

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 16, 2014 at 6:30 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

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

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
Lynette C. Lowe, Deputy Administrator CFO
Amanda N. Smith, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS ABSENT

Julien W. Johnson, Jr. Public Utilities Director
Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Jones states we have a list of speakers, Smart Beginnings will start first.

Ellen Couch, Executive Director for Smart Beginnings, states good evening. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to come and speak on behalf of Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater. My name is Ellen Couch and I am the Executive Director for Smart Beginnings and I want to introduce two of our board members who are here tonight. Ms. Anita Felts and Mr. Philip Page; and Mr. Faison also sits on our board for Smart Beginnings. We want to share a few things with you. First of all, thank you for your past contributions to Smart Beginnings. You are helping children in Southampton County get ready for school. We are seeing improvements in children here in the classroom, more and more every year; ready for school and ready for life. A couple of things I want to highlight are some impacts from Smart Beginnings on our community that we are very happy to share with you. Through some mental health grants we have been able to work with children in the community and provide more services for them at a much earlier age before they enter Dr. Parrish's school division here. Through a rapid housing grant all three social services have worked to provide assistance to those who are homeless, especially children who are homeless in our community. Through the nursing partnerships and collaborations we have with them through the health department, there are now twelve moms in Southampton County, twelve first time at risk mothers, who are able to receive services for their children, from the time they are pregnant until the child reaches the age of two. So we are able to get early diagnosis for children, prenatal vitamins in mom's earlier, health benefits, monitor post-partum depression, and then help them get into schools from services like preschool programs much earlier. I am very excited that Kelly Gillette with Southampton County Schools shared with her school board this week that we're hosting on April 30th a Regional Kindergarten Registration Day. Southampton County Schools, Isle of Wight County Schools, and Franklin City Schools will all be participating in a Regional Kindergarten Registration Day in two weeks to help get more children registered for school earlier to help the school divisions and school employees who scramble at the last minute to get children registered a couple of days before school. So, we are hosting a big event in conjunction with the Health Department, your local Libraries, Cover 3 Foundation who provide healthy snacks for children, and we are going to be in your schools here in Franklin on April 30th. So we are very excited about that. Our raising a reader program is now in your Blackwater Library here in Courtland, which is a book bag program to provide materials for parents to check-out as

April 16, 2014

well as at home providers to increase literacy skills in children in our community. We have also trained over forty providers in the Southampton County area on how to be better providers and work better with the children they care for on a daily basis. Everything from literacy skills, reading skills, math skills, to even waiting in line, taking turns; all of those things children have to know in addition to those ABC's when they enter a classroom. I am very excited that we just watched a parent advisory group, and I am very excited that we are going to implement that program in the next two months in the Southampton County area. We are going to be hosting that at local community centers, churches, meeting the needs of parents. Parents are struggling with how to handle work, home, school, and children. Going to help them with counseling services, providing resources to them, and help the parents in our communities, so when our children enter school, and as they continue to be in school, they have the necessary skills to help them with everything they need. School is not what it was ten to fifteen years ago. So, if we can help parents have those tools to be successful in helping their children, then we feel we are helping them to be on the right path. Anything you would like to add? We thank you so much for your contributions and thank you for all of your support. Any questions?

Chairman Jones ask any questions any one? Okay, go ahead.

Supervisor Porter states I just have a general question.

Ms. Ellen Couch responds yes sir.

Supervisor Porter states as Dr. Parrish knows, education is one of my passions. When you work with these new moms, do they have an appreciation or the value of education or is it something you are working with them to understand the future of their children, the economics of their future is based on getting a good solid education.

Ms. Ellen Couch states yes sir; we are very much in tune to that, and working on a way to get these first time mothers in a nursing partnership program but also these parenting clinic workshops we are going to offer the importance of a quality good education. Staying tuned in with your children, what they are doing, providing them with assistance, inexpensive, free things they can do with their children. Reading to their children, communicating, sitting down having dinner with their children in the same room. Just those basic skills Mr. Porter, that a lot of us take for granted, we are sharing with parents, we are sharing with first time moms about how important it is to have that fresh start, that important start with their children, and so they are some of the skills we are working on. Just not how to read a book, but how to socialize with your child and the importance of not only getting an education, but how you can take that education to the next level, and be a part of your future workforce right here at home.

Supervisor Porter states thank you.

Ms. Ellen Couch states you're welcome.

Chairman Jones states anyone else?

Supervisor Updike states this might be out of your realm a little bit but I think it is very important; now day's lots of these young mothers, families, their parents don't know how to cook, don't know how to feed them; their children. I have firsthand witnessed two families; only thing they eat is out of the store. They don't know how to cook and boil water. And without confirmation of stuff like that, they are spinning our wheels and wasting your time about getting a proper nutrition from the state board of Education. I am not saying you provide the food, but somebody has to get back to the simple basics of teaching these young parents.

Ms. Ellen Couch states you are exactly right Mr. Updike. And, some of the parents don't even have those things growing up and so we partner with an organization on the Planning Council and they actually have a nutritionist that is working in the City of Franklin and Southampton County with parents, with providers and doing cooking classes, even in their homes about how you can go to Foodlion or Farm Fresh and buy nutritional meal contents for ten dollars; and sharing with them, how they can go home and cook grilled chicken, or how you can go home and cook ground turkey, and how you can use fresh vegetables into their daily lives. So, they are not eating junk food and other things that are not good not only for their health but also for dental care. So we are partnering with a group that is actually working with them in that area.

Supervisor Updike states I would like to see it made a requirement or something. I mean this is a serious problem.

Ms. Ellen Couch states obesity is on the rise and the health department has data that obesity is on the rise across the state of Virginia and we have to combat that, and you know supersizing meals and convenience; we also have to look at the nutrition in children and how we can work with that too. The Planning Council is working on that and I will be glad to go back and share more of that with them and see if they can bring some of that in supplement form.

Philip Page states do you mind if I speak.

Chairman Jones states go ahead.

Philip Page states thank you very much; to Mr. Updike and Mr. Porter's questions, I just want to make a quick response. I am the Executive Director of Franklin Redevelopment Housing Authority and in that capacity Smart Beginnings works with our new mothers and it has been very much appreciated. They have expressed appreciation to us to be able to have that outside support. It is much more than just preparing a child for school, education but they tell you preparing our mothers to be parents have a great help. So, I just wanted to add that. All of what you said Mr. Updike is absolutely true but the mothers' are appreciating it and we are starting to see the benefit of that in our housing. Thank you very much.

