

At a budget hearing of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, June 18, 2012 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Joseph Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Andy McCready; Ranny O'Dell; and Dean Pratt. Also present were Peter Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Diane Newby, Finance Director; and Barbara Duncan, Receptionist.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and county staff to the meeting. Mr. Sheffey advised the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year and address budget concerns and other matters. Mr. Sheffey also advised no action would be taken on the budget at this meeting.

2. State Code Requirements

Mr. Huber explained State Code requirements. He advised budget information was available on the county website as well as information on what the taxes have accomplished. He described the budget calendar and the steps taken from budget preparation to budget approval. He also explained the revenue summary reporting total revenue is \$80,172,743. He also compared Pulaski County with surrounding counties.

3. Budget Advertisement

Mr. Sheffey opened the hearing for public comments.

Mr. Huber stated the budget advertisement showed original budget, revisions, modifications and current with proposed differences.

Andrea Jarrells, a substitute teacher for Dublin Elementary and Dublin Middle Schools addressed the board. She stated she "did not want to beat a dead horse" but wanted to address the matter of cutting several assistant principal positions, mainly the position of Dublin Elementary School, Assistant Principal, Donna Payne. She further stated the children will be the ones to suffer and losing Mrs. Payne would have a negative impact because of her many responsibilities and that the teachers would be left with the responsibility of taking care of behavior problems, etc. on a daily basis with less time to teach, thus impacting the education of our children. She asked the Board to look into using reserves or find other avenues for funding to save this position. She thanked the Board for understanding her concerns.

Mr. Huber advised that reserves cannot be used at this time. He presented and reviewed several charts and also advised they were on the county website for viewing. These were compared to surrounding counties. He explained what reserves can be used for and they are usually used on a one-time expense. Mr. Huber questioned whether the budget was sustainable without an increase in taxes somewhere down the road.

Mr. McCready compared the reserves to a savings account which should be used for one-time/emergency expenses only and if dipped into regularly, soon there would be no savings account.

Mr. McCready further stated he had just met with delegates Nick Rush and Joseph Yost regarding the state audit and how schools report spending to the state. He believes the system is flawed with inconsistencies in the manner of reporting. Schools report differently depending on the county they are in. The VA State Audit Report shows Pulaski spending more money on administration expenses. The School Board had questions on how this is reported and they need to address their concerns. In Pulaski County, an assistant principal is considered an administrative expense. In other counties, it is not. Mr. McCready stated Mike Barbour is working diligently on next year's budget which begins July 1 and he needs to have good solid data.

4. Closed Public Hearing

Mr. Sheffey closed the public hearing. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the budget at the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 25, 2012.

Mr. Huber explained the chart of expenditures and stated a bottom line of \$2,064,600 comes out of reserves to the budget. Mr. Huber also stated it is not good practice to take money out of reserves. He reported that Pulaski County funds several different agencies and with no increase in taxes, partnerships may be a possible solution. He also stated long term needs to be looked at along with taxes and other options and that he did not see any major relief on the horizon.

Mr. McCready spoke on use of reserves reporting that monies we are using for schools, by law, come back to the county and then the county gives back to the school system. This year these funds are going back into operations.

Mr. Sheffey asked for any more comments. He stated this was the longest budget process he remembers. He thanked the board for their work on the budget. He also commented on the New River Academy Open House. The Superintendent of the Academy commended Pulaski County for their support over the years.

Mr. McCready stated the academy was voted #1 in the state and it would be nice if all local jurisdictions took advantage of it.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. O'Dell and carried, the Board adjourned its budget hearing. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, June 25, 2012 beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., with said meeting to be held at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: None.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator