

A SPECIAL WORK SESSION WAS HELD BY THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 13TH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 9:00 A.M., HAVING BEEN CONTINUED FROM APRIL 11, 2016.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stiers called the meeting, continued from April 11, 2016, back to order. He welcomed School Superintendent Dave Myers, School Board members, staff and citizens.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Present
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Present
Patricia A. Paige	Present
Ron Stiers	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

All members were present.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Davis moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A.3 of the Code of Virginia regarding the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of the County involving the Heritage Public Library. The members were polled:

Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried. The Board went into closed session.

Mr. Davis moved to return to open session. The members were polled:

C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried.

Mr. Davis moved that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion to go into closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session. The members were polled on the certification:

Patricia A. Paige	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye

Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: HERITAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISCUSSION

Mr. Davis moved to authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract with Maidstone Group LLC to purchase the former bank building in the Maidstone shopping center for a purchase price of \$950,000 to be used as a public library, subject to approval of the Purchase Agreement by the County Attorney. The members were polled:

W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Nay
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: FY 2017 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway noted the May work session had been set as the FY17 Budget adoption date (May 25, 2016). He also noted advertisements would need to be submitted to local papers by Friday, April 22, 2016 in order to meet code publication requirements for public hearings to be conducted at the May regular meeting (May 9, 2016).

Mr. Hathaway indicated that eight or nine different scenarios regarding how to use the additional FY17 fund revenue had been discussed over recent months. These scenarios had been narrowed down to two remaining options; one based on an \$0.83 tax rate (\$199,457 in additional revenue) and the other based on an \$0.84 tax rate (\$2,262,460 in additional revenue). Handouts providing option details had been placed at each Board member's seat prior to the meeting. Mr. Hathaway provided a brief overview of the options pointing out differences and clarifying some of the line items. He indicated the \$145,667 net increase in County department budgets contained in all options resulted from new positions which had been added over the course of the previous year but had not been included in the FY16 budget. The \$26,705 net increase in non-major capital expenditures also contained in all options resulted from the need for new public safety related server storage equipment.

Some items to be funded with Option A, using the \$0.83 tax rate, included two new firefighter positions (\$114,964), additional school construction set aside funding equal to \$0.01 of the tax rate (\$257,847), full funding of schools (\$400,000) and \$154,794 for a new fire station. Mr. Hathaway noted his original budget proposal had included no raises for employees but this option included a 1.5% COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) for employees not receiving the State funded 2% COLA. He also pointed out \$512,747 in additional funding would cover the increased debt service resulting from the new public safety radio project. He reminded the Board the original financing plan for this project had called for a one cent tax rate increase in FY17 and noted this was no longer necessary. Differences between Option A and Option B, using the \$0.83 tax rate were that Option B included three fire fighters at a cost of \$172,446 and partial school funding totaling \$340,000.

Some items to be funded with Option A, using the \$0.84 tax rate, included five new firefighter positions (\$287,410), additional school construction set aside funding equal to \$0.01 of the tax rate (\$257,847), full funding of schools (\$400,000) and \$191,015 for a new fire station. This option included a 2% COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) for employees not receiving the State funded 2% COLA. Differences between Option A and Option B, using the \$0.84 tax rate were that Option B included additional funding for a new fire station totaling \$217,485 and partial school funding totaling \$384,140.

Mr. Evelyn pointed out the handout suggested a new fire station would cost \$2.2 million dollars and asked for clarification. Mr. Hathaway suggested it would be easier and save funding for the County to build a new fire station on property it already owned on Route 106. Mr. Evelyn noted although fire/EMS calls were highest in the western end of the County, he felt we should be looking for a potential fire station site closer to Lanexa. Ms. Paige asked how four new firefighter positions would impact the Lanexa Fire Station. Fire Chief Rick Opett indicated four new firefighters would be able to provide 24/7 coverage for twenty days of the month with the remaining ten days having part-time coverage.

Ms. Paige noted she had been looking into the possibility of adding a Procurement Manager position for FY17 and asked if this was something the Board could consider. Mr. Hathaway indicated it could be done but it would take away from the firefighter positions. He suggested such a position with cost approximately \$85,000 in salary and benefits and the funding would have to be found within the proposed budget. Mr. Davis indicated the County had previously considered this but had felt there had not been enough work to warrant the position. Mr. Hathaway suggested there was enough work now to keep someone in this position busy. Mr. Stiers indicated when the Board had previously considered this, they had hoped the schools would be interested in sharing the position but that unfortunately had not been the case. Mr. Hathaway agreed that the previous Superintendent had not been interested but this possibility had not been discussed with the current Superintendent.

