

At a budget workshop meeting of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on April 10, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

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

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)  
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director  
Beth Lewis, Director of Community Development  
Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney  
Cynthia J. Edwards, Administrative Secretary

OTHERS ABSENT

Julien W. Johnson, Jr. Public Utilities Director

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Faison gave the invocation.

Chairman Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that this was the initial budget meeting just to let everyone know where we are in the county at this time. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Michael Johnson.

Mr. Michael Johnson said before we get started on the initial draft budget, I think I had e-mailed each of you a copy of a resolution that the chairman had asked me to prepare for your consideration tonight. It speaks to the times of the regular meeting, particularly after the last meeting several of you all expressed concerns that the meeting seemed to be going on pretty long. So Chairman Jones asked me to prepare a resolution which would effectively set the meeting start time back to 6:00 PM beginning with the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and it would further provide that any items that would be on the agenda for closed session for that particular night would be considered first on the meeting agenda. I have forwarded you all a copy of that resolution and I would like to put it out there for your consideration tonight.

Chairman Jones asked if the board members had a chance to look at the resolution; and he said he had talked with most of them about it. He asked if they had any questions about that.

Supervisor Phillips asked if there would be a specific start time or if they would just roll right from our closed session into our meeting or would we have our meeting at 7:00 PM as usual. He stated he thought they needed to discuss that.

Chairman Jones said the meeting would start immediately after we finished closed session.

Supervisor West asked if the meeting had to be at a defined time to start or if we are finishing fifteen minutes does it start at 6:45 PM.

Mr. Michael Johnson said the meeting agenda will state that the meeting starts at 6:00 PM because you have to call your meeting to order, make a motion to go into closed session which you would do at 6:00 PM. Now if it is the policy of this board that if you finish your closed session prior to

7:00 PM, as policy, you could simply recess your meeting and reconvene at 7:00 PM if that is what you want to do.

Supervisor Phillips said the reason he is asking the question is that what would we do if the citizens want to come to the meeting. We would need to have them, whether we finish in an hour or an hour and fifteen minutes, but if we say we will recess until 7:00 PM that way if there is any business that has been conducted or motions that need to be voted on during the open session, the public would be here and be aware of it and they would have an opportunity to comment on it whereas in the past we have been going into closed session at the end of the meeting and most people go home.

Supervisor West said he thought it would be logical since we will be meeting in closed session behind closed doors to allow people to continue to come in and sit down and if we finish early then we would return to the public port and at that time start the meeting so you would have to be here from 6:00 on.

Supervisor Updike said he didn't object to having a closed session meeting first, but he does not expect the people to have to come in sit and have to sit for 15 minutes, 30 minutes, or 45 minutes just waiting for us. I think the time should be still set at 7:00 PM. This is when open session will begin and the citizens will know to be here at 7:00 PM instead of sitting here an hour waiting to see what we are going to do. He said he thinks it is irresponsible to ask the citizens to come in and sit here for a half an hour to an hour later to see what we are going to do. He said he didn't mind coming early and having the closed door session, but he wants a set time for 7:00 for open session. I want it to state at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other comments.

Supervisor Edwards said he thought he agrees with that also. He didn't think people should have to sit out here fifteen, twenty, or thirty minutes. Sometimes our sessions don't take very long, but sometime they will. I agree I think we ought to set 7:00 PM as our open session meeting time.

Supervisor Porter said technically I think we have to say reconvene at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Phillips said we would have to adjourn and then reconvene in open session.

Supervisor Porter said we normally take a break and I think the legal manner would be to reconvene open session at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Faison said he thought that was best too. There is no problem with us being in open session, going into closed session, and then coming back into open session to resume at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Jones said that is basically just like we have been doing it.

Supervisor Edwards said what say ye Mr. Richard Railey.

