

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF JAMES CITY, VIRGINIA, HELD ON THE NINETEENTH OF APRIL, NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AT 7 P.M. IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM, 101 MOUNTS BAY ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

A. ROLL CALL

Abram Frink, Jr., Chairman, Roberts District
 Perry M. DePue, Vice Chairman, Powhatan District
 Jack D. Edwards, Berkeley District
 Thomas D. Mahone, Jamestown District
 Stewart U. Taylor, Stonehouse District

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

B. PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Oliver called upon Mr. McDonald to make the presentation before the Board. He said that this would be the last of several public hearings and work sessions the Board would have on the 1982-1983 Budget.

Mr. McDonald began by noting that the budget has been in the hands of the public for five weeks, and County staff has received a lot of comments on its contents. Mr. McDonald then went on to briefly summarize the proposed budget.

He explained that some of the factors to be considered involved the impact of inflation, annexation, decreases in the amount of State and Federal support, and improved revenue forecasting.

Mr. McDonald said that the budget minimizes increases in the operating budget, supports teacher salaries, provides funds for adequate law enforcement, proposes to continue the County's water development program, strengthens the County's recreation program, and increases the amount of local funds available for public health facilities.

Mr. McDonald then said that the County staff firmly believes that the budget as presented will result in an adequate and progressive financial plan for the County in fiscal year 1983.

Mr. Frink then opened the public hearing.

Mr. Norman D. Thomas, Individual Services Director, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Inc. read a statement in which he enumerated the needs of the elderly and endorsed the proposed budget.

Mr. Frank Shatz, a resident of James City County, and a native of Czechoslovakia, spoke and requested the Board to approve the library's budget request. He said that his country had been a seat of learning until World War II when the Nazis invaded and burned the books in their libraries because they knew that books fostered democracy. Mr. Shatz felt that the County could not spend more wisely than by investing in the library. He said that he would be willing to pay increased taxes in order to do this.

Dr. David Borland also spoke in favor of approval of the library's budget as the Library Board had presented it. He noted that

AAJ937

he had been a resident of the County for four years and had found that our library was as good as any he had found elsewhere. He said that the City of Williamsburg was willing to pay its share of the library expenses and he felt that James City County should do likewise. He then enumerated some statistics regarding library use which pointed out that County residents are very actively availing themselves of the services of the library.

Dr. Joyce K. Sancetta of 122 Holly Road also entered a plea to the Board that they not cut funds for the library. She said that she is a library volunteer doing humble jobs at the library. Sometimes they circulate as much as a thousand books a day; over half of these are used by James City County residents.

Mr. Warren H. Tignor spoke next. He said that he has lived in the County for 13 years and would like to stay in this area, but he feels that he is being "taxed out" of the County. Mr. Tignor wished the record to show that he was against raising County taxes.

Mr. John Dayton, a resident of the Kingspoint neighborhood, said that he didn't like to take a position of opposing funds for the library but his feelings were similar to those of Mr. Tignor, the previous speaker. He said that he thought the County should save the resources it has in order to maintain the quality of our facilities. Mr. Dayton said that in his opinion this is a time for conservation and care rather than expansion.

Mr. Mahone, the Supervisor from the Jamestown District, then read a letter from one of his constituents wherein this citizen pointed out areas where he felt the County could save money. Some of the things he was concerned with were the purchase and replacement of vehicles, money for bikeways, public assistance funds. This citizen emphasized that it is the business of the Board to see that funds are made available to run the County where these monies will do the most good.

Mr. Mahone then read another letter he had received from a constituent who proclaimed himself in favor of a tax decrease to help County citizens keep up with the ill effects of inflation. This citizen advocated the County spending money only for those basic services that benefit everyone.

Mr. Frink then closed the public hearing.

Mr. Edwards noted at this time that some State money had been made available for the library and this would reduce the discrepancy between the library and County budget proposals from \$50,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. DePue said he wished to make public notice of the fact that he was very proud of the fact that the Board had decreased taxes last year. He wanted to emphasize the fact that the average taxpayer in James City County did not experience an increase in real estate tax last year.

Some discussion then followed among members of the Board whether or not some decisions could be made at this meeting concerning the County's proposed budget.