Mr. Tiller noted his support for Option A using an \$0.84 tax rate. He asked if it would be possible to reduce the number of part-time firefighters and, with the additional funding for new positions, have six full-time firefighter positions. Chief Opett indicated this could be done. Mr. Tiller suggested his priorities would be full funding to the schools at \$400,000, five to six firefighter positions and a 2% COLA for employees.

Mr. Evelyn asked how many firefighter positions had been added the previous year. Chief Opett indicated there had been two firefighters and a Deputy Fire Chief added in FY16. Mr. Evelyn indicated he was well aware of the County's need for additional firefighters. He indicated the County had gone "NUA" (No Units Available) several times recently and he believed the Board should look very hard at public safety this year.

Mr. Hathaway asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Tiller indicated he had a question for School Superintendent David Myers. He asked if the County provided the schools with the additional \$400,000 requested to address the salary compression issue and provide employees raises, how far into the future would this be a help. Dr. Myers indicated the additional funding would not fix the problem but it would help. He suggested it would fix most of the compression issues and provide for a 1.5% interval between steps on the teacher salary scale. He reported that staff were finding it increasingly difficult to look for math teachers at recruitment fairs when New Kent's starting salary was \$7,000 lower than what other localities were offering. Mr. Tiller asked if the School Board would be back year after year asking for increases. Dr. Myers noted the School Board had put forward a conservative budget request and had carefully prioritized needs, removing a number of items they would have liked to include.

Mr. Evelyn commented in regard to the Board's earlier decision to purchase the Maidstone bank building for use as a public library. He noted there would be no need for a tax increase to fund this purchase and there would be zero impact on the budget. Mr. Stiers indicated the County was currently renting space for a library and the library rental budget would no longer be needed. He noted renovation work on the building would start forty-five days after signing the contract and the completion time would be six months. He indicated this was a step forward for the County and the new location would allow the library to better serve as an extension of our schools. Superintendent Myers indicated the School Board was very happy about having the library located so close to three County schools. Mr. Stiers noted that fifty percent of the County budget was for schools and the County's investment in the new public safety radio project affected every student in the County. He also drew attention to the County's plans for additional set aside funds for the construction of a new school and its current efforts to provide broadband service.

Ms. Paige indicated she felt very strongly that if the State would be providing constitutional officers a 2% COLA, then County employees should also receive a 2% COLA. She also noted her support for the \$257,847 in school set aside funding. She reminded the Board if the County was able to fund an additional fire station it would also be necessary to think about funding for staffing, equipment and apparatus for that station. She asked Chief Opett what the impact of three new firefighters would be and specifically asked if crews were out responding to an accident, would there be enough staff remaining to be able to respond to other calls at the same time. Chief Opett indicated three additional firefighters would fix one shift for ten days of the month. He indicated stations were running three shifts and two would be the minimum staffing needed to respond to a call. Ms. Paige asked if the County could limit the number of responses to calls outside of New Kent and if they did, would they be frowned upon as not being good neighbors. Chief Opett indicated he believed out of County calls could be limited while remaining good funding stewards and good neighbors.

Mr. Evelyn asked if the County currently had enough fire apparatus to equip a new fire station. Chief Opett indicated the County did have enough ambulances and fire apparatus to cover a new fire station but there would be no fire apparatus in reserve. There was currently \$150,000 in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for fire apparatus and the County was also pursuing grant funding options. Purchasing used apparatus was also an option.

Mr. Hathaway indicated the Board needed to set a tax rate. He pointed out there were two public hearings required by State Code; one for the tax rate public hearing conducted at the April 11, 2016 meeting and the other for the budget public hearing to be conducted on May 9, 2016. Mr. Stiers suggested they move forward with a proposed rate of \$0.84 with the understanding the Board could still decide to go lower. Mr. Evelyn indicated he was okay with advertising the rate at \$0.84 but noted he would not support a vote for this rate. He indicated he felt the County could satisfy everyone's needs without a tax increase. Mr. Davis indicated he supported Option B using an \$0.83 tax rate which included reduced funding to schools. He noted the schools had reported additional FY17 revenue of \$1.1 million from the State and he did not feel the County should fully fund the \$400,000 request. Mr. Stiers indicated his support for Option A using an \$0.83 tax rate with full funding to the schools. He noted the County was projecting an additional \$2 million in FY17 revenue and he would not support a tax rate increase to \$0.84. Mr. Davis added that he felt "new money should be spent on new services".