Mr. Richard Railey said I think the way Mr. Michael Johnson stated at first was probably the best way. I don't like the term convene and re-convene because then you run into problems with public meetings and all. But what you can have is a clear understanding way of tradition. If the closed meeting is concluded prior to 7:00 PM you will take a break or recess or whatever you want to call it and wait until 7:00 PM just as matter of custom and tradition or policy. There will be times when closed session goes over 7:00 PM, but in no event will somebody who says they will come at 7:00 and closed session is over in 30 minutes miss 30 minutes. I think that is the fairest way to do it. My terminology which is just a matter of policy is that we will just recess until 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Porter said he thought we needed to formalize that because looking at the way some boards I've seen in the area operate, they could very easily abuse that tradition and we could assume they were doing something that we didn't want the public to know that we were doing and I don't want us to be in that position at all.

Mr. Richard Railey said then just amend the resolution stating that is just a matter of policy.

Supervisor Porter asked will the resolution be indicating that we will be in recess until at least 7:00 PM or how do we do that.

Mr. Richard Railey said just that if the closed session is concluded prior to 7:00 PM it will be recessed before you go back into open session.

Chairman Jones stated we will have our closed session first from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM and have our regular meeting whether we are finished or not.

Mr. Richard Railey said well obviously the regular meeting has to start at 6:00 PM because you have to have a motion and you have to open before you can go into closed session.

Chairman Jones said so we will start our regular meeting at 6:00 PM and then go into closed session and then come back into open session at 7:00 PM. Is that what you are saying you want to do?

Supervisor Phillips said yes.

Mr. Richard Railey said that is what I'm saying and I think that is what Mr. Michael Johnson was saying.

Supervisor Faison said so if the closed session goes beyond 7:00 PM we still recess at 7:00 PM and then resume closed session at the end, is that what we are saying?

Chairman Jones said we will have to; we will have to finish it when we can.

Supervisor Phillips said he didn't think that would happen often.

Mr. Michael Johnson said he wouldn't anticipate that.

Supervisor Faison said we still need to know in case it does happen.

Chairman Jones said I think what we need to do is start regular session at 6:00 PM, and then we will go into closed session and then come back into open session at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Edwards said open session starts at 7:00 PM regardless.

Chairman Jones said yes it starts at 7:00 PM regardless of where we are. Is that alright with everybody?

Mr. Richard Railey said that is fine.

Supervisor Edwards made a motion to pass the resolution.

Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Michael Johnson said he had prepared a brief presentation to give you all a broad and general overview of what is included in the draft budget. I want to emphasize that this is an initial draft budget. It is not yet a proposed budget. It is important for people to understand that distinction. We have to start somewhere and this is simply a first draft and until you all have had an opportunity to go through it, gut it, and reach a consensus on the key points that you all think are important and decide what your draft budget is then it will be advertised for public comment. This is simply an initial draft budget today. He gave the following presentation:

# Fiscal Year 2014 Initial Draft Budget

Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
6:30 p.m.



## Budget Calendar

February 8, 2013	Budget request forms issued
February 27, 2013	Budget request forms returned
March 25, 2013	Advance public comment received
April 10, 2013	County Administrator's draft budget presented
April 17, 2013	Budget work session – department presentations
April 24, 2013	Budget work session
April 29, 2013	Budget work session (draft budget finalized)
May 20, 2013	Public hearing on proposed budget
May 22, 2013	Budget work session (if necessary)
May 28, 2013	Board adopts FY 2014 budget
May 28, 2013	Board adopts CY 2013 tax rates and fees

## Transparency

- Entire initial draft budget (over 100 pages) available online on the county website [www.southamptoncounty.org](http://www.southamptoncounty.org)
- Includes an executive summary, organizational charts, detailed line items for both revenues and expenditures, personnel schedules and salaries, summary of outstanding debt, debt amortization schedule and much more!