Chairman Jones states anything else. Any other questions? Thank you so much.

Ms. Ellen Couch states thank you very much. Thank you.

Chairman Jones states Mr. Britt and Mrs. Carr, coming up together.

Treasurer, Mr. Britt, states good evening gentleman, we appreciate you all giving us the opportunity to come out and speak to you all again. We appreciate the fact that you allowed us to be a part of your retreat. With that being said, we are not going to take up a whole lot of your time. Basically what we are here to do is to reiterate what we talked to you about at the retreat as far as our office needs go. I wanted to highlight our biggest thing. That is, we need to take care of our employees. Our employees, all of them have been with us five plus years. We have seven employees in both offices. They work in harmony together taking care of the needs of the citizens. I think that is a good point there. Majority of them have been certified, and since 2007 our offices have been asked to take on quite a number of additional responsibilities helping create revenue for the county. And, we would like to see our employees recognized and taken care of. We already know for a fact that other offices and departments are losing employees, and with the investment that we have in these people, I can't see losing a resource like that if it benefits the county. We are not here to ask anything for ourselves but we are looking here to try to get something in to recognize and appreciate our employees.

Commissioner of Revenue, Mrs. Amy Carr states and we don't want to take up a lot of your time going over the same things we said at the retreat, but I have brought a copy of the presentation that I made at the retreat. Just look over it, and refresh your memory and then if you would notice on there; there are quite a list of new duties that have been added to the office since the last salary study which was done in 2005. And, due to that I strongly feel, we both feel that our employees are due for a reclassification and salary increases and we would appreciate the consideration.

Chairman Jones states any questions to either one. Thank you.

Mr. David Britt & Mrs. Amy Carr states thank you.

Chairman Jones states Sheriff Stutts.

Sheriff John "Jack" Stutts states gentlemen; I have one thing for you. With regards to the regrade and raises that are requested. I am asking that they only be considered if we get those raises from the Compensation Board we anticipate from the State. Sorry for being so long winded. Any questions?

Chairman Jones states any questions for the Sherriff? Thank you so much.

Sheriff John "Jack" Stutts states thank you.

Chairman Jones states Southampton Economic Development, Mrs. Jarratt.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt states good evening Chairman Jones and other members of the Board, Mr. Johnson, and I really appreciate the opportunity to speak with you tonight. As most of you know, I am Amanda Jarratt, President of Franklin Southampton Economic Development. We were created back in 2005 uniting the efforts of both Southampton County and the City of Franklin in Economic Development with support and guidance from the private sector. Our main goal is to increase the tax base of the Franklin, Southampton community and create jobs for the citizen of today and future generations of tomorrow. Most of you are aware of our current initiatives and programs at FSEDI but I would like to use this opportunity to give you a quick reminder of our place. We have created inclusive marketing programs, of state and regional partners including the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance as well as the Port of Virginia. First ask developing areas for future business industry and targeting key industry sectors. Since our creation in 2005 we have been directly and indirectly responsible for the creation of almost 800 new jobs and a quarter of a million dollars in investments. 2013 was truly a banner year for economic development in our community and we are finally seeing the results of your long term commitments. We were able to announce the location of Hampton Farms and their purchase of the former International Paper Converting Innovation Center as well as have ground breakings for Loves Travel Center and Curtis Contracting, which within twelve months posted a grand opening which most of you knew last week. We were able to lease an existing building from the Agriculture Southampton Business Park and work very closely with them on a daily basis, which you all are well aware. These projects generate direct tax revenue for Southampton County budget. The stronger we build our business community the more revenue there is to support services to enhance the quality of life for Southampton County residents. We had a very active first of the year. This year with new projects, we are hopeful will roll out at some point in 2014. We also have an existing industry program, as well as a business retention program uniting the efforts of our office, Franklin Southampton Chamber, and the Paul D. Camp Community College Workforce Development. We are actively meeting with our local businesses and providing free training and professional development. We were recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from the SunTrust Foundation and are administering a micro loan program to inject capital into our small and medium size businesses. Small business growth and development is also a key priority of ours. The main way this is accomplished is through the Franklin Business incubator, which currently has 28 businesses, six of which are owned by Southampton County residents. There are a number of county residents employed throughout the facility as well. Our organization pays the required local match on behalf of the city and the county to participate in the small business development center that is in Norfolk. They come here once a month to our office and the Chamber to provide free business counseling for any business located in the City of Franklin or Southampton County. Our funding agencies include Franklin and Southampton charities, the Camp Family Foundation, Southampton County, and the City of Franklin. Private dollars are leveraged to provide economic development programs only due to the public dollars that is supporting the program. This successful public private partnership has allowed us to effectively and efficiently market our community. Our budget request this year is the same as last year. For the 2014/2015 budget year will be the same request as 2013/2014, and we truly appreciate your commitment to economic development. We continue to take steps to reduce cost internally, and all expenditures and programs are carefully analyzed to make sure that they yield a return on investment and generate a positive impact on our local economy. As we look forward to the remainder of 2014 and beyond, we are really excited about the possibilities to grow our economy. This strategic partnership that the county is leveraging with the City of Franklin will only increase our economic competitiveness. The planning efforts and proactive approach that you all are undertaking will greatly increase our position and competitiveness not only in Hampton Roads but across the state of Virginia. I want to emphasize that economic development is a long-term investment; most of you know that. But, it is important to keep that in mind, that it requires much time, energy, and commitment from all of you, our Board, and citizens of Southampton County. We need your investment to diversify our local economy and provide jobs for future generations. I truly appreciate the working relationship I have with each of you, and FSEDI looks forward to a positive relationship with the county. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Chairman Jones states any questions to Mrs. Jarratt.

Supervisor Edwards states Amanda, I would just like to say it is a pleasure to work with you. I feel like we have made great strides here in the last couple of years. I am looking forward to the future.

Supervisor West states I would like to say that, I thank you for a fine job period. I think you have done a great job from day one, and your energy level is extremely high, and you are sure building a way on how you do. It stands out, and a lot of good comments are made in general. Thank you, thank you.

Supervisor Porter states I would like to echo those comments. I think one of the reasons we are able to do some of the things this year we have not been able to do is directly contributed to your efforts and thank you so much for that.

Chairman Jones states I would like to thank you too. I have more shovels now in the past few years than I have ever had. It is so nice to break ground for new businesses in Southampton County. I can't thank you enough.

Mrs. Amanda Jarratt states thank you for your support.

Chairman Jones states alright, thank you. Western Tidewater Free Clinic.

Mrs. Patsy Joyner states few weeks ago we thanked you for your dedicated services to our county. I am Patsy Joyner, a member of the Western Tidewater Free Clinic Board, and on behalf of the Board, staff, and volunteer members please know how much we deeply appreciate your continuous support of this vital program that serves Southampton, Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Suffolk. Since opening in 2007, the clinic has served over 3,300 patients, through 64,500 visits that are dental, medical, mental health, and pharmacy consultations; and over 14.3 million dollars in retail value of medications. In 2013, the clinic served 1,485 individuals, with 15,815 onsite visits, and provided over \$3.4 million in free medications. Of those 1,485 served in 2013, 187 or 13% were Southampton County patients and serviced 2009 visits. That is 13% also. Medications valued at nearly \$443,000. During this budget cycle, as before, the clinic ask for 20% of its operating expenses, which are projected to be \$1,501,095; and 20% of that totals \$300,219. Each municipality is asked to provide a percentage of that amount \$300,219 according to its percentage of patients served. Thus our request of Southampton County is in the amount of \$39,000. That represents 13% of the total funds we requested from the municipality for fiscal year 2014/2015. This amount will provide 445 medical and dental care visits for Southampton County residents. Thank you for your consideration, and at the clinic's request we really invite you; we want you to come and visit the clinic, see firsthand how your funds are making such a difference. Do you have any questions?

Chairman Jones states do you have any question?

Supervisor Updike states I have one and this is my curiosity. What effect will the mental health care system have on this clinic? Is it going to lessen your load? What is the effect?

Mrs. Patsy Joyner states good question Mr. Updike. I want to pass these down to you too. It is a copy of a recent editorial that was in the Tidewater News. I referenced that very thing. One of the most common misconceptions is that the Affordable Care Act says there will no longer be a need for free clinics to provide care to fill the gap of the uninsured, economically disadvantaged in our community. In fact, many people will tend to fall through the cracks based on their household income or other circumstances. If Medicaid goes through, about 82 or 85% of our patients will be affected. That doesn't mean that will be true numbers; just depends on their circumstances. We think with all the data we have referenced and checked shows there will be thousands still in the gap needing free health care regardless of the Affordable Health Care Act and Medicaid changes. We will have to wait and see how it plays out. Our goal is to find access to health care for uninsured low income residents in Franklin, Southampton, Isle of Wight, and Suffolk, and we expect that to continue from what I have seen.

Chairman Jones states alright, any other questions? Thank you, ma'am.

Mrs. Patsy Joyner states thank you.

Chairman Jones states Blackwater Regional Library.

April 16, 2014

Mrs. Yvonne Bradley states good evening. I am Yvonne Hilliard-Bradley, the director of Blackwater Regional Library system. As you are aware, Southampton County contracts with the Blackwater System to provide library service to county residents who report to libraries and bookmobile stops. By funding a share of the Regional Library budget, based on library usage and population in the county. Southampton County's share of the Blackwater Regional Library budget decreased slightly this year from 17% to 16.7% of the total library budget. Which means, the dollar amount decreased by \$2,141 to \$229,772. We have continued to hold the line on our operating budget which is pretty much everything except personnel and materials. In fact, that line has decreased by \$22,700 since fiscal year 2009. We continue to rank second from the bottom among the fourteen Tidewater Public Libraries in local income per capita and less than \$16.00 per person. I think taxpayers would agree they are getting more than their monies worth when they come into our libraries. In putting together a budget for a locality during a difficult economy, the choices obviously are very difficult. Your course to consider is what services are core and what services are not. It is easy to see that police protection, fire services, emergency medical care, water, and roads these are all core services. And the question is not whether to provide them, but how much to each of those services to provide. But even more challenging, can be the questions regarding those services that are also labeled discretionary. But they are important, and even critical to the quality of life and the community. Today many households and senior lives have changed in ways they never could have foreseen, and they need assistance in ways they never could have anticipated. They can't afford to consider public library as discretionary. Our computers are regularly packed with people applying for jobs, applying for college, applying for financial aid, for health insurance, social security, and social services. Very little in life is done offline anymore. And not everyone has a personal computer or access to the internet. If they have a home computer, they may need guidance in navigating some of these less known user friendly sites. People come to the Courtland library in order to learn life skills. Medicare representatives recently used the media room to answer questions for residents about the program and about benefits. The Fresh Start Academic Program from Southampton County Public School system came to the library with their students to apply the skills they have learned in the classroom, to learn how to find the information that they need in the public library ; the information that they need to improve their lives. A healthy lifestyle class included a personal trainer and coaches from the YMCA, to offer advice on individual fitness and living a healthy lifestyle. Last year the Courtland library was visited by community members over 36,000 times. They checked out over 53,000 books and media; used the computers more than 6,000 times, and more than 1600 residents came to the Courtland library for classes. The public library is an overarching full service organization, providing early literacy classes, outreach to schools, summer and winter reading programs for kids, teen book clubs and classes, job skill programs, computer literacy training, and of course access to the regional material collections; including books, data basis, and media on a wide variety of topics. Much of what we are able to accomplish is because of our partnerships such as the Medicare and YMCA classes I mentioned earlier. Connections with other community organizations allow us to greatly increase our return on investment. The library partners with other local organizations to promote life-long learning. Library staff goes into schools to provide book clubs and reading initiatives for kids. The Franklin School's Robotics team is in the Courtland Library right now talking to teens about building robots. The staff works with the senior navigator program to improve access to information for older adults. The Courtland manager regularly goes to Courtland Health Care and Western Tidewater Mental Health in order to read to patients and to engage these people in discussions about the books and how the books relate to their lives; what is going on in their lives. Daycares get raising a reader bags through our partnerships with Smart Beginnings, and the Virginia Aquarium has brought its touch tank to the Courtland library for kids to see and touch marine creatures and ask questions. The state library of Virginia partnered with national organizations for funding to put data base in local libraries. That data base will provide information on a mass array of topics from very scholarly to general interest; ones that would be far too costly for most individual libraries to be able to afford on their own. There is no standing still in today's world. In order to function, you must continue to learn and to grow, and the public library is the place where that happens for the broadest segment of our community. We are the single organization that provides the environmental materials free of charge to all learners regardless of age, educational background, income, political or religious affiliation, or any other demographic you can think of. By funding the library, you support all of your community. Thank you. Any questions?

Chairman Jones states any questions? Thank you very much. Dr. Parrish.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states Chairman Jones and members of the board, good evening. I am Alvera

Parrish, Superintendent of Southampton County Public Schools, and it gives me great pleasure to represent my school board tonight. And it also gives me great pleasure, and we are thankful for the opportunity to present our budget to you tonight. Even in addition to that, we want to express appreciation for being invited to your retreat. I believe that was an opportunity for us to share in a way that helps this whole process go even smoother. It really does open up more doors of communication and the process for us to be able to interact with each other in a less formal setting; have the opportunity for questions, answers, and understanding what we are asking for and the rationale for the request. So we do appreciate that opportunity. I am going to be a little bit longer than Sheriff Stutts, but not much. Since we have had the opportunity already to share our budget presentation with the board, I am going to be presenting a high-level presentation of our board with the focus on the priorities we requested in the budget. Of course you know the people in this picture who I stand for tonight that represents all of our students in Southampton County Public Schools who believe that we are committed to opening the doors to excellence to all students to be successful. Here is our vision statement and we shared this with you already. That our vision is for Southampton County Public Schools; our goal is that all of our students will be successful, productive, life-long learners in an ever changing world. Our mission is manifested in that and our ultimate goal is that we will have successful learners that will be productive citizens in our changing society. Our number one highest priority of the Southampton County School Board is student achievement and this budget will reflect that as you look at our priorities, and you have seen our priorities, and we have had discussions about how we can get those services down to the classroom where the needs of the children are. As we look at opening those doors for students, those students that we serve are enclosed in four Elementary Schools, Southampton Middle School, and Southampton High School with a total enrollment of 2,817 students. As we looked at our priorities with the budget, of course our foundation was to focus on what were the requirements in the past, and compare them to the requirements of the present. As we look at what is being required of us from the state level as well as nationally, we can see the changes from the past where the diploma type was a standard diploma and students only had to have twenty credits. There was no graduation rate that existed, and no accreditation rate that existed, and all of the SOL testing was done with paper and pencil. However now, we are looking at a twenty-six credit diploma and students have the option of a standard or advanced studies diploma. All schools are working towards being fully accredited. There is a required graduation rate of 85% for the Cohort and SOL testing format now is online. So, that leads us to looking towards the future and recognizing that we have to focus on early literacy. We have to look at the course requirements for early grades and being able to have our students become successful K-12. We have to also consider the mandates that is addressing this budget along with courses and other state reports and state requirements that the school system must meet. Here is just a slide we have shared with you before, so I won't read everything on this slide but I did want to highlight some of the graduation achievement data for 2013, this previous graduation year. As you can see, we have 67 honor graduates, 94 advanced diplomas, 2 associates degrees, and all of the different seals associated with those diplomas that help us to be able to go on to be successful everywhere going forth in college. Also, with the world of work, as we look at the career and technical education classes that our students are taking; 96 % of our students have taken those career and technical classes. We have 122 programs completers. You can see the state licensures which enable those students to go right into the workplace, and then the workplace readiness stands at 49. This is just a projection of the data for 2014, the end of this year coming up, you can see we are right on the mark with our federal graduation rate projected at 86.76%, and our on time complete rate at 87.21%, and the Virginia required completion at 88.69%. As we look at Southampton County Public Schools, the state of the schools before and after, we do have to consider where we have been. With the Virginia Department of Education, well the State I would say, has been the biggest issue with us in terms of budget because of the reduction of funding from the state level that has caused us to suffer budget wise and financially with what we were able to provide. Of course we had the loss of the 45 positions in fiscal year 2012/2013. At the time the state reduced their funding, at that very same time that's when the rigor increased and we lost staff. So where are we now? We have three fully accredited schools, and then we have three schools that are credited with warning. However, we are very optimistic going forward that we will move those schools out of warning and into a fully accredited state. This is just a chart reflecting those areas from the rigor impact and from the state reduced funding for the school system in English and Math as well as in Science were the main areas that were mainly impacted by the increase in rigor and reduction in state funding. That leads us to, what are the urgent needs in our budget that we are presenting for the fiscal year 2014/2015 budget. Our urgent needs and priorities are listed here. You can see the 3% salary increase including the VRS rate increase of 2.9%. Then you have the 10.1% increase in health insurance benefits which equates to \$194,285. We are requesting here, which is a reflection of

what we are trying to do for the students in the classrooms, we have to have those teachers to address the class size, class needs, and the curriculum requirements for these positions; at approximately \$58,000 for each of the teaching positions. One kindergarten teacher at Riverdale, one fifth grade teacher, one elementary physical education teacher, elementary music teacher, one math teacher at Southampton Middle School, one science teacher at Southampton High School, and there of course at \$37,706 the IT technician position. The other needs and priorities that are included in this budget is an increase in our instructional line budget. You can see the figures for the elementary and the secondary is broken down there; \$194,441 for the elementary and \$102,257 for the secondary for the instructional budget increase. The technology we are requesting \$25,000, for operations increase it is \$35,981, and administration and health it is \$5,500. Therefore, that means that our requested local funding break down in this form that our total projected local funding increase is at \$338,047 and the current local funding now is \$11,040,669, and the total requested local funding is \$11,378,716, and this equates to a 3.06 % increase in funding. In addition to outside the operating budget, we are requesting the financing for five additional buses. We are very very appreciative of the buses that the board provided us with last year. It has been amazing the impact that has made on our total operation and terms of transporting our students. In district as well as out of district events, it has made a significant impact on the effectiveness of the entire process. We estimated at 75,000 based on the funding that we received last year for the other five buses, and that is requested outside of the operating budget. This is just a chart bring it back to you in terms of looking at the age of the buses and where we are at this point as of January 2014. You can see the number of buses that are 15 years old or older is still at 47. Thirteen are 11 – 14 years old, nineteen at 6 – 10 years old, and fourteen at 1 – 5 years old. So the additional buses would help tremendously with that. In conclusion, working together we will accomplish much to ensure our students' success. We believe that is what it is all about, and that an investment in Southampton County Public Schools is an investment in the future of Southampton County. I have to say to you gentlemen, you have demonstrated that you have a clear understanding that this is a good investment, a solid investment and one that is going to help us to maintain a positive future for this county going forward. So as we work together, I wanted to include some other people that you may want to see here and just look at the ways that we have collaborated during the year. This is a picture of all five new buses we received this year, which Mr. Blunt and all of us are ecstatic about and you can see members of our school board and members of the Board of Supervisors there together on that wonderful day to take that photo. It was a historical moment. Also, we are very thankful for your interaction in our schools; working with the various programs, supporting the various programs in the schools as well. Another way that we collaborated is through working with the students and reading at the schools to students or mentoring or just coming by to give support in any way you can is appreciated; of course, working with our various board members on various venues. I don't know who this young man is here but we are very appreciative of the partnership and the relationship that the boards have forged together; and even on the reading day we have an expert reader that came in and read to students. We try to catch a picture with everybody in at least one, but we do want you to know that we recognize that teamwork makes the dream work. Thank you gentlemen.

Chairman Jones states any questions? Any members have any questions?

Supervisor West states curiosity one; you have 93 buses listed up there on the board, how many do you put on the road each day assuming you don't use the backups.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states if we don't use the backups it is around how many?

Mr. Ricky Blunt states with the special need buses right there at 77.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states 77, and the backups is what 40.

Mr. Ricky Blunt states right.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states ok.

Supervisor West states so 16 would be in reserve. That is primarily the older backups.

Mr. Ricky Blunt states yes sir.

Supervisor West states okay, the second thing I want to pull out and I don't have the sheet in front

of me, but I know it's true; you have had your funds cut tremendously since fiscal year 2009. The county has continued to try to find a way I believe and the county has continued to increase its funding. We have had to pick up slack we didn't have the money for as well, and we did all we could.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states the board has funded the school system even last year with the lower funding, you have continued to maintain that funding and we are appreciative of that.

Chairman Jones states any other questions. Anyone else?

Supervisor Edwards states I think the school board has been very frugal with their spending. I commend you on that and you have been very open I believe in what you are using. I am the only one up here young enough to have children in the system and I appreciate it.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states thank you.

Supervisor Edwards states I have one in third grade and one in fourth grade.

Chairman Jones states thank you Dr. Parrish.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states thank you Mr. Jones.

Chairman Jones states Fire and Rescue.

Mr. Carl Garner, Fire Chief states Good Evening my name is Carl Garner Fire Chief of Ivor Volunteer Fire Department, President of Southampton County Fire and Rescue Association. I stand before you tonight representing the ten fire departments and five EMS squads that provide a valuable service to the citizens of Southampton County. I know all of you have seen our budget request for fiscal year 2015, but I would like to share with everyone in the audience tonight some of the needs and concerns that we have. I also would like to thank you for including us as part of your budget retreat. I think it was very informative on both ends. We are requesting a 5% increase in the general fund contribution for both fire and rescue. Five percent may seem like a lot but when you divide it between the ten fire departments and rescue squads, that is only an increase of \$1,129.53 per department. That will give each department approximately on average \$27,000 to go towards general operating cost. I can only speak to fire but it takes between \$68,000 and \$70,000 to cover our general operating expenses a year. That leaves about \$43,000 that has to come from fundraisers, grants, and the generous donations from the community. 62% of our operating revenue has to come from other sources of funding; 62%. We are very gracious of the support that the county has shown to us over the years, but our volunteers have to spend a lot of their time securing additional funds just to be able to provide Fire and EMS services. We are also seeking funding to provide additional advanced life support personnel to three remaining squads. That is Capron, Boykins, and Ivor from 6 a.m. Saturday morning to 6 a.m. Monday morning for a cost of approximately \$225,000. That means we will be putting one provider to each squad. The goal is not to replace the volunteers but to supplement them. This will still require an additional volunteer person to make a full crew, and if for some reason, no volunteers are available, that ALS provider can respond to provide the needed care until a transporting unit arrives. Our goal is to ensure everyone gets the same level of care they deserve in a timely manner. At present, these three squads have paid personnel from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The nights and weekends are covered by the volunteers with the assistance of the ALS zone call. Courtland Rescue and the City of Franklin have paid personnel providing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year service to their areas. The time has come where the volunteers feel they can no longer provide the expected services that the citizens in their area deserve. We feel all citizens of the county deserve the same level of EMS care. We have been seeking this help for the past three to four years and feel certain that if this help is not provided we will lose even more of the few volunteers that we have left trying to fill the gaps, and most importantly the citizens will lack timely EMS care. Last week the comment was made, and I quote "Paying EMS in this county is a big mistake. If we pay the EMS, then the volunteers are going to quit. I have had people and volunteers from my district come to me and say, if you pay them, you need to pay me." As much as I was angry about these comments it inspired me to revisit the need and expected outcome I am asking for the additional pay of the ALS provider. In doing so, I would like to share a few facts that I ran across. 51% of the address quotes, that is homes and businesses, in the county are presently served by EMS agency that is supplemented by paid providers 24 hours a day, 7 days a

