

A SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION WAS HELD BY THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 6TH DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 9:00 A.M.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Evelyn called the meeting to order.

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

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Davis moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to section 2.2-3711A.29 of the Code of Virginia for discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, and discussion of terms and scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board. This motion involves the Fire Station 5 Construction project. The members were polled:

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

The motion carried. The Board went into closed session.

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

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Davis moved to certify by roll call vote that to the best of each Board 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:

Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye

Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Evelyn reminded those present that the Board had advertised the Fiscal Year 2019 tax rate at \$0.83. He asked the other members of the Board how they felt about the advertised rate.

Mr. Davis said that he had concerns about the rate as advertised and felt the Board may be able to cut the tax rate by one cent.

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reviewed the County's current debt and including the proposed elementary school at \$30 million said that would bring the total debt to \$80 million. Mr. Davis said he was concerned the County would be over their debt service ratio of 12 percent and he questioned if the public knew that \$80 million debt would mean \$3,800 debt per resident. Mr. Evelyn asked if it affected our rating on bonds to be over the 12 percent debt service ratio. Mr. Hathaway said it was a potential concern but that the County's track record of paying things off early would help with rating as well.

Mr. Hathaway asked what items should be eliminated to cut one cent and what would be off limits.

Mr. Davis asked if the County was borrowing for Pine Fork Park and if there was any way to phase that project. Mr. Hathaway said that the first phase was storm water management as well as three to four fields. He said there was \$300,000 in the FY19 budget bringing the amount for Pine Fork Park to \$1.3 million now and a potential \$100,000 proffer with the Farms of New Kent amendments.

The County Administrator invited Parks and Recreation Director Kim Turner to the table as she had been working on this particular project since 2013. Ms. Turner said they could phase in the project and that they were currently in the site plan phase and working on timbering the property. She mentioned that she had worked on a VDOT grant that had fallen through. She said the project had also "fallen behind" in prior years due to schools, fire, and police needs in the budget. Mr. Davis said that he felt Parks and Recreation had more "customers" than Schools.

Community desires were discussed. Ms. Paige asked about the cost of a pool and how Charles City County could have a pool. Ms. Turner said that if New Kent County had built a pool years ago, they wouldn't be in this position. She talked about funding – specifically \$50,000 in site planning that grants would not cover, a possible redesign of the road due to joint access with a proposed subdivision, grants for playground equipment (in the \$300,000 range) and the fact that New Kent is considered a "wealthy" county when it comes to grant funding.

Ms. Paige asked about the operating costs of Pine Fork Park. Ms. Turner said that would depend on what goes into the park but gave the figure of \$100,000, not counting staffing, and said that there would be a possibility for revenue with tournaments. Assistant Financial Services Director Larry Clark indicated that \$150,000 was put in the FY19 budget for operations.

Mr. Evelyn commended Ms. Turner for her work on the park, said that she understood the tax implications that such a project brings, and that he knows she "counts every dollar."

Ms. Paige said that the whole Pine Fork Park process, for her, came down to numbers. "We 'think' \$3 million will build it, and we 'think' \$150,000 will operate it," she said. She added that she also wanted to be sure the park would serve the youngest to the youngest at heart. Mr. Hathaway stated that the master plan accommodated a great population.

Ms. Turner said staff was very conservative with their projections but that those numbers would go up. She said this was the best projection at this time. Mr. Hathaway added that he felt they were really "in the ballpark" with a \$4 million estimate because he had recently visited a park in Smithfield that had been built for \$4.5 million, but that Smithfield had received many private donations for that project.

Mr. Evelyn asked about the location of the water line. Ms. Turner indicated that the property would have a well.

Mr. Hathaway provided Ms. Paige a copy of the park's master plan, rendering and break out of the phases.

Ms. Turner discussed enrollment of recreation sports, travel sports and return on investment with fields.