## Tonight's Objective

- Broad overview at the 50,000 ft level
- Answer preliminary questions
- Copies for Board members to review and evaluate prior to next week's workshop

## Context and Setting

- Message from Board Retreat – “Hold the Line”
- Call for estimates – *“Based upon its initial review of anticipated revenue streams, the Board has indicated that funding recipients should expect level funding at best, and in some cases, funding may very well be reduced below your FY 2013 appropriation. If there are opportunities for you to further reduce expenses in your FY 2014 budget request, I encourage you to do so.”*

## Total Budget – All Funds

Millions



FY 2013	\$52,511,208
FY 2014	<u>\$52,426,053</u>

Decrease	\$ 85,155
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**Budgetary Decrease  
(0.16%)**

## Key Points

- Level local funding for school operations - \$670,601 less than requested by the School Board
- Unlikely that the school board will be able to match the Governor's funding for teacher raises, equating to a loss of \$196,745 in state revenue set aside for that specific purpose
- No funding for requested faculty positions – Elementary Librarian, High School Spanish Teacher, High School Math Teacher, Administrative Assistant at Riverdale or Middle School Teaching Assistant

## Key Points

- No raises for county employees beyond the mandated 1% increase, which is offset by the employees' additional 1% contribution to the VRS;
- Includes an increase in the real estate tax rate from \$0.75 to \$0.77 to mitigate other decreasing revenue sources;
- Other taxes and fees remain unchanged;
- The Building Fund includes \$70,000 to be used to finance the purchase of 7 new school buses (a 12-year commitment)

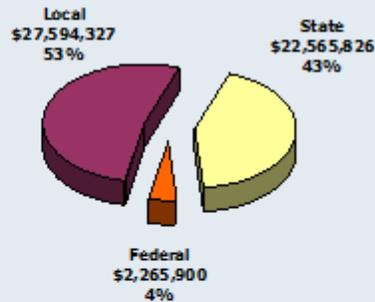
## Key Points

- The Building Fund includes \$65,000 to be used to finance security improvements at the Southampton County Courthouse (a 10-year commitment);
- The General Fund includes \$220,000 to purchase and install security equipment in the Southampton County Courthouse;
- The Building Fund includes \$75,000 to resolve structural roof problems in the Kitchen/Dining Room at the Southampton Jail Farm.

## Initial Draft FY 2014 Budget

### Revenue Sources

State	\$22,565,826
Federal	2,265,900
Local	<u>27,594,327</u>
TOTAL	\$52,426,053



## Initial Draft FY 2014 Budget

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2013	PROJECTED 2014	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT CHANGE
General property taxes	\$ 18,554,714	\$ 19,142,757	\$ 588,043	3.17
Other local taxes	1,683,155	1,851,457	168,302	10.00
Permits, fees, licenses	116,530	114,230	(2,300)	(1.97)
Fines & forfeitures	597,250	607,250	10,000	1.67
Interest	4,000	2,000	(2,000)	(50.00)
<b>Charges for services</b>	<b>1,790,546</b>	<b>1,690,352</b>	<b>(100,194)</b>	<b>(5.60)</b>
Miscellaneous revenue	824,693	850,370	25,677	3.11
Transfer - General Fund Reserve	452,262	452,262	-	0.00
<b>Other County Sources</b>	<b>642,713</b>	<b>536,904</b>	<b>(105,809)</b>	<b>(16.46)</b>
Enterprise Fund	1,148,888	1,146,815	(2,073)	(0.18)
Building Fund	1,402,985	1,199,930	(203,055)	(14.47)
Revenue from the Commonwealth	22,573,429	22,565,826	(7,603)	(0.03)
Revenue from Federal Sources	<u>2,220,043</u>	<u>2,265,900</u>	<u>(44,143)</u>	<u>(16.70)</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 52,511,208</b>	<b>\$ 52,426,053</b>	<b>\$ (85,155)</b>	<b>(0.16)</b>

Mr. Michael Johnson stated that the two highlighted categories have caused him the greatest concern and the reason that he suggested the \$0.02 increase in the tax rate.

Supervisor West asked what does that really do. What are you really saying? There is something that I didn't grasp. Where does that money come from to begin with? Is that state funded?

Mr. Michael Johnson said no. That is money that is actually earned by inmates and used for their keeping. He said am I right with that Mrs. Lynette Lowe?

Mrs. Lynette Lowe said yes sir.

Supervisor West said they work for that. They worked for outside sources right?

