

AT A BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2012, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM, 101 MOUNTS BAY ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Mary K. Jones, Chairman, Berkeley District
James O. Icenhour, Jr., Powhatan District
John J. McGlennon, Vice Chairman, Roberts District
James G. Kennedy, Stonehouse District
W. Wilford Kale, Jr., Jamestown District

Robert C. Middaugh, County Administrator

C. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Middaugh made opening remarks, stating that this budget is the result of years of planning, leadership of the Board, and the hard work of employees. He further stated that the budget includes no new taxes and that the average real estate tax bill declines by \$130 due to reassessments. He said the budget fully funds the request of the Schools and includes funds for a raise in the second year.

Mr. Middaugh said that the budget assumes an increase in the collection of delinquent taxes due to the establishment of a proposed position in the Treasurer's Office that will focus on delinquent taxes. He said overall he believed revenue estimates were conservative.

Mr. McGlennon asked for historical context about how quickly revenues rebounded after the last recessions.

Mr. Icenhour asked about the percent and amount of delinquent taxes.

Mr. Kennedy asked the average time of delinquency.

Mr. Middaugh highlighted that the budget contains an increase in the Advanced Life Support (ALS)/ Basic Life Support (BLS) fee and also includes a fee for the Police to check houses upon request for people who are on vacation. The proposed ALS/BLS fee would keep it equal to that of the City of Williamsburg.

Mr. Kennedy expressed concerns about the house check fee.

Mr. McGlennon said that he was open-minded about the fee, as it was possible that Police checking on houses of those who are on vacation could be taken away from where they are most needed.

Discussion began on expenditures with a discussion on the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

Mr. Middaugh explained that the budget includes the mandated 5 percent increase in salary to offset the mandatory 5 percent employee contribution in VRS as approved by the General Assembly. Mr. Middaugh proposed a 5.7 percent salary increase to completely offset the VRS contribution.

Mr. Kennedy asked that the County Attorney research the constitutionality of the General Assembly that required local governments to give a salary increase.

Mr. Middaugh noted that health insurance is increasing 8.8 percent and recommended that the County absorb the cost for most plans since there is no salary increase in the budget. He also noted that the budget increases in motor fuels and stays on schedule with vehicle replacement.

Mr. Middaugh noted that the overtime budget in the Police Department is increasing because it has been miscalculated for the current fiscal year.

Mr. McGlennon asked when staffing was last increased. There was discussion about the number of police officers per 1,000 population.

Mr. Middaugh stated that he did not believe this was a useful measure to determine the appropriate level of staffing. He said that crime rates and how safe the citizens feel are better indicators. Mr. Middaugh stated that contract services in the Treasurer's Office increased due to credit card fees that allow citizens to pay for services with a credit card. He reiterated that the position to increase the collection of delinquent taxes is in this budget.

Mr. Middaugh said that a new position was proposed for Real Estate Assessments, specifically another position to maintain the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) system. The Planning budget is reduced by one position; the Zoning Enforcement budget includes additional funds to increase the County's ability to pursue more major cleanups and grass/trash violations. The Engineering and Resource Protection budget eliminates a position through attrition. The Building Safety and Permits includes \$50,000 for removal and securing of unsafe structure.

Mr. Allen Murphy, Acting Manager of Development Management and Planning Director, said that the \$50,000 would not address all unsafe structures in the County.

Mr. Kennedy said that the County needs to establish criteria for this program.

Mr. Middaugh noted that there were also funds in the Housing and Community Development budget to address the needs of people living in these structures.

Discussion continued on the Facilities Maintenance budget, and Mr. Middaugh stated that a new position was proposed here to maintain the growing number of County facilities.

Mr. Kennedy asked about the potential for sharing resources with the Schools.

Mr. John Horne, Manager of General Services, said that the Schools staff is stretched very thin as they have lost resources. He said this position would improve preventative maintenance as well as responding to specific issues or problems.

Mr. Kennedy asked how far behind the County is in preventative maintenance and if one position can make a difference.

Mr. Horne said the County is keeping up with HVAC and electrical systems. It is the general building section, which includes painting, plumbing, and security systems, where the County is falling behind in preventative maintenance.

Mr. Middaugh stated that additional funds for contractual services and two new positions are also being requested in the Grounds Maintenance budget. This would allow the County to increase attention to maintenance of medians, stormwater facilities, and trails.

Mr. Kennedy asked that the new expenses be divided into new positions and the salary increases for existing employees.

Mr. Middaugh stated that the Parks and Recreation's budget reflects the elimination of a position. He also stated that a new program is proposed for the James River Community Center in an effort to engage more citizens in the community surrounding the Community Center and a new program to replace the 4th-grade Learn to Swim Program.

Mr. McGlennon asked about the nature of the neighborhood based program.

Mr. John Carnifax, Director of Parks and Recreation, said that the Department has restructured, while eliminating a position, and hired a person to concentrate solely on the James River Community Center and increasing participation in the area's neighborhoods. Mr. Carnifax also said the Department has revised its financial assistance program.

Mr. McGlennon asked about revenue estimates, noting that there were no significant increases anticipated.

Mr. Carnifax replied that trends did not indicate that revenues would increase substantially in the next year, but that could change if the economy improves as families tend to reduce expenditures on recreation during difficult economic times.

With regard to outside agencies, Mr. Middaugh said the proposed budget level funds most agencies. Mr. Middaugh noted that the budget reduces the budget for Community Action Agency's (CAA) Neighborhood Basketball League, specifically targeted for the banquet. Mr. Middaugh noted that the funds for Housing Partnerships have been moved into the Housing and Community Development's budget. He also noted that one new agency, Grove Christian Outreach Center, is funded. He said this agency has been active and effective in delivering services. He suggested eliminating funding for the After Prom events and the Med Flight program.

Mr. Kennedy asked if James City County was the only locality funding CAA.

Mr. Middaugh said the City funds CAA, and York County provides a small amount of funding.

Mr. Kennedy asked about funding compared to service levels to the three jurisdictions.

Mr. Kale asked about the After Prom events and suggested that many in the County contribute to this program and wondered if the County should remove itself as a sponsor.

Mr. Kennedy asked about the Hampton Roads Partnership.

Mr. Middaugh responded that the Partnership had been put on notice by all of the Hampton Roads localities last year. The consensus of the Board was to eliminate the funding for Hampton Roads Partnership.

Mr. Kennedy asked what would be done with the funds being eliminated from the Hampton Roads Partnership.

Ms. Suzanne Mellen, Assistant Manager of Financial and Management Services, said that an errata sheet would be presented at the next work session.

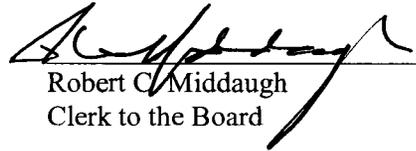
Mr. Middaugh noted that the economic development incentives were for Owens-Illinois. He also noted the funds reserved for a salary increase for FY 13 and hoped to add funds to it.

Mr. Icenhour asked what happened to unused contingency and why the personnel contingency was so high in FY 12.

Ms. Mellen responded that it was due to the bonuses awarded to employees.

Ms. Mellen stated she had answers to questions asked earlier. She stated that grass/trash liens are added to the property owner's account and become a delinquency. Equipment maintenance increases are partly attributable to the expiration of warranties at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC). She also stated that the Grounds positions cost about \$25,000 each in salary.

Ms. Jones recessed the Board until April 30 at 6 p.m.


Robert C. Middaugh
Clerk to the Board