Mr. Hathaway asked the Board to confirm that they were in agreement concerning the three-cent set aside, and the \$300,000 transfer to schools. The Board indicated that they were in agreement with those two items. Mr. Hathaway asked about the eight new positions included in the FY19 budget. Mr. Davis said that he thought they could cut some of the firefighter positions since Station 5 hadn't been built yet. He suggested funding two firefighters in FY19. Assistant Director of Financial Services, Larry Clark, said there would be a savings of \$232,000 in not hiring four additional firefighters. He noted one penny of the tax rate was \$283,336.

Mr. Hathaway also talked about the increase in per diem for Henrico Jail East offenders and told the Board to keep in mind that an additional School Resource Officer had been requested.

Mr. Evelyn said that funding for the Economic Development Authority could be cut from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. Stiers asked about the part-time consultant position with Economic Development. There was discussion concerning funding for six months (through December 2018) versus continuing funding through June 2019.

Mr. Evelyn asked about the timeframe for the budget. The County Administrator said that at the Board's April 9th business meeting, the public hearing on the tax rate would be held, and after 30 days the public hearing on the budget could then be held. He reminded Board members that they could lower the tax rate after it had been advertised, but not raise it.

Mr. Stiers asked about ambulance billing funds. Mr. Hathaway indicated that the money collected from ambulance billing went into the General Operating Fund and Fire Chief Rick Opett said that there was a 70 percent return overall on ambulance billing.

Mr. Evelyn asked what was known about state funding at this point. County Attorney Bill Hefty said that Medicaid expansion and raises for law enforcement were the hot topics being discussed in the General Assembly at the time.

Mr. Stiers asked for details and location of a possible shooting range. Sheriff J. J. "Joe" McLaughlin, Jr. said he had spoken with Henrico County about a possible location at Jail East and that there was always the option of improving the current location at the "landfill." He said they had discussed both an open range and a closed range and that he preferred the latter. The Sheriff continued on to say that the most recent numbers he had were \$160,000 for a two-person enclosed setup and that he would like to see two of those so you could have four people at a time. Mr. Stiers reminded everyone that Mr. John Poindexter, a local landowner, had said he would donate three or four acres to the County for this purpose. The Sheriff said one of his questions concerning Mr. Poindexter's offer was if the facility would be for public use and said that his concern would be liability of the County as an owner if the range was public and run by deputies. He also said he would like for deputies to be able to train at the facility during the day/week. Mr. Stiers and Mr. Davis both said they felt a public range was needed.

Mr. Tiller said that the Board needed to revisit the topic of the Economic Development Consultant and whether they would fund \$15,000 or \$30,000 for the upcoming year. Mr. Davis said six months would be the preference at this time.

Vehicle replacement was discussed with \$245,000 slated for the Sheriff's Office and \$40,000 for General Services to replace a van with almost 200,000 miles on it. Mr. Stiers asked if this vehicle needed to be van. Mr. Hathaway said that it would as it was used as an off-site vehicle for equipment, trash and hauling of other cleaning items.

Ms. Paige said that Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) was considering proposing an increase for localities due to the cost of storage of electronic recyclables, or E-Waste. It was her suggestion that the County, specifically the Clean County Committee, hold recycling events with no restrictions on the number of electronic items a resident could bring for recycling. She said the four-hour events could be held on a quarterly basis at different locations throughout the County and would provide an opportunity for electronics recycling and shredding. Mr. Hathaway said that a \$40,000 to \$45,000 savings could be realized from going this route versus offering electronics recycling at the refuse sites. Mr. Davis agreed and said that these events would give the Clean County Committee more visibility.

There was discussion about the Richmond Regional Tourism Board's notice that membership costs would be increasing to \$20,000 per year. Matthew Smolnik, Economic Development Director, said that with Colonial Downs being in closing with Revolutionary Racing at this time, that something to consider is raising the percentage of the occupancy tax (and the membership might fund itself) as people would need to stay in hotels in the area. Ms. Paige contended that those hotels and other attractions would promote themselves. Mr. Hathaway said that the Tourism Board did bring in conferences, tournaments and other events to the region. Mr. Smolnik added that the Tourism Board then pairs those events with hotels. The consensus of the Board was that they would have no voice on the Tourism Board for the extra cost and that it should be cut from the budget.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.