

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEW KENT WAS HELD ON THE TWENTY-NINTH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-SIX BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY MR. HENNAMAN FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Mr. Ringley opened the meeting and asked for a roll call.

Julian T. Lipscomb	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Frederick G. Bahr	Aye
Mark A. Hennaman	Aye
E. David Ringley	Aye

Mr. Ringley thanked all those in attendance and appreciated the Board of Supervisors for their diligence and work on the budget. He also thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the budget. There has been much sole searching concerning taxes for next year. The only item to be considered is the adoption of the 1996/97 Budget and Ordinance O-09-96. Mr. Ringley asked Mr. Cornwell, County Attorney, to read Ordinance O-09-96.

This Ordinance stipulates the real estate tax levy to be Eighty-two cents (\$0.82) per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation; personal property tax levy to be Three Dollars and Seventy-five cents (\$3.75) per hundred dollars of assessed valuation, except aircraft shall be taxed at One Dollar and Twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation; and machinery and tolls shall be taxed at Three Dollars (\$3.00) per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. E-911 tax levy shall remain at Two Dollars and Forty-two cents (\$2.42) per telephone bill. All other tax levies, rates, and charges shall continue at the existing rates established by the Board of Supervisors of New Kent County until duly amended.

Mr. Emerson stated this budget contains a General Fund amount of \$6,020,792, School Fund of \$12,159,074, Airport Fund \$58,820, E-911 Fund \$135,964, Water Fund \$160,000 and Capital Improvements Funds \$1,025,000 for a total of \$19,559,587.

Mr. Ringley asked the wish of the Board. Mr. Lipscomb moved to adopt Ordinance O-09-96 and adopt appropriate the FY 1996/97 budget as amended and submitted by the County Administrator in general categories as follows:

GENERAL FUND	\$ 6,020,729
SCHOOL FUND	12,159,074
AIRPORT FUND	58,820
E-911 FUND	135,964
WATER FUND	160,000
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND	1,025,000
TOTAL	\$19,559,587

Mr. Burrell stated this budget reflects approximately \$800,000 over last year's budget. There has been a lot of work put into this budget and we all have our hearts in the right place. During the Work Session on Monday, May 27th, he reluctantly agreed to go with 82 cents per hundred. There were a few things he mentioned and after learning of something they had talked about was in error, he is reluctant to go with that now. One of things they discussed was the pay decrease for the Board of Supervisors. We were told

that we couldn't do it and I have subsequently been told we can do this, we can't raise it but we can reduce it and if they wanted to go back they could. There was a three to two vote against that. Another area was eliminating fringe benefits for the supervisors and the Board did not agree on that either. He recommended a reduction in travel to only the essential travel, he recommended dues and memberships be held also to only those that were essential and the Board did not agree on that. He asked for either a salary freeze or a 2% maximum for the County employees. These are some of the things he felt they should have done and it would have helped reduce the budget some. After giving this a lot of thought, unless we do this we would be remiss to ask the citizens to come up with more money. We asked the school system to take a reduction and we are not willing to bite the bullet and set the example. From that standpoint, he cannot support the budget unless some of things were put into place.

Mr. Bahr stated feels the Board knows pennies are dear and we agreed to take a close look at expenditures during the year. He believes this is somewhat of a different state of mind than previous Board's have had. This is what the majority have decided upon he would not fight it now. We all realize this is a tough year and maybe a tough four years.

Mr. Burrell added, he didn't want any of the members to take this personally, he is voting his conscience and it is not a reflection on any Board member.

Julian T. Lipscomb	Aye
James H. Burrell	No
Frederick G. Bahr	Aye
Mark A. Hennaman	Aye
E. David Ringley	Aye

Motion passed.

FOR ORDINANCE O-09-96 AS ADOPTED, SEE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ORDER BOOK, PAGE 506.

Mr. Ringley asked if any Board member had any additional comments.

Mr. Burrell said one of the things they need to do is start looking at next year's budget very soon and they work as a team. They get with the agencies they are supporting and let them know the dire straights the County is in. We intend to raise the Fund Balance so they won't be in the situation they are this year and last year. He felt the citizens should know that they are doing their utmost to trim costs but it is more than likely they will have to raise taxes a small amount next year. If we work now we won't be caught in the crunch we are in and this is due to the fact the Board was reluctant to raise taxes the last two years. We should never get in to a position that we have to count pennies to make the budget balance. It would be his recommendation to the Board, they don't wait until February of next year to start the budget. Mr. Ringley responded, he agreed and they have already sent out a memo asking department heads not to spend down their 1995/96 budget. Any monies that are left will revert into the General Fund.

Mr. Hennaman stated he has been quiet through a lot of the public meetings they have had regarding the budget. He had some things on his mind and he would like to now state them. The adoption of the budget brings an end to a very long and grueling task for him, the other Board members and staff. He has been involved with preparation of budgets before but nothing could have prepared him for what a task this would be. So many legitimate needs and services which need funding. Of all the issues that were on his mind in trying to figure out how to balance the budget, the one thing that never entered his mind was how do we do this and still rip off the citizens of New Kent. That was never an issue, although there are some

people in the County who would have you believe this was an issue. It is a very sad commentary, people would have you believe this budget was an attempt to extort money from the unsuspecting citizens of New Kent than was necessary. What an incredible far reaching conspiracy this would have to be considering every public official in this County, every department head in the County, including department heads of agencies outside of the County were involved in putting this budget together. I know the people of New Kent are smarter and know better. On Wednesday, May 27th, some one hundred fifty citizens of the County turned out to comment on the proposed budget and he believed the message was very clear. After spending over three months on the budget, making cuts and reviewing it and making more cuts and reviewing it and then finally meeting again and making more cuts, he remains convinced, as he thinks most of his colleagues, they have made all the cuts possible that would have an impact on the budget of even one cent. This budget will reverse a trend that has occurred in government spending. In Fiscal 1995/96 the school division was cut in local funding almost a half of million dollars. This budget will restore that funding. Also in recent years the County was spending money out of its General Fund and or savings account as we have called it, and this budget will begin to replenish that fund. Also, be sure of this, this Board will not be spending your money in a manner in which it has in the past. There is one common goal among each five Board members, to restore the financial integrity of New Kent County and to do that they will need your help.

Mr. Ringley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Julian T. Lipscomb	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Frederick G. Bahr	Aye
Mark A. Hennaman	Aye
E. David Ringley	Aye