

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

March 28, 2023

A meeting of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors was held on the 28th day of March 2023 in the Board of Supervisors meeting room of the Walter J. Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Matt W. Cline, Chairman, Presiding	Concord Election District
Kenneth R. Brown	Spring Hill Election District
Justin A. Carwile	Timberlake Election District
Jon R. Hardie	Rustburg Election District
A. Dale Moore	Altavista Election District
Steve W. Shockley	Sunburst Election District
Charlie A. Watts II	Brookneal Election District

Also present were:

Frank J. Rogers, County Administrator
Clifton M. Tweedy, Deputy County Administrator
F. E. "Tripp" Isenhour, III, County Attorney
Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Chairman Cline called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed.

// PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2024 BUDGET

Administrator Rogers advised a public hearing was advertised to receive public comment on the proposed FY 2024 Budget. The budget process started in January with an opportunity to speak on the budget with another public comment period in March. The proposed budget was just under \$91.7 million and included the recommendations to set the real estate tax rate at \$0.455, reduce the personal property tax rate from \$4.31 to \$4.11 and reduce the BPOL rates by 5%. The recommendation included taxing personal property using an 80% assessment ratio.

Chairman Cline opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. He asked speakers to give their name and address and to limit comments to three minutes or five minutes if representing a group.

Dr. David Gifford, 285 Beasley Road, Lynchburg, did not envy the Board's job and having to raise property taxes by 17.2% when people were already struggling with other rising costs. He had looked over the budget and Administrator Rogers had answered a lot of his questions. He thought the budget was conservative, but he would not have spent so much on schools. It worked out to be about \$500 per child per year. Dr. Gifford estimated the County spent in total approximately \$3,700 per child, more if you count the costs of debt service. He questioned why Christian schools and homeschooled students could not receive the same benefit. Those parents paid taxes and did not receive any benefits for their children's education. Dr. Gifford spoke to the benefit the County received when it moved to twice a year tax collection and the impact on citizens who had to pay extra that year. He suggested the Board consider a refundable tax credit for Christian school students and homeschooled students.

Jeremiah Melvin, 206 Village Terrace, Concord, thanked Dr. Gifford for his remarks and as the parent of four home-schooled children, he wished his tax dollars were not going to public schools. Mr. Melvin suggested a further reduction in the real estate tax rate would be more beneficial than a 20 cent reduction in the personal property tax rate. He commented that he represented people who were in the low to middle class and in light of rising costs for food, gas and electricity, every penny counted.

Eric Szandzik, Rustburg District, agreed with the previous speaker and supported a reduction in the real estate tax rate. He commended Mr. Rogers for telling us what real estate tax rate he would recommend, but ultimately bringing a budget with a lower tax rate at the request of the elected officials. Not only did we have elected officials fighting for us, but we had local staff fighting for us too. In his review of the budget, he did notice large increases in Social Services

compensation and vehicle replacement, but he had not seen any discussion on those increases. Mr. Szandzik also noticed the Schools' budget was still at pandemic spending levels with a budget that had increased from \$80 million to over \$100 million. He added that very little of that increase went to instruction. Mr. Szandzik also commented the Schools did not release its budget until after it was approved. Lastly, the Board approved additional funding for the Schools without asking any questions and approved spending \$50 million to expand a high school that had fewer students this year than it did last year and had 6% fewer students than it did 10 years ago. In conclusion, he believed the revenue to be received from the proposed real estate tax rate was a big jump from last year.

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

Chairman Cline posed a question to Administrator Rogers to clarify the top non-discretionary or mandated costs in the budget. Administrator Rogers indicated the Children's Services Act (CSA) were the costs to support children and families, and those costs had increased by \$500,000. The County's share to the Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority had increased by \$135,000 and the costs to the Juvenile Detention increased by \$200,000. Staff was projecting an increase of more than \$177,000 for trash disposal. There was an increase in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) of \$800,000.

The Board was required to wait seven days before taking any action on the proposed budget. Consideration of the budget would be included on the Board's April 4th agenda.

Chairman Cline announced a closed meeting was needed in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 (A)(6) of the Code of Virginia to discuss or consider the receipt of an unsolicited proposal received under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002.

// CLOSED MEETING

On motion of Supervisor Shockley, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors enters into a closed meeting at 7:21 p.m. in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected; and/or Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia to discuss the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and to discuss the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; specifically, to consider the receipt of an unsolicited proposal received under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, Va. Code § 56-575.1 et seq.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Hardie, Moore, Shockley, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// The Campbell County Board of Supervisors entered into a closed meeting on this 28th day of March, 2023 at 7:21 p.m. in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected; and/or Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia to discuss the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and to discuss the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; specifically, to consider the receipt of an unsolicited proposal received under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, Va. Code § 56-575.1 et seq.

// On motion of Supervisor Shockley, it was resolved the meeting return to open session at 8:15 p.m.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Hardie, Moore, Shockley, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// On motion of Supervisor Shockley, the following resolution was adopted:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors had convened a closed meeting on the 28th day of March, 2023 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Campbell County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Campbell County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Campbell County Board of Supervisors.

The roll call vote was: Aye: Brown
 Aye: Carwile
 Aye: Cline
 Aye: Hardie
 Aye: Moore
 Aye: Shockley
 Aye: Watts
 Nay: None
Absent During Meeting: None
Absent During Vote: None

// ACTION FOLLOWING CLOSED MEETING

On motion of Supervisor Carwile, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors moves forward with the unsolicited proposal received for the renovation of Brookville High School under the Public-Private Educational Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) process.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Hardie, Moore, Shockley, Watts
 Nay: None
 Absent: None

// ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Brown, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Hardie, Moore, Shockley, Watts
 Nay: None
 Absent: None

MATT W. CLINE, CHAIRMAN

Approved: _____