April 16, 2014

week, 365 days a year. The remainder 49% of the address quotes of the county are served by EMS agencies that don't have paid providers from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and are struggling with providing coverage at night and weekends. The real fact is still there, possibly 6% of the people in the Newsoms district already are receiving EMS services that are provided by paid EMS providers from Courtland and the City of Franklin 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Looks to me if the volunteers were going to quit they would have done so back in 2005 when the county added an additional paid personnel to supplement a struggling agency. It also inspired me to make some phone calls. I called one of the dedicated volunteers in the Newsoms district and asked them, if the county approves to add additional ALS, EMS providers to supplement the volunteer squads would you quit volunteering? His answer was no way, no way at all. I do not volunteer to get paid, I volunteer because I love giving back to the community. I will continue to volunteer as long as I am able. This dedicated volunteer has over 35+ years working with his volunteer Fire Department. I asked the Chief of that same district, if he had heard of any of his members saying that they would quit volunteering if the county adds additional paid providers to supplement the volunteer squad. I have asked volunteers from all over the county and the answer was the same. No way would we quit volunteering. We love what we do because we love giving back to our fellow man. All in conclusion to the comments said, whomever is out there saying they will quit volunteering if we get more paid EMS providers to supplement the volunteer squads, is one, volunteering for the wrong reason, two is not dedicated to the act of volunteering, or three is looking for a good excuse to quit because he or she no longer wants to volunteer. The Fire and Rescue Association request on behalf of the EMS agencies was approved and supported by all Fire EMS departments of the county. After reviewing the number of facts, figures, news articles, various EMS studies, I came to the same conclusion; adding additional ALS providers to supplement the already strained volunteered EMS force is not only needed, but is necessary. Every article I read stated the same facts. Declining volunteerism is mainly due to people that don't have any extra time to devote to the volunteering agency. In most families, both parents are working full-time jobs as well as second jobs to make ends meet. They don't have the time it takes to maintain certifications required by the state to perform EMS services. This is especially true when it comes to ALS providers, if you have the time to devote over 1000+ hours it takes to become a paramedic. EMS has grown from providing basic first aid and a quick trip to the hospital to an increasingly complex health care system. Many squads have provided some sort of incentive for recruitment and retention but the need to supplement volunteers with paid ALS providers is still there and needed more than ever. If we do not address the need now, it is not a matter of if someone will die because of the gaps in the EMS coverage but when. Bottom line, even though volunteerism is falling all across Virginia and all across the country we still are dependent upon our volunteers to carry out the mission of providing the best possible Fire and EMS service possible. I can go on and on and on explaining demands on today's volunteers, and why they have caused the decline in volunteerism. We are asking for help because we feel obligated and honored to provide the citizens with the best possible Fire and EMS service possible. We love what we do and we do it because we care. We have over 350 dedicated volunteers in this county. They give unselfishly back to their communities in ways many of you have never seen. We answer the calls of help over 2,650 times last year with approximately 1,800 of those calls needing EMS services. I would not bore you with a lot of statistics but I would like to share a few with you. The average response time from the time the call was received to the time an ambulance was on scene is a little less than 10 minutes for squads that are supplemented with paid providers. That is a pretty good number considering we cover 600 square miles of this county. On the other side, the average response time from the all-volunteer crews was a little over 15 minutes, with some averaging as high as 24 minutes. The average response time for the ALS on-call, which we have in place to supplement the volunteers on nights and weekends, to one of the other three squads was a little over 17 minutes with some averaging over 24 minutes. 67 calls went unanswered by the first new agency in this county last year, which caused an increase in response time waiting on one, the secondary department or two mutual aid from an outside jurisdiction which in return increase the amount of time a person has to wait to receive the help that they need. I know this is only 4% of the total calls, but the way I look at it, no one wants to be in that 4% statistic waiting on help when it is needed. Our goal is to reduce that average response time to the 49% of the county that does not have 24/7 coverage by paid providers. This is not a luxury, this is a necessity. Five minutes can mean the difference between life and death. From this day on out, as I said I could go on for the rest of the night; the last thing I would like to comment on tonight is concerning the suggestion of creating Fire and EMS tax districts to further support Fire and EMS services. After meeting with my budget committee for the association there was a lot of concerns and questions I could not answer that I felt needed to be addressed. The committee feels that we need more time to address all concerns that are before us. With that said, I respectfully ask that you postpone the decision to

consider creating a Fire and EMS tax district until fiscal year 2016 to allow time for the association to educate our informants on this process; and allow us time to study the pros and cons of such an undertaking. Thank you.

Chairman Jones asks any questions. Go ahead Mr. West.

Supervisor West states well thought out, well prepared. And I trust what you have stated before us tonight. I agree with you entirely. Two cents needs to be the two cents whether it is devoted to any type of life saving jurisdiction or whatever. The two cents is needed. I would like to say also, to remind people in this room that live in areas that receive sewage treatment in their district. You have had it for years but Ivor pays. Those that have rescue and fire full-time staff, you have had it for a long time according to Mr. Garner. Mr. Garner in addition to that, Ivor pays, whether it be Drewryville, whether it be Boykins, everywhere you know what I am saying. I don't want to see this turn into any kind of jurisdictional fighting of any kind. We serve our dues to all citizens of Southampton County not just for Capron and Ivor. You have done a great job, and I will fight for you, and do everything we can for this budget.

Chairman Jones asks anyone else.

Supervisor Jones states I just want to hear what your concerns are with the tax districts.

Mr. Carl Garner states Number one, fire and rescue departments in this county are kind of a unique group. One, trying to get fifteen departments on the same page is like pulling hair, and I don't have a lot of hair left. But anyway, with that being said, some of the concerns we are talking about, one if you create a tax district and that money is going specifically to Fire and Rescue, what effects would that have on our donations coming from the community? And believe me, we depend a lot on our donations now. If we didn't get them, we could not operate. So that is probably one of the biggest things that scares us. The other is we are not educated really on what this is all about. To make something happen between now and the beginning of the budget, we don't feel, and our Vice President don't feel I have the time to educate my people and to explain to them and to address any pros and cons we may have. It was some concern about what affect it might have on like I said donations. What affect it might have on departments that may not have as much in their area to cover, but it still takes a certain amount of money to operate; to keep the doors open. Some concerns about how the funding will be distributed. It's just a lot of unanswered questions and we don't feel we have the time to get the answers that we need, so we can support it; that's all.

Chairman Jones asks anyone else.

Mr. Carl Garner states I will be glad to sit down with you and talk to you more about it but I know it sounds like we trying to do something to help you and now you don't want to do it, but we just are not prepared. We are just not ready to be jumping into this right now without knowing all of the ifs, ands, and buts.

Chairman Jones states go ahead Mr. Phillips.

Supervisor Phillips states Carl I would just like to say thank you again for all that you do. I just want to applaud the volunteers in this county. I would like to say that I believe you have hit the nail on the head as far as volunteerism and what it means in this county. It is a valuable asset to what goes on in this county, and we couldn't do it without the volunteers. And, we want to see everyone receive the service whether it's Ivor. I know Capron and Ivor I think, failed to respond on 30 calls each, approximately 30 calls this past, because that provider wasn't available and we will see what we can do about getting that.

Chairman Jones asks anyone else. Mr. Garner we would like to thank you for all you do. Without the volunteer Fire Department I don't know what we would do.

Mr. Carl Garner states like I said we will be here for the citizens of this county. You don't have to worry about us going anywhere; unless somebody runs us away.

Chairman Jones states we still thank you anyway. Come on up Mr. Francis.

