

May 2, 2012

Supervisor Porter seconded the motion which carried with Supervisor Updike voting nay.

Chairman Jones stated the meeting was adjourned.

---

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

---

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk