

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2016

At a budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 4, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room/Emergency Operations Center of the Pulaski County Information Technology Offices located in the Maple Shade Plaza, 89 Commerce Street, S.W., in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Andy McCreedy, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Ranny O'Dell, Joseph Guthrie and Dean Pratt.

Present from county staff were Peter Huber, County Administrator; Karen Thompson, Assistant County Administrator, Management Services; Diane Newby, Finance Director; Brad Vaught, Staff Accountant and Ashley Edmonds, Clerk to the Board.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. McCreedy called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and County staff and citizens at 6:05 p.m.

2. Citizen Comments

A. Public Comments

Angela Clevinger, Pulaski County Education Association, spoke on behalf of the organization to support teacher raises and encourage no rise in insurance costs.

3. School Board Budget

A. School Board Funding Request

Dr. Brewster, Superintendent of Schools, expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for past support in funding and insurance and the Board's cooperation. Dr. Brewster spoke about teacher pay scales and the areas where teacher salaries have fallen below surrounding areas. The objectives, as he noted, would be to bring up the salaries of those teachers with fifteen years, give a two percent raise to all employees and provide competitive and equitable health insurance benefits. The following adjustments have been made in the School budget:

- Projected state revenue increase (Approved by the General Assembly Budget)
- Increase in VRS employer contributions
- Decrease in budget for personnel savings
- Decrease in budget for the Early Retirement program
- Decrease in budget for bus maintenance

Dr. Brewster noted even with the adjustments there is a total budget shortfall of \$530, 250.

Mr. McCreedy provided an overview of the County's budget situation and thanked the School administration for its efforts to cut items in their budget and look for savings. Mr. Barbour asked why the County was projecting a decline when it seems to be on track with the past year. Mr. Huber explained that the difference was in

the budgeted amount versus the actual. School Board and Board of Supervisor members the difficulty of retaining or attracting teachers to the area due to current salary levels, the loss of ADM and how surrounding areas are handling these challenges.

#### B. School Expenditures

The Board reviewed and discussed a chart displaying educational funding by Federal, State and Local government over the past 40 years.

#### C. 2% Pay Increase

Mr. Stafford calculated the local cost of a two percent pay increase for school employees:

- For teachers: \$380, 657
- For all other staff: \$192, 387
- Total projected cost: \$573, 044
- FY 17 State share of 2% pay raise: \$204, 436
- Local share of 2% pay raise: \$368, 608
- FY 2016 – 17 local cost based on proposed raise beginning in December 2016: \$215,021

#### D. Teacher Salary Scale Comparison

A teacher salary scale comparison extended to 30 years service is provided in the BoardDocs agenda for review.

#### E. State Board of Education ADM Numbers/Data for Pulaski and Wythe Counties

State Board of Education ADM numbers and other data for Pulaski and Wythe Counties were provided to the Board for comparison in the April 4, 2016, BoardDocs agenda.

### 4. Operational Budgets

#### A. Funding Request – Communities in Schools

Jonathan Penn presented information to the Board regarding the Communities in Schools program. The program is currently not in the State budget, relies on funding from businesses and county support, receiving \$10,000 from the School Board. The Board allocated \$10,000 for the Communities in Schools program.

The Board took a five minute recess from 7:45 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

B. VRS Contribution Rates

On a motion from Mr. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board selected the proposed 9.67% VRS employer rate for FY 2017 and FY 2018.

Voting Yes: Mr. Pratt, Mr. Bopp, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Guthrie.

Voting No: None.

C. Funding Request – TransDominion Express

Mr. Guthrie asked where the funds go for this organization; Mr. McCreedy explained it is to promote rail service from Lynchburg to Bristol. Mr. Huber suggested \$250 in funding to show support and to make an argument for a stop in Dublin. The Board agreed by consensus to the \$250 funding request.

D. Administrative Expenses

Mr. Huber requested on behalf of administrative staff to use the fiscal year 2015 budget savings for chairs for staff that have not had upgrades.

On a motion from Mr. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board authorized the use of the 2015 fiscal year savings to buy chairs for staff.

Voting Yes: Mr. Pratt, Mr. Bopp, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Guthrie

Voting No: None.

E. Pulaski County Department of Social Services

The Board reviewed the documents provided by the Department of Social Services and their level funding request.

F. Southwest Virginia Heritage Foundation

The Board reviewed the request and decided to level funding (\$7,616). Additionally, staff was asked to send a representative to their meeting and ask for a statement of Pulaski County activities.

G. Free Clinic of the New River Valley

The Board requested a report on how last year's funding was spent and an update on the impact on waiting times. The Board decided to level their funding pending additional information.

5. Follow – Up Items

A. Budget Revenue and Expenditure Summary

The Board reviewed the budget revenue and expenditure summary. Mr. Huber advised the Board of staff's plan to provide the Board with a balanced budget proposal at the April 11, 2016, Budget Work Session.

6. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

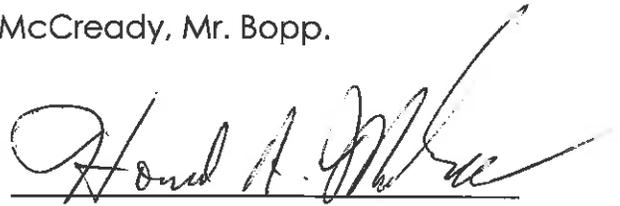
On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board adjourned its budget work session. The Board will hold a Budget Work Session on Monday, April 14, 2016, at the IT Training Center, located at 89 Commerce Street, S.W. in the Maple Shade Plaza, in the Town of Pulaski at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is to be held on Monday, April 25, 2016, beginning with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. with said meeting to be held at the County Administration Building, Board Room, located at 143 Third Street, N.W. in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting Yes: Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Pratt, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. Bopp.

Voting No: None



Peter Huber, County Administrator



Howard A. McCreedy, Chairman