Mr. Rick Francis, Clerk of Circuit Court states hello board, I am Rick Francis. I am your Circuit

April 16, 2014

Court Clerk. Just to let you know, the end of this month I say goodbye to Ms. Heather Simmons a 19 year veteran of my office, and just found out a lateral transfer to a new employer will pay her more than what she is making after 19 years. Even considering VRS, I hope she is making the right decision. There are quite a number of other clerks for the job, but I really hate to say goodbye to her. I think the county is losing a great asset. In advertising this position, I am coming to the board to see if we can find more funding for this position. However, I have been in contact with the Compensation Board and as you know I try to shift everything I can over to the Compensation Board into the state and off your shoulders the best I can. So instead of coming and asking for a \$3500 injection, I think, and I shared these figures with Ms. Lowe, that I really need \$362.00 and Ms. Lowe said I can't take it out of my salary, otherwise it would be just zero. But, I think I can make that shift over so it doesn't impact. If you all would let me supplement some of my staff's budget, if you let me shift that around a little bit and utilize the Compensation Board turnover funds than I think I can make this happen with \$362.00. I really didn't want to trouble you with that trivial amount tonight except I would ask you, if you would, please turn to page 43 of your county budget that is proposed. On page 43 down at the bottom in that little yellow area, you have a couple of columns that are great interest to me and I think would be to my staff. Down there to the far right of the yellow you have two columns; fiscal year 2015 requested and fiscal year 2015 initial draft. I know that everyone is now kind of feathering back into the initial draft, but I would ask you to please reconsider the requested column and support funding in that regard. I say that for two reasons; number one as Dorothy Jarratt through her early retirement program, even though she is past due time and age, everything has had to be reallocated duty wise in my office. Secondly, because I may be able to shift over a lot of what I am planning to do with the Compensation Board, it makes the out of pocket cost to the county about 1/3 less than what it is in that column. Basically, that requested column contemplates about \$23,000 in county supplements to reach those levels. Quite frankly with the shift I am proposing with the Compensation Board, we can reach that level with about \$14,000 in contributions which basically would save almost \$8,800.00. I can get you to the proposed column cheaper; \$8,800.00 cheaper than I could before this shift. It is strange to admit it but it is kind of a cabalistic process when one person leaves in the Compensation Board arena. I am not crazy about it, but it is an opportunity to shift some other people around because of a vacancy. I would prefer to keep all of my people in place and move them up together, rather than feeding off the salary of someone who is leaving. But, again, if she is going to leave, that is an opportunity that presents itself and will permit me to shift those funds away from the county into the responsibility of the Compensation Board. I ask that you let me do that and I also ask that if you get anymore Compensation Board raises would you please permit them to pass through to the staff. That would be most appreciated. That is part of the reasons for Ms. Heather leaving because of the absorption of the last.

Chairman Jones asks does anyone have any questions.

Supervisor West states you are extremely creative.

Supervisor Phillips states excuse me for a moment. Nineteen years of service and when would she be eligible for retirement.

Mr. Rick Francis states she had right many years to go, nineteen years in, she would have had to go to what 25 or maybe 30 with her age.

Mr. Michael Johnson states full retirement is with 30 years and 50 years old.

Supervisor Phillips states oh okay. You mentioned whether it was a good decision or not.

Mr. Rick Francis states well it would be tough for me to walk away from that, but her VRS I understand stays in tack. She can add to it if she later goes to another VRS; some state job. The problem is she is going to Hampton Farms and going straight in with a pay increase and I can't compete with that because I don't have control of my salaries.

Chairman Jones asks any other questions.

Supervisor Updike states I would like to promote you to the County Economic Budgeting Process. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for taking more initiative on how we can save.

Mr. Rick Francis states I thank you and I will always try to shift the burden back where it really

belongs because the state has been pushing it on the county for so many years.

Chairman Jones asks any other comments. Okay.

Mr. Rick Francis states thank you.

Chairman Jones states thank you; Children's Center.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins, Executive Director of the Children's Center, states I am Rosalind Cutchins the Director of the Children's Center, and thank you very much for your partnership with us. I just want to bring you a couple of updates about where we are and what we are doing. Courtland Elementary School which Southampton County Public Schools has so generously shared with us, we are expanding our programs there. We just want to let you know as of next year we are looking at having 87 children being educated in that building for the year. So that is really exciting in terms of having a building that is repurposed, reused. Those are all of Southampton County's children that we get to nurture, we get to educate. We have great jobs and we get to send them into the public schools ready to go. We have rich partnerships with Southampton Public Schools and we are very much appreciative of that support. We walk hand in hand with them in serving families and preparing children for great educations and great citizens that will come back and support all of us. We also have rich partnerships with Smart Beginnings, Southampton DSS, and many of you have been attending one of our events in one way or the other and we very much thank you for that. In terms of the federal dollar, just specifically in children that will be coming into Courtland Elementary School which is our Courtland Head Start facility, by those children attending there we are pulling down, just with those children about \$1,029,000 from the federal dollar into Southampton County to serve children and help them be well prepared. So in terms of that, we are excited to serve Southampton County, we thank you very much, and since I was educated with Jack Stutts at Capron Elementary School I think my time is done. Thank you very much; any questions?

Chairman Jones asks any questions?

Supervisor West states I would like to note something. I have been in the building and you said very minimum students would actually use the building. I don't think you extend any money Dr. Parrish for the use of the building right. But you have a large building and you have to heat a whole lot of it.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states you are right about that.

Supervisor West states I mean it bothers me a whole lot to heat a whole lot of building for three classrooms okay.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states well we actually have, we are bringing in two more classrooms next year; that is one thing we are doing with sequestration, returning dollars as we are targeting two more classrooms there. Because you are exactly right. We have also applied for assistance from the federal government to look at special projects for emergency funding for that and we are also looking at different mechanisms of heating to try to bring that heating bill down as much as we can.

Supervisor West states so is that all funded by federal funds; the heating bill and everything. Who pays that?

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states we pay that.

Supervisor West states I know but who is we.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states we the Children's Center pay that as part of our budget. That is just part of our budget. It is part of that 1 million dollars that we pull down and goes back out in terms of that. It is part of our operating expenses.

Supervisor West states well you know the expense of heating is; as cold as it has been this year it has had to be substantial.

April 16, 2014

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states it has been a rough winter there. We have also gone back and applied for emergency funds specifically for that outside of this budget to look at the roof, because if we could replace the roof which we continue to have problems with, the other thing that we have done within that application in considering the roof, we are trying to put in insulation.

Supervisor West states right, I saw the bucket sitting in the hallway too okay.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states yes sir, you did. We have buckets frequently. We use those for learning purposes as well. We have gone back when opportunities have opened up to say it has been a bad snow year as well; because when snow sat on that roof too then it managed to leak back in.