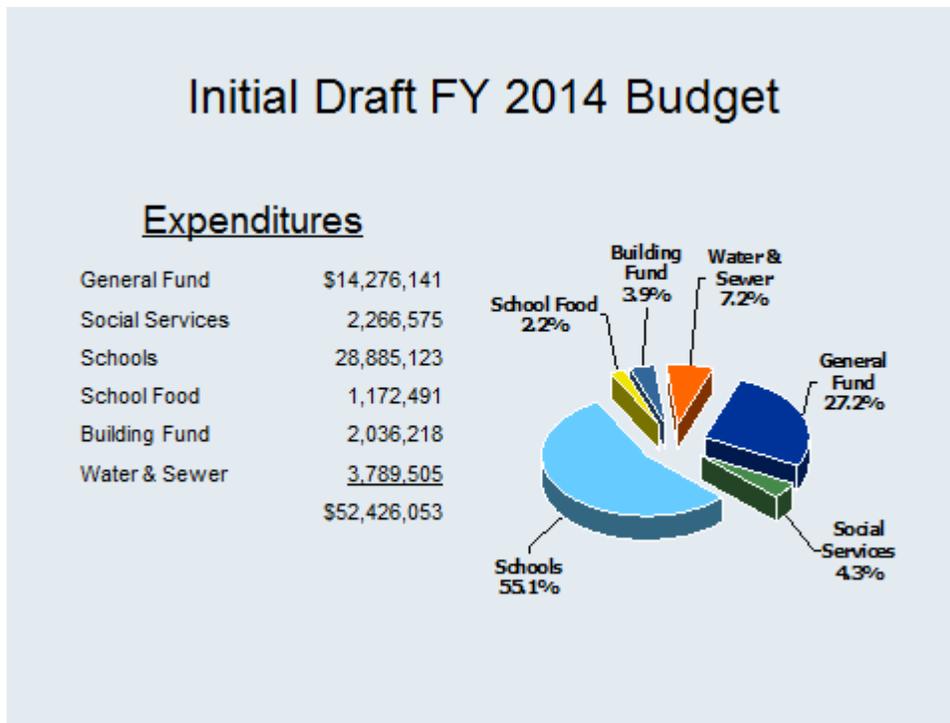
Mr. Michael Johnson said there is a daily charge.

Supervisor West said what is the reason that we are getting that? Is there less work to do?

Mr. Michael Johnson said the fund balances dwindled.

Mrs. Lynette Lowe said the cash account has decreased.

Supervisor West said okay, thank you.



### Initial Draft FY 2014 Budget

EXPENDITURE SOURCE	FY 2013	PROJECTED 2014	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT CHANGE
General & Financial Administration	\$ 2,109,948	\$ 2,129,829	\$ 19,881	0.94
Judicial Administration	1,696,581	1,817,584	121,003	7.13
Public Safety	6,369,725	6,487,912	118,187	1.86
Public Works	2,429,635	2,435,942	6,307	0.26
Health & Welfare	663,715	736,954	73,239	11.03
Parks, Recreation & Culture	269,568	272,372	2,804	1.04
Community Development	380,187	379,574	(613)	(0.16)
Non-Departmental	19,158	15,974	(3,184)	(16.62)
<b>School Fund</b>	<b>29,483,960</b>	<b>28,885,123</b>	<b>(598,837)</b>	<b>(2.03)</b>
School Food	1,137,620	1,172,491	34,871	3.07
Public Assistance Fund	2,383,914	2,266,575	(117,339)	(4.92)
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>1,836,203</b>	<b>2,036,218</b>	<b>200,015</b>	<b>10.89</b>
Enterprise Fund	3,730,994	3,789,505	58,511	1.57
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 52,511,208</b>	<b>\$ 52,426,053</b>	<b>\$ (85,155)</b>	<b>(0.16)</b>

Mr. Michael Johnson said that finishes his presentation and he would be glad to answer any questions.

Chairman Jones asked if anybody had any questions for Mr. Michael Johnson.