Comments were made regarding a new fire station on County property located on Route 106. Mr. Evelyn suggested \$20,000 could be moved from the school set aside funding to reduce the cost of a new fire station on Route 106. Mr. Stiers asked if the County had not

been proffered a fire station at this location. Mr. Hathaway indicated the County had been proffered five acres which could be used for building a fire station but the station itself had not been proffered. He also noted a \$750,000 proffer payment from the developer in the area was past due. Mr. Evelyn indicated he also felt the County should look into negotiating with property owners in the Bottoms Bridge area for a potential fire station site.

Ms. Paige reminded Board members about the report given by Davenport at the Budget Retreat on March 18, 2016. She asked what would happen in 2020 when the County needed to build a new school and she also pointed out the School Board was reporting the need for major repairs at one school now. She suggested it would be far better to ask for a one cent increase now and set those funds aside for future school construction than to wait five years and have to ask for a much larger tax rate increase. She suggested the County was taking the approach "we found \$2 million so we're going to spend \$2 million." She stressed that the Board needed to be good stewards and pointed out the Schools, the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department would all come back again next year requesting additional funding. She again expressed her feeling regarding the need for a Purchasing Director or Procurement Manager. She suggested such a position could save money in the long run through negotiating contracts for services such as copiers and cell phones. Ms. Paige also pointed out there were currently thirty-two County-owned cars being left in parking lots each day and asked "who buys a new car every year?" She noted this Board was not talking about what to do in 2020 and suggested their discussions "can't be just about this Board. We have to consider future boards too."

Mr. Stiers suggested the Board shouldn't visualize the County as standing still and not growing. He noted the County was growing and pointed out HCA's (Hospital Corporation of American) plans to come to the County as well as Love's Travel Center which was estimated to generate an additional \$500,000 in revenue. Ms. Paige also pointed out the County currently had no provisions for senior citizens. Mr. Stiers suggested that as the County grew, so should the revenue. He also suggested Board members should have a little faith.

In response to Ms. Paige's comment regarding County vehicles, Mr. Evelyn asked Sheriff McLaughlin what drove his department's decision to request new vehicles. Sheriff McLaughlin indicated a number of factors were considered including safety, mileage and cost of maintenance.

Ms. Paige suggested each Supervisor needed to consider the needs of their constituents. She indicated there were many seniors in her district who would have to go outside of the County to find services if something were to happen to them and they were not able to return home. She noted all Board members with the exception of Mr. Evelyn were seniors. She suggested her comments were not due to a "lack of faith and vision. It is all about faith and vision." She indicated she wanted the County to grow but she also wanted the Board to be good stewards. She pointed out that many older families without children were moving into the County and they would need services. She also indicated she wanted the children of the County to be educated and she wanted to see RCC (Rappahannock Community College) grow. She indicated she wanted everyone to understand where she stood.

Mr. Davis noted Ms. Paige had brought up a good point when she mentioned older families without children moving into the County. He asked Building Official Clarence Jackson what percentage of the COs (Certificates of Occupancy) issued by his department were in age restricted communities. Mr. Jackson suggested approximately half of all COs issued by Building Development were in the K. Hovnanian age restricted community. Mr. Evelyn suggested progressive care was a big need in the County too. Mr. Stiers indicated he had been involved in discussions regarding the possibility of an assisted living community in New

Kent for approximately two years. He indicated this would have been a \$75 million dollar project but had learned earlier this year that the investors had backed out. He also reported the Board had looked into the possibility of an adult café in a building on Route 249. Mr. Davis suggested the industry recognized progressive care as a money-making business and when the numbers were there, it would come to New Kent. He pointed out the population of New Kent had increased significantly in the time he had served on the Board and more seniors would be moving into the County.

Mr. Tiller indicated there were many people in the County on fixed incomes and noted no one had contacted him asking that the tax rate not be set at \$0.84. He pointed out a tax rate of \$0.84 would result in a \$50.00 annual tax increase on a half million dollar home (\$10.00 on a \$100,000 dollar home, etc.) and suggested this wasn't much of a difference. Mr. Tiller suggested the Board keep the tax rate at \$0.84 and move forward with funding additional firefighters, full funding for schools and raises for County employees.

The general consensus was to move forward with Option A using a tax rate of \$0.84 with the understanding the Board could decide to lower the rate.

IN RE: APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Tiller moved to appoint Wayne Marks as District Two's representative to the Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee to serve a four-year term ending December 31, 2019. The members were polled:

Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Stiers announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors would be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016 and the next work session would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Both meetings would be held in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tiller moved to adjourn the meeting. The members were polled:

C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.