The consensus was that decisions could be made at this meeting. However, Mr. Mahone, had hoped for more work sessions for further discussion. He had a question concerning the line items and the Capital Improvements. He wanted to know if the Board approved this budget would it automatically approve all the Capital Improvements. Mr. Oliver said that specific projects wouldn't be considered until the funds are in place.

Mr. Mahone was looking for places where the County might save money on personnel expense. He noted that County workers only work 35 hours a week whereas employees in the jurisdictions of Hampton, Poquoson and Newport News work a 40-hour week. It was his thought that if County employees worked longer hours, it would not be necessary to hire some new employees.

Mr. Oliver suggested to the Board that it might be a good idea to have a work session on the County's Personnel Rules and Regulations. He said that this is a fairly complicated subject that he would like to deal with in that kind of a context. He also noted that fire personnel work a 56-hour week and that the James City Service Authority personnel work a 40-hour week.

At this juncture, Mr. Taylor referred to the suggestion he had made at another meeting concerning decreasing the tax on real estate four cents from \$.74 to \$.70 per \$100. In order to balance the budget he advocated certain deductions from the Capital Improvement budget-- \$138,000 from Recreation, \$25,000 from Public Works and \$155,000 from Water Development. Mr. Taylor put this in the form of a motion.

On a roll call, the vote was AYE: Taylor (1). NAY: Frink, DePue, Edwards, Mahone (4). The motion was defeated.

Mr. DePue then referred to the memorandum which had been circulated to the Board members from the County staff. This memorandum explained that it was possible because of an increase in ABC profits and a change in the method of payment to VSRS for the County to feel comfortable about a reduction of the real estate tax to \$.73 per \$100. Mr. DePue put forward a motion which approved of the provisions as presented in the staff memorandum of April 9th. The memorandum recommended a \$75,000 reduction in taxes; a reduction in capital improvement funds for public works in the amount of \$25,000; a decrease of \$155,000 for water development; and that \$180,000 be transferred within the capital budget and allocated for the Human Services Building.

On a roll call, the vote was AYE: Frink, DePue, Edwards, Mahone, (4). NAY: Taylor (1). The motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Mahone said that he had some recommendations of his own that he would like to put forth to the County in an effort to lower budget requirements for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Mahone's suggestion was to further lower real estate tax to \$.70 by cutting \$150,000 from the capital budget and \$90,000 from the operating budget. He hoped to accomplish this by cutting most of the County Departments' personnel budget proposals by 2 percent, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services by 1 percent, and the school budget by .25 percent.

Mr. DePue interjected that one of the reasons he had accepted the County's budget was because he believed that it was a tight budget. However, if there should be another large surplus in revenue, he would be rather unhappy and would call for another reduction in taxes in August.

Mr. Frink asked if Mr. Mahone wished to make a motion to this effect, which he did. On a roll call, the vote was AYE: Mahone, Taylor (2). NAY: Frink, DePue, Edwards (3). The motion was defeated.

Some discussion followed about further cuts the County could make in order to save taxpayers' money. Among the suggestions was a decrease of 1 percent in the cost of living raise for County employees due to the fact that inflation seems to have slowed down.

Another suggestion was slowing down the rate of growth of County salaries plus making attempts to raise the hourly work week in an effort to keep from unnecessarily expanding personnel.

The Supervisors indicated that they would like to hear staff's reactions to some of these suggestions.

AAJ937

Mr. Oliver then told the Board that the staff would return at the next meeting with budget resolutions incorporating the changes the Board had just adopted.

Mr. Frink indicated that the Board should convene into Executive Session to consider a personnel matter.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to convene into Executive Session according to Section 2.1-344 (a)(1) of the Code of Virginia 1950 as amended.

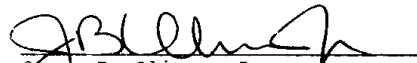
On a roll call, the vote was AYE: Frink, DePue, Edwards, Mahone, Taylor (5). NAY: (0).

The Board convened into Executive Session at 9:20 P.M. and reconvened into Public Session at 9:50 P.M.

Mr. Edwards moved that the Board adjourn.

On a roll call, the vote was AYE: Frink, DePue, Edwards, Mahone, Taylor (5). NAY: (0).

The Board ADJOURNED at 9:55 P.M.


James B. Oliver, Jr.
Clerk to the Board