Supervisor Updike said he would like to ask the Board to set up some goals to fix three or four things. Number one is that we have to live within our means. In other words if you don't have but so much money then we have to live within our means that we have and that means no new taxes which is the bottom line. The second thing, which really should be the first thing on our agenda, is no new borrowing. Our debt is going up every year; every year we are kicking the can down the road by borrowing more money and this winds up as a fixed debt or fixed expenditure for eternity and kicking it down the road for our children and grandchild and they will not be able to continue these huge debt payments for 20 or 30 years. It is just un-accomplishable. Third, you know we have got to start putting money back in the reserve fund. Look at all the new things that can pop up and we don't have the money to cover them. Let's cover one more thing while I'm at it and that is the \$0.02 cents tax increase resulting from the trash fee. I think this is where the operating budget for the county should step up and say we will bail you out. Starting today there will be no new vehicles, no new investments at all. Let this year's budget stand on its' own. We lost revenue

from trash fees and we have got to make it up in this year's budget so that is two or three comments to start off with.

Chairman Jones asked if there was anyone else.

Supervisor Edwards said he is particular bothered by the real estate increase of \$0.02 when it fact it seems like you are fining people who are paying their trash fee and the 38 percent who didn't say you are passing the \$0.02 increase on to the people who paid their tax. I understand we are a little bit in the hole and that the \$0.02 is about \$285,000. I don't know if we can find that somewhere else, but I am definitely against passing that on as a punishment so to speak because the rest of the people didn't pay the solid waste fee.

Supervisor Faison said well the solid waste management fee was an idea we had last year to generate some income for the county, but the way that fee was designed that fee was most difficult for the poorest people in the county because they paid the same thing as the most wealthy people in the county. I think that is why because I have talked to people in the county and nobody has told me that they refuse to pay it, but he has had people tell him that they can't pay it, I can barely make ends meet now. I have no problem with that \$0.02 increase. I think that is the fairest thing because what that does is spread that over where people who have the ability to pay are affected just like those who are poor. Putting a flat fee of \$200.00 on everybody say like for a person making \$15,000 a year that is a real burden, but putting the \$0.02 tax on spreads it out so I have no problem with the \$0.02 tax. We are in a very difficult situation and I don't think we can protect anybody in terms of how we distribute the collection of these funds.

Supervisor Updike said the \$0.02 that doesn't mean we are doing away with the trash fund; the trash fee is ongoing. This is in addition to the trash fee, so in addition to the \$200.00 trash fee next year they are going to get the additional \$0.02 on their cars or personal property tax so they are getting hit again- everybody is getting hit again. I think we need to request the departments to look hard at their operating budget and see how much money we can save to go towards this year's budget. Look how many vehicles were purchased this year. Look at how many more we might purchase. Look at things like that.

Mr. Michael Johnson said we haven't purchased any.

Chairman Jones said this is the new budget.

Supervisor Updike said that is what I'm taking about; it's the operating budget.

Supervisor West said I think this is a little premature tonight until we hear each department make its presentation. \$0.02 is not the end of the world. I'm not advocating it okay. I'm not advocating the \$0.02 increase. I am simply saying that it is premature tonight to make a decision. I want to hear from each department because that is next week. You see the delima we are in and it comes directly from the pockets of the taxpayers in the county. There is no other way. We are hoping that the businesses, and Mr. Michael Johnson explained it well, that the new potential businesses to start up on the dates projected and the new receipts will come in. They just are not happening at the right time to prevent this from happening, but we feel certain they will come in soon and it may be a God send next year. I hope and then we can be freer to fund some of those things that we haven't been able to fund in a long time. I too see the need for salary increases. I do see the need for new buses. I do see the need for the Sheriff to purchase two vehicles as needed. I'm not willing to put a stifle on anybody, but we are being premature tonight to step this bound until we have heard from everybody. That is why we are saying to come on and talk to us and give us your opinion, but we have already made up our mind, but we are being premature tonight to overstep this bound.

Supervisor Edwards said let me ask you Mr. Ronnie West, you are against the \$0.02 tax increase.

Supervisor West said he was not an advocate of it.

Supervisor Edwards said okay well what I think we are trying to do tonight is set a course saying we aren't happy with that. We want to find some other way to do this. I can't see passing this on to the people who followed the law and paid the fee. And Mr. Glenn Updike is right and then next

year we get 62% of it and then we up the tax rate \$0.02 more to make up the difference. It is a losing situation. I think we have to say this didn't work out the way we wanted, but we can't keep passing these mistakes on to the taxpayers.