Supervisor West states I suggest you get in touch with Mr. Blunt when he gets home one day early, when he is off. I mean, he can do something like that.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states Mr. Blunt is our friend and we very much appreciate our partnership with him.

Supervisor West states you want to keep him your friend.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states yes sir. We do, very much so. Thank you, any questions.

Chairman Jones states anyone else.

Supervisor Updike states I am curious now, we have an Elementary School over at Hunterdale, we have the Courtland School and neither one of them is utilized efficiently for what I can understand. It is a very small number of people in either facility. The maintenance, the upkeep, the operation cost is a substantial amount. This looks like to me, one of these places could be closed down and joined and combined.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states when we originally applied for the grant, we went back to Southampton Public Schools just to talk with them and at that point, I really would refer to them, there was another operation in it at Hunterdale; The Alternative School is that correct?

Dr. Alvera Parrish states The Fresh Start Program. I don't want to be out of order.

Chairman Jones states go right ahead Dr. Parrish.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states The Fresh Start Program houses students who are of teenage age. You want to tell them the age of your children at the Children Center.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states we are 6 weeks to kindergarten age.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states so that won't be two proper ages together.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states so we considered that, at that point.

Supervisor Updike states can keep them in the same building, but you still can keep them separate. That will reduce the maintenance and the upkeep. That is a big expense.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states at the time we went into this and invested money into that facility, it was determined that was the best option for us to share. So at that particular point that is why that decision was made.

Supervisor West states we have a \$6000 request which we intend to fund for the coming year. I know most of the funds at Hunterdale come from federal sources as well according to Mr. Turner; so that was cost effective because it is federal funds and none of your expended funds. I don't know that other than teachers perhaps, I don't know.

Dr. Alvera Parrish states it's a federally funded program.

Supervisor West states right, okay. So yes it would make sense in a sense because it is a large

building. It looks to be fairly well maintained. Both of them been in but with that being said I was concerned about the drip drip and the heating the long halls and three classrooms, and I understand.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states thank you and we are making strides. I feel like we are putting that building to good use on that view point and I think it is a good investment in terms of investment in early education and preparing students and preparing parents, etc.

Chairman Jones states it's not just sitting there coming down.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states that's right.

Supervisor West states it goes back to what Mrs. Couch requested. We are in a time and society where children are left behind because of parents that are trying to raise children and the parents are children themselves. That movement alone will perpetuate itself. We in the school system we have an unenviable but really a job that is probably unattainable to finish okay; because of the lack of parenthood and it has been perpetuated over the years and continues. It's sad. But we have society; what is that expression down here; you know it's not a luxury, education is not a luxury.

Ms. Rosalind Cutchins states and it is tremendously helpful as well. It is a blessing to be able to reach out and serve families and children so we thank you; and thank you for partnering with us in that. We appreciate that.

Supervisor West states and I ask everybody in this room to go and read. Go to any of the schools. I know Dr. Parrish would like to have you. Go to the programs and you bond with these children. I was a little disturbed last year and the year before when the librarian at Nottaway shared time at Meherrin. I thought you favored Meherrin too much but none of the less.

Chairman Jones states thank you very much. Hey gentleman, are we going to do anything else tonight.

Supervisor Faison states I just want to say how grateful I am to hear everybody that came before us today. I think it demonstrates the quality of people and the quality of work that is being done. We have a lot of needs in the county and it's obvious we have people who are going to address those needs. As a member of this board, I support all that you do; we all support all that you do. Promise that we will do the best we can for Southampton County; and honestly you are putting forth strong efforts that will make this work. Thanks.

Supervisor West states and I would like to digest the material, Mr. Garner, the things that you presented to me tonight for next week. I don't want to take action tonight personally.

Chairman Jones states correct, we are not going to take any action. Anybody else have anything.

Supervisor Updike states I would like to mention one thing. It is beyond past time when we do it, and that is our general fund. I wish every single one of you would look at what is required to keep us afloat. Our general fund has been robbed for the last five or six years. We are down to rock bottom in our reserve. We need to put a minimum of a half a million dollars in it for the next six years to get our general fund back where it should be. Look at any government regulation or efficiency they say 10% of your budget should be in reserve. We are down under 5%, right at 5%. That is unacceptable on any level of financial accepted responsibility for the citizens. This is the reason we have to borrow 3 to 4 million dollars every year to meet payroll. So, I think one of the top priorities should be to put a half a million dollars over the next six years to get our general fund in a better financial condition.

Chairman Jones states any other comments.

Supervisor West states I would like to address that particular statement. Four hundred plus thousand dollars that was to be drawn out budget year 2013/2014 is less than that from the general year for the year. We will probably draw out less than that. I think that is frugality of the board; administration decisions, perhaps over budgeting and spending less; all of the things that make good common sense. But next year, if you want to use new money, \$1.4 million, already 400,000 of that 1.4 is not going to be used. That is off the board for expenditures in the county; because we

April 16, 2014

are not drawing anything out of the reserve. We have continued frugality of this board and paying attention to the things that need to be done such as using the 452 Committee to review these things. I think you will see this. Yes, it would be nice to put a half a million dollars in there a year but I don't think it is practical and I don't think at this time we can even think about doing it, but yes it is a nice thought. I noted that is already a direction to go back and we will now go back into the right direction. The budget is prepared just that way, and Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Lowe, they took a great deal of time along with the other staff to make sure of that. Thank you for addressing that, but it is well taken care of.

Chairman Jones states and then if I can get some more shovels in my garage then we can do something like that. Unless we are breaking grounds for new businesses, we can't do that. We are doing the best we can do with what we have right now. Like I told everybody years ago, we are not broke. I am just letting you know we are not broke. We are not begging. We don't have the funds that we would like to have. But, like I said we are not going around not paying our bills. Mrs. Lowe pays the bills on time every month. So is there anything else before us. One other thing, Dr. Parrish I heard something today, I was in the grocery store, I heard a grandmother say her grandson was graduating with a 3 point something grade point average, and she said to him son you might be graduating but you have to remember that you use to be competing against your classmates but now you're competing against the world. That was so, so right. I just applaud the school board and all their teachers and everything for what you all do. Without you all, none of us would be sitting up here, and I just thank you for everything you do.

Dr. Parrish states thank you.

Chairman Jones states if nothing else, meeting adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

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