

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

May 14, 2019

A meeting of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors was held on the 14th day of May 2019 in the Board of Supervisors meeting room of the Walter J. Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Eddie Gunter, Jr., Chairman, Presiding	Concord Election District
James A. Borland	Spring Hill Election District
Bob Good	Sunburst Election District
Jon R. Hardie	Rustburg Election District
Susan R. Hogg	Timberlake Election District
A. Dale Moore	Altavista 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
Kristin B. Wright, Staff Attorney
Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Chairman Gunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed.

// APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Supervisor Hogg, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors dispenses with the reading and approves the minutes of the April 9, 2019 work session as presented.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// RECOGNITION OF DILLON CROUCH

Chairman Gunter recognized Dillon Crouch, a senior at Altavista High School, who did a black and white drawing of Hugh W. Rosser. Several months ago the Board authorized staff to move forward with establishing a permanent memorial to honor Mr. Rosser who served on the Board of Supervisors for 52 years and was the longest serving Board member in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In an effort to do something unique to honor Mr. Rosser, staff reached out to art teachers in the County schools. Dillon took on the project and worked very hard on the drawing. The drawing was unveiled at the meeting and Dillon received a standing ovation.

Chairman Gunter also recognized Dillon's teacher, Maria Wyatt, who enthusiastically supported the project and Dillon. Chairman Gunter presented Mrs. Wyatt with a check to Altavista High School in the amount of \$100 with the hopes the money could be used toward the art program.

The Rosser family would be invited to a future meeting to dedicate the portrait and a plaque being made to honor Mr. Rosser.

// PUBLIC HEARING – REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

Chairman Gunter announced there would be two public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The first public hearing would be for the purpose of receiving comment on the increased property tax values due to the completed general reassessment if the current tax rate of \$0.52/\$100 was adopted rather than the equalized rate of \$0.49/\$100. The second public hearing

would be to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget. As required by State law, the Board could not vote on the budget until seven (7) days after the public hearing.

The first public hearing was opened at 7:06 p.m. and Chairman Gunter called for comments on the proposed property tax rate.

Doug Barringer, 277 Holland Court, Rustburg, was not speaking for or against the proposed property tax rate, but wanted to comment that conservatives did not believe in expanding government. Campbell County considered itself a conservative County, but there was a distinction between essential services and discretionary services. Proponents of the meals tax assured voters that its passage would reduce real estate taxes. He asked the Board to keep that in mind when considering the tax rate. The recent reassessment resulted in much higher valuations on property for most and keeping the same tax rate would result in higher taxes.

Administrator Rogers spoke to the proposed property tax rate. This year the County completed the required general reassessment of County properties. Due to the projected increase in revenues from the reassessment, State Code requires that a separate public hearing be scheduled for the purpose of receiving comment on the effect of the increased values versus the "equalized rate." The Board advertised a rate of \$0.52 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real property; the equalized rate would be \$0.49 per \$100 of assessed value. The revenue realized from the reassessment at \$0.52 cents would be a little less than \$1.3 million. The equalized rate was the tax rate at which the County would realize essentially the same revenue from real property.

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

// PUBLIC HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET

The last public hearing was opened at 7:13 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

Administrator Rogers advised the General Fund budget of \$77,261,692 was properly advertised for this meeting. The proposed budget was amended from the presentation on April 9, 2019 to reflect Board direction to reduce all categories of the Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax by five (5%) percent and reduce the personal property tax rate by five (5) cents from \$4.45/\$100 of assessed value to \$4.40/\$100 of assessed value. This resulted in a revenue reduction of \$287,453. To offset the revenue reduction, the funds assigned for future debt were reduced from \$2,628,258 to \$2,340,805.

State Code prohibits the Board from adopting the budget until at least seven (7) days after the public hearing. It was staff's preference to adopt the budget in May in order for the Schools to proceed with employee contracts per State Code requirements.

Chairman Gunter called for comments on the proposed budget.

Nina Thomas, 711 Calohan Road, Rustburg, was speaking on behalf of the Campbell County Historical Society. She asked the Board to maintain the funding proposed in the FY 2020 budget to continue the painting of the outside of the Historic Courthouse. Mrs. Thomas was pleased at the partnership the County and Historical Society had enjoyed to restore the building. The Historical Society was responsible for the inside of the building, and the County was responsible for the outside of the building.

Jamie Glass, Deputy Director of Economic Development at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, spoke in support of continued funding for the Business Alliance. The proposed budget diverts the \$50,000 in funding to establish a grant writer position for the County. Ms. Glass referred to an e-mail from Megan Lucas, CEO of the Business Alliance requesting the County's continued funding as a partner in regional economic development and noting the number of times Campbell County's industrial parks, buildings and assets were presented to prospects. Ms. Glass updated the Board on an application to GoVA for State funding that would have great implications for Campbell County in site development.

Todd Hall, 3234 Colonial Highway, Rustburg, was President of First National Bank and Chair of the Alliance Board of Directors. He too supported funding for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance pointing out the benefits of leveraging funding streams for site analysis and site development. He added the Alliance had leveraged Campbell County's 2018-2019 contribution of \$50,000 for a total of \$245,000 and when adding the due diligence on two Campbell County sites valued at \$58,000, it put the value of services over \$300,000. Mr. Hall believed it would be a significant loss if Campbell County was no longer at the regional table.

Shelton Miles, 1448 Clays Ferry Road, Gladys, enjoyed the presentation in recognition of his great friend Hugh W. Rosser who he admired and whose principles of efficiency and effectiveness of every County dollar were his adoptive ideals. Mr. Miles spoke in favor of the budget realizing the cheapest solution was not always the best solution, instead focusing on effectiveness and efficiency. Looking at the County's tax rate compared to other localities, he considered Campbell's on the low end, but the budget still addressed a number of important priorities such as reinstating the Hodges Convenience Center (eight stood in support of the trash site). Mr. Miles supported the increased funding included for schools, the Sheriff's Department deputies and broadband which were all important to the County.

Maurice Peerman, 3602 Long Island Road, Gladys, echoed Mr. Miles' comments and supported the Board priorities to support funding for teachers and Public Safety personnel. He especially noted the importance of the School Resource Officers and the relationships they build with the students and the community. Mr. Peerman supported the broadband initiative stressing the need for internet service to be progressive and to move the County forward especially on the southern end of the County. He asked the Board to be efficient, but also be smart by looking forward to where the County wanted to be in three to five years.

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:33 p.m. The Board would consider adoption of the budget at its next meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

// ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. to Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of the Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia, to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and for a work session in the Multi-Use Room immediately following.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

EDDIE GUNTER, CHAIRMAN

Approved: _____