Several people started talking at once and Chairman Jones stated they were getting out of hand now. We are just talking right now. Chairman Jones called on Supervisor Phillips.

Supervisor Phillips said to recap just a little bit this Board has made every effort on this fee to give the citizens an opportunity if they qualified for some relief and in talking with Mr. Michael Johnson I believe it was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$38,000.

Mr. Michael Johnson said it was \$35,000 or \$36,000, somewhere along in there.

Supervisor Phillips said so that is \$35,000 in relief to the lower income people that has been granted and that time has been extended to make sure that everyone that could qualify had that opportunity. I think now that this Board should send a clear message, and I don't see anyone from the Newspaper, but I think we should make some type of press release that notifies people that there is going to be a late fee, there is interest being accrued to that fee right now that if their vehicle has to be booted to collect that fee they will pay a fee to that agency so it could go as high as \$500.00. I think that would be something that we need to move quickly on and like Mr. Michael Johnson said our Treasurer will be moving on that in the next thirty days. I would like to see that expedited as much as possible. We need to bring this 38% down as quick as low as possible. I'm not giving up on that 38%. I want to see us collect this so we don't have to get down in the grass and weeds. So let's see what we can do to raise the collection of that 38% whether it is through the newspaper or the collection agencies.

Chairman Jones called on Supervisor Porter.

Supervisor Porter said he agrees with Supervisor Phillips on the majority of his comments. He said he thinks it is too early to say that we are not going to collect 38% of that fee. Not all of the 38% of the people can't afford it. A lot of people are being defiant. Some have even told me that they are not going to pay it. Well, if they take a stance they might see a \$200.00 fee turn into \$500.00 because they don't believe that we have a resolute that we can enforce that fee. But what they don't understand is that it doesn't depend on the board it is in the statute that the Treasurer has the obligation to collect that fee. He has to collect it. He has tools at his use to collect it and one of the tools is booting the cars if people don't pay it so the people who are being defiant about paying the \$200.00 fee now have a \$220.00 because they have a penalty plus interest and once it goes it is turned over to a collection agency they are going to have some administrative fees to pay. If it gets to the point where their car is booted they are going to have to pay to get the boot taken off along with a towing charge. So very quickly as Supervisor Phillips pointed out that fee could turn into a \$500.00 fee. We have to be resolute because people have to obey the law. Everyone has to pay their fair share and that is what we agreed last year was a fair share. So I'm not willing to say that we aren't going to collect that money. On top of that I don't think what Mr. Michael Johnson was saying is that 38% aren't going to pay the fee. I think what he said was that we are still going to collect about \$1.2 million dollars of the fee and 62% is about \$800,000 so there is another \$400,000 that he has built in this budget that we are going to collect of the fee next year. Maybe I'm wrong, but that is the way I read the numbers so far. But we have to see the message that you are going to pay what you owe the county whether it is a tax, a real estate tax, a personal property tax, a machine tax, or whether it is a fee for a service that the county provides for the general welfare for everyone. And that is what we do we provide that service for the general welfare for everyone and we need to make sure everyone pays that fee so we can continue to provide that service without having to pay an unreasonable burden on the people who do obey the law.

Supervisor Edwards said what he is hearing from everybody and the way he sees it increasing the taxes is an easy way out of this and we as a board have to stop that. We sometimes have to take a difficult way out of the problem and that may be finding this money, but not spending it. Hopefully we are going to get some of that money. But proposing a \$0.02 increase is okay to think about, but in reality it is our job not to keep kicking this can down the road so to speak. The easy way out of this is to raise taxes \$0.02 on real estate; that is the easy way. We need to figure out how to do this without doing that and that is where we need to put our focus. We will get a

little of it and maybe it will only equal to a one percent raise which will be \$144,000 or whatever, but we need to figure out how to chop that out of what we have got right now and quit taking the easy way out by passing the tax burden and the things that we can't figure out on to the taxpayer. If we are smart enough we can do that.

