

AT A BUDGET RETREAT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE 24TH DAY OF JANUARY 2009, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM, 101 MOUNTS BAY ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

James G. Kennedy, Chairman, Stonehouse District
Mary Jones, Vice Chair, Berkeley District
Bruce C. Goodson, Roberts District
James O. Icenhour, Jr., Powhatan District
John J. McGlennon, Jamestown District

Sanford B. Wanner, County Administrator
Leo P. Rogers, County Attorney

C. COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

1. Mr. Bob Hershberger, Executive Vice President of the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, presented an overview of the impact of the recession on the local economy.

2. Mr. Frank Hughes, President of the Board of Directors of the Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors, shared information with the Board on the condition of the real estate market in the James City County area.

3. Mr. Marshall Warner, Vice President of Chesapeake Bank, provided both a global view and local view on the banking industry and credit markets.

4. Mr. Don Messmer and Mr. Roy Pearson, Economics professors at William and Mary and economists for the Wessex Group, provided the Board with projections about the economy and the impact of their projections on the County's budget.

D. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Ms. Carol Luckam, Human Resource Manager, gave a presentation on employee compensation and benefits. The Compensation Advisory Team has established the following goals/priorities for FY 10: preserve jobs, preserve current pay, and preserve benefits.

It was the consensus of the Board to consider changes to the health insurance plan to manage rates. During the development of the FY 10 budget, the Board also expressed a desire to consider reducing hours as a contingency plan to avoid layoffs.

E. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms. Suzanne Mellen, Assistant Manager of Financial and Management Services, provided the Board with updates on revenue and expense projections for FY 09 and FY 10.

F. TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Mr. Richard Bradshaw, Commissioner of the Revenue, provided the Board with an update on the Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and Disabled. The Board took a straw vote of 5-0 to freeze the eligibility criteria and benefits for the program at current levels, and to revisit the program when the economy improves. Mr. Goodson expressed an interest in evaluating a tiered approach in the future.

G. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Mr. John McDonald, Manager of Financial and Management Services, discussed the FY 10 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and debt service payments. Mr. McDonald noted that the only project still on schedule in the FY 10 CIP was the Police Building/LEC Renovation. There was discussion of the \$8.8 million in excess funds from the school bond issue.

Mr. McDonald noted that the Ironbound Road Multiuse Trail received a grant to fund 80 percent of the \$3,545,000 project cost, but that a local match of \$709,000 was required. If the Board wanted to complete the project, Mr. McDonald recommended using funds from the Greenspace Account to provide the required local match. It was the consensus of the Board to continue the project and it would analyze funding options during the budget process.

H. ANNUAL REASSESSMENTS

Mr. John McDonald made a presentation on the assessment process. A majority of the Board members expressed their desire to convert from annual assessments to biennial reassessments beginning FY 11 and directed the staff to initiate the process required to make the change.

I. TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Steven Hicks, Manager of Development Management, provided the Board with an update on the devolution process. It was the consensus of the Board not to proceed with devolution at this time.

J. BUDGET GUIDANCE

Mr. McGlennon stated that he would support funding the Schools in FY 10 at the same level as the County funded in FY 09, given the magnitude of State reductions. He stressed the need to understand the impact of the expected \$4-4.5 million reduction in State funding for the Williamsburg-James City County Schools.

Mr. McGlennon asked about the Economic Development Authority (EDA) funding some of its economic development expenses. Mr. Wanner advised that he had discussed that with EDA officials.

It was the consensus of the Board that it would like to know how much revenue a utility tax would generate.

It was also the consensus of the Board that it would like to understand State and Federal mandates better, especially unfunded mandates.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the Board should consider if it wants to reimburse the State next year for the local functions it performs but does not fund.

Mr. Goodson made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.


Sanford B. Wanner
Clerk to the Board

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