

AT A RECONVENED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE TWENTIETH DAY OF APRIL, NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE, AT 7:00 P.M., AT BERKELEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IRONBOUND ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

A. ROLL CALL

Jack D. Edwards, Chairman, Berkeley District
 Abram Frink, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Roberts District
 Gilbert A. Bartlett, Jamestown District
 Perry M. DePue, Powhatan District
 Stewart U. Taylor, Stonehouse District

James B. Oliver, Jr., County Administrator
 John E. McDonald, Assistant to the County Administrator
 Frank M. Morton, III, County Attorney

B. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 1982 BUDGET

Mr. Edwards commented that the Board has held several work sessions on the budget and other public hearings. He noted that this public hearing will give citizens a final opportunity to voice their opinions concerning the budget. Mr. Edwards opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ed Oyer of 139 Indian Circle addressed the Board. He stated that he had a signed petition with 64 signatures of persons living in Poplar Hall Subdivision who were not able to attend the public hearing. He commented that the assessments in Poplar Hall are too high and the people are not at all happy about that. He said he felt it would be a mistake to have the vocational training at Lafayette move to Vo-Tech because the students would be at a disadvantage.

Mr. Robert Clifford of 109 Shellbank Drive said that capital expenditures should be cut and over 60% could possibly be saved in capital project funds. He said that the capital projects for FY 1982 seems excessive, considering the fact that most of the county infrastructure was built in 1972 - 1980 and is now in place. He commented that it is very difficult to make an analysis of capital expenditures in the budget because they are not itemized. He questioned the Sheriff's Building not being mentioned in the budget, and he also questioned the \$350,000 for Landfill equipment. Mr. Clifford urged the Board to consider the proposed table he prepared suggesting a 60% reduction in capital expenditures in years ahead.

Mr. Bill Brown of 106 Wake Robin Road said that this budget is different from those in the past. He said that the reduction in the capital budget is good and he noted that last year the budget requested 18 new positions and this year only 8½ positions are requested. He added that he supports the 16% salary increase for teachers. Mr. Brown said that the 4¢ tax reduction rate is very important and more significant than in the past. He asked that in the future the Board expound on and look into the rapid growth of public utilities. He said that he felt the formats for the budget in the past were more helpful. He noted that the Board has eliminated a contribution to the Peninsula Economic Development Council and urged them to reconsider that because he feels the county will have more influence if they participate.

Mr. Chase Hearn of Kingspoint said that agreed that the format of this year's budget was not very helpful. He said that James City County's expenditures for goods and services exceed the national averages. He asked the Board to stop using surplus money for unnecessary expensive capital projects and instead use that surplus money for legal expenses in case of a court battle. Mr. Hearn questioned the need for a full-time county recreation coordinator and said that the county's transit system is a failure and does not meet its stated purposes. He urged the Board to eliminate waste of county taxpayers' money.

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Mr. Oyer again spoke, commenting that based on his own observations, he too feels the county's transit system is very inadequate and is not meeting the needs of all citizens.

Mr. Tom Campbell of Whittaker's Mill agreed with the comments concerning the budget format because he said the average person has a difficult time putting it all together. He said that according to the Economic Base Study Kingsmill is the only subdivision paying its way. He said if that's the case, why not let Williamsburg have Kingspoint. He spoke against money being spent for a legal battle on annexation.

Mr. George Sweeney of 19 Gray Gable Drive stated that he is not familiar with the budget, but he is convinced that the Board should reevaluate certain programs to see if they are really beneficial the county, and to carefully study the need for new programs. He said that higher taxes makes it very difficult for citizens to lead the type of life they want.

Mrs. Inez Mihalcoe, President of the Bruton Heights Parent/Teachers Association addressed the Board in support of the school system's budget. She made reference to the possibility of one of the nurses being eliminated at the elementary schools which would mean that two schools would have to share a nurse. She asked what will happen to those children with different health problems such as epilepsy, diabetes, downs syndrome and other diseases where medication is necessary throughout the day. She said that at the present time the child cannot even carry aspirin with them and seriously questioned how this will be handled. She urged the Board to support the school system's budget.

Mr. Cy Tabbot of 107 Cooley Road addressed the Board. He stated that he understood the primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss tax levies and therefore his comments would be geared toward that. He said that he realizes the county must have money to operate James City County and the money must come from various tax levies with the greater part coming from taxpayers. He also said that the Board members have a thankless job and are to be commended for taking such a position. Mr. Tabbot further stated that the 4¢ reduction in the tax rate is welcome but another element of tax levies, assessment, is the key to the constant increase in taxes and is completely out of control. He said that property that has been in families for many generations the assessment is so high that persons cannot afford to pay the tax, yet they want to keep the property which means they are forced to sell or go in debt to pay taxes. He stated that the Board's Annual report is excellent and speaks of a cut in the tax rate, but it is silent on the increase of assessments. He quoted a portion of the County Administrator's budget message in which it says that the county's revenue growth continues to be healthy. He said that it is healthy because the assessor keeps it that way. He asked how many persons can sell at the assessed amount of their property. Concerning the possible court battle on annexation, he said that most of the citizens are in the dark about annexation anyway, yet the budget asks citizens to support something that they don't really know about. Mr. Tabbot said that it doesn't matter to him whether he lives in James City County or the City of Williamsburg because you still have to pay. He urged the Board to consider placing controls on the assessment of real property; disapprove the capital projects except for the aerial ladder truck and \$498,00 for water development - both can be funded through revenue sharing. He concluded that he supports the school system's budget and urged the Board not to go to court over annexation.

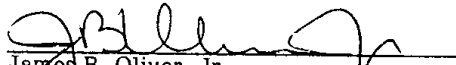
Mr. Tom Mahone of Kingspoint said that he is being overtaxed. He said the county's tax rate is 82¢ versus the city's 70¢, yet they have curbs, gutters, streetlights, good fire and police department - and James City County also has a good fire and police department. He commented that he does not know where the money is being spent, but he feels the county is spending more money than what citizens are receiving in services. Mr. Mahone said that he has worked on budget documents and he knows that you ask for more than you really expect to get. He said that he does not have any specific methods for reduction aside from the fact that work done at the county landfill could be subcontracted and would save the county money. He urged the Board to find ways to cut taxes.

There being no other speakers, Mr. Edwards thanked those persons who spoke and closed the hearing. He invited persons to attend the Board's final

work session on the budget to be held on April 21, 1981 at 3:00 P.M. at the County Government Center.

Mr. DePue moved to recess until 3:00 April 21, 1981. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting RECESSED at 8:10 P.M.



James B. Oliver, Jr.
Clerk to the Board

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