Supervisor Updike said that is if we have the will to do it.

Supervisor West said most of that you can agree with to some degree because the burden is going back originally on the tax payer. I agree the \$0.02 cent bothers me. It is not acceptable to make those tax paying citizens who paid on time have to pick up the slack for the ones for whatever reason have said defiantly I'm not going to or have just ignored it or whatever. I don't like that. I don't accept that. I'm not accepting a \$0.02 increase either. That being said I still think I want to go through the process and let everyone speak first. I think right now the general public knows we are not going to take the \$0.02 increase and go from \$0.75 to \$0.77. I think that is the general consensus of the board. We want to hear other ways out and I agree with Supervisor Edwards the best way maybe not to spend that money to begin with. It makes all the sense in the world to me and tow the line, tow the line.

Supervisor Faison said he agrees that we need to hear from everybody, but at this point I don't think we should take anything off the table. We have got to look at this whole picture and analyze it. I certainly don't like the idea of increasing taxes, but at this point I don't want to take anything off the table. I don't think we can get through this by cutting everything. I think the departments cooperated with us last year and I believe that they will again this year to make them as lean as they can make them, but we have to function. We want a county that can function and does function and it is going to cost. We can't think we are going to have a functioning county and not pay for it; we are going to have to. So, I don't want to take anything off the table at this point.

Chairman Jones called on Supervisor Updike.

Supervisor Updike said he made some comments at the beginning and he will still stick to them. I just got two questions and this isn't addressing the \$0.02. This is addressing where we can look. I would like for each department to furnish us a list of operating capital budget for next year. I want to see where are they budgeting the operating expenses.

Supervisor Porter said you got it.

Supervisor Updike said no I don't have. I don't have a copy of the budget as to where they spent for what.

Supervisor Porter said it's here; it's in the detail. You have a 100 page budget and in here you have got the details.

Supervisor Updike said alright. Also, tonight we mentioned the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, nothing has changed has it there is going to be an open public hearing isn't it, at the high school? I think that is what I remembered from the board meeting last time. Has that changed?

Mr. Michael Johnson said nothing has really changed, but there was no clear direction given last month. It is up to you all. We went back and listened to the tape; there was some discussion and then you jumped to the next subject and you never really resolved it.

Supervisor Updike said I was almost confident that there was an agreement of the board to hold it at the high school for a public input session on the 29<sup>th</sup>. I might have been half sleep or my brain may not have been in gear of something.

Mr. Michael Johnson said I suggested that, but there was no action.

Chairman Jones said so are you saying you want to hear from the public on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Edwards said very definitely.

Supervisor Phillips said yes.

Chairman Jones asked if we could get it in by then Mr. Michael Johnson.

Mr. Michael Johnson said we don't have to do anything at that point because you haven't reached the draft budget yet. We need to reach consensus on that night to advertise so that you can publish it in the newspaper as required by statute.

Chairman Jones said we are going to have another work session next week.

Supervisor West said next week we will hear from the department head request.

Chairman Jones said yes we are going to hear from all of those.

Supervisor West said then from there we will start directing it for the public hearing at the high school.

Supervisor Updike said he would like tonight to put it in concrete that on the 29<sup>th</sup> that we would hear some input at the high school.

Chairman Jones called on Supervisor Phillips.

Supervisor Phillips said you heard what Mr. Michael Johnson said that is the same night that we need to prepare to vote on a draft budget so now do we need to move the meeting back some so we can hear public comment and have time to act on it.

Chairman Jones said right.

Supervisor Edwards said that has been the criticism in the past that we have not had enough time to act on it.

Chairman Jones said I wouldn't want to have to do that and then make a decision that night.

Supervisor Phillips said that is not enough time to digest comments and then to work through the process if there are going to be some changes so if that is the case you would need to move the meeting back from the 29<sup>th</sup> which is the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other comments on what Mr. Michael Johnson had presented to them tonight.

Supervisor Edwards said Mr. Chairman if we can decide and put in concrete here tonight what direction we want to go in as that is Mr. Michael Johnson wants us to do so he can make some plans.

Chairman Jones said alright.

Supervisor Updike said why don't we hold the public session on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Jones said I don't think we need to hold it on the 29<sup>th</sup> when we have got to make a decision that night.

Supervisor Updike said we can make the decision afterwards – the next week following or whatever.

Supervisor West said it has to be published in the paper enough time before the public hearing in May.

Supervisor Phillips said we can't do that.

Chairman Jones said we can't do that so we have to set up another time listen to the people and make a decision.

Supervisor Phillips said the only other reasonable time would be the 24<sup>th</sup> wouldn't it.

Mr. Michael Johnson said yes.

Supervisor Phillips said in other words we would have to have our public comment at the high school on the 24<sup>th</sup> and then have the next which is the work session to finalize the draft on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Edwards said we need to have the public comment on the 24<sup>th</sup> then.

Chairman Jones said have the public comment on the 24<sup>th</sup> and then we will have a week to do what we need to do.

Supervisor Edwards said it will be at the high school.

Chairman Jones said yes it will be at the high school.

Supervisor Phillips said that way we have five days so that will give us some time.

Supervisor Porter said this is not a public hearing; this is a public comment.

Chairman Jones said yes it is for public comment.

Chairman Jones asked if there were any other public comments. We have got it all lined up; we can listen to the people and then look at it.

Supervisor Edwards asked Mr. Michael Johnson if he minded sending everyone a revised schedule on that.

Mr. Michael Johnson said well it is on the schedule. We will just change the location to the high school. It is the same night that we have the workshop scheduled.

Chairman Jones said so it is the same night that we have the workshop scheduled.

Chairman Jones asked if there was anything else.

Supervisor Porter said he didn't look at tonight as to we would be making any kind of decision. I think it is just a gathering of information. I am trying to remain open. I know that there is no appetite on the board or the county for a tax increase whatsoever and I think we have to look at and examine everything and every detail in the budget and try to find other ways to do things, but at this point I'm just gathering information and listening.

Chairman Jones said alright. He asked if there were any other comments.

Supervisor West said he was pretty much in agreement. He said he wasn't prepared to reach a decision tonight.

Chairman Jones said all we needed to do tonight was receive information.

Supervisor West said right and that was the purpose.

Chairman Jones said that was the purpose of the meeting – to receive the budget. We can look at it and then go over it and once we see what is there we can continue and see what we can cut. Tonight we can't cut anything because we don't know what to cut.

Supervisor West said correct.

Chairman Jones said we have heard from the are.....

Supervisor Phillips said departments.

Chairman Jones said departments.

Supervisor Edwards said we know what direction we want to go in.

Chairman Jones said let's do it in the right order. Is there anything else?

Supervisor West asked if he might bring up another item of business tonight just as a request or for the record. Is that acceptable?

Chairman Jones said go ahead.

Supervisor West said he spoke with Mr. Phil Reinhardt concerning Highway 460 and he asked that a letter be directed by you from this board requesting a public meeting in Southampton County and that he would set it up based upon the requested letter to Mr. Phil Reinhardt so that the citizens of Southampton County would be able to talk about the eleven mile corridor that would be opened up.

Mr. Michael Johnson asked if he had a location that they prefer to have it at.

Supervisor West said it would be at Ivor Municipal Town Office, please. And do you need a consensus from the board.

Mr. Michael Johnson asked if he wanted to make that in the form of a motion.

Supervisor West said I will. He said if you understand what I have said it is just a formality for VDOT and Mr. Phil Reinhardt who is the resident engineer who will be in charge of the process and the request is to have a public forum in Ivor at the municipal meeting at the town meeting hall. They will get with the mayor and set up a time. I make that as a motion.

Supervisor Phillips seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Supervisor West said they had met on both sides of us in Isle of Wight, Surry, and Prince George, and places around, but never directly in Southampton County. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Jones asked if there was anything else.

Supervisor Phillips said he didn't know if any public comment would be appropriate tonight.

Chairman Jones said no sir, not tonight. He stated that people would have plenty of time on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Jones stated the meeting was adjourned.

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Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

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Michael W. Johnson, Clerk