

Virginia: At a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Accomack held in the Board Chambers on the 14th of January, A. D., 2009.

Members Present: Steve D. Mallette, Chair
Laura Belle Gordy, Vice-Chair
Ron S. Wolff
Wanda J. Thornton
Grayson C. Chesser
John C. Gray
Sandra Hart Mears
E. Philip McCaleb

Member Absent: Donald L. Hart, Jr.

Others Present: Steven B. Miner, County Administrator
Michael Mason, Acting Finance Director
Yvonne N. Pennell, Administrative Assistant
Mark B. Taylor, County Attorney

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair and opened with a prayer by Mr. Gray, after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Statement of the Chair

The Chair offered opening comments related to goals and objectives of the Board.

Budget Redevelopment Committee

The Chair introduced and acknowledged the following persons recently appointed to serve on the Budget Redevelopment Committee and explained that this body would be assisting the County in addressing budgetary issues.

Al McMath, Accomack County School Board
Nick Olmsted, BaySys Technologies
R. Dodd Obenshain, Social Services
Larry J. Giddens, Sheriff
Vernon Brinkley, ANEC
Joe Campbell, Perdue

Report of Utility Cost Committee

The Chair gave background information on the formation of the Utility Cost Committee and its charge.

Mr. David Lumgair, Chair, Utility Cost Committee, as in a previous meeting, gave a PowerPoint Progress Report on the work of the Utility Cost Committee, centered on sewer service and associated rates, and responded to comments and questions from the Board.

A general discussion took place related to:

- Possible establishment of Public Service Authority
- Service area

- Associated costs and fees
- Participation

Following discussion, the Chair polled the Board to determine its interest in moving forward with the establishment of a Public Service Authority. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward.

County Attorney Mark B. Taylor explained the process required to establish the Authority and responded to questions.

It was the consensus of the Board that staff be directed to bring back a Resolution for consideration setting forth the duties (Articles of Incorporation) of a Public Service Authority and to also advertise for persons wishing to serving on the Authority and that this issue be further discussed at the February 4th work session.

Budget Redevelopment Committee Mission Statement

Following a briefing by County Administrator Steven B. Miner, Mr. Wolff made a motion to adopt the following Mission Statement of the Budget Redevelopment Committee. Mrs. Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Hart absent.

Mission Statement for the Board's Special Budget Redevelopment Committee

The Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the following guidance for its Budget Redevelopment Committee.

The background in support of the creation of the special committee is premised upon a belief that the County is at a specific intersection of opportunity and challenge, to-wit:

- ⇒ The overall financial condition of the County is weak and the per capita Incomes of its citizens are below the state averages,
- ⇒ Teacher salaries are well below state averages and our aspirations for educational achievement for our students exceed existing programs and funds.
- ⇒ Educational support from the Commonwealth is rapidly declining,
- ⇒ There are increasing impacts on the local budget for unfunded mandates from the General Assembly,
- ⇒ There is an apparent decline in the ability and willingness of the Virginia General Assembly to pay its traditional share of local costs,
- ⇒ Local enterprises, institutions and citizens are being adversely affected by the Nation's economic recession,
- ⇒ Local economic opportunities exist which are unprecedented in the County's history, including BaySys Technologies, the recent announcement of the award by NASA to Orbital Science for the use of Wallops Flight Facility to resupply the International Space Station, and other opportunities occurring or anticipated,

⇒ These opportunities call for investment at a time when National conditions are least favorable to growth.

Therefore, the Board, faced with very difficult decisions on future budget matters, has requested the assistance of local business leaders, whose success is integrally tied to our education system and economy, as well as several of the largest users of local tax resources, and now desires to task the committee as follows:

1. The purpose of the committee shall be, with the assistance of a staff support group, to advise the Board on adjustments to revenue sources and expenses which might enable the Board to develop community support for a financially sustainable and adequate County budget, maintained by an adequate level of revenues, with funding to maintain a stable and solid financial condition, meeting the county's educational, social, developmental and organizational requirements.
2. The committee's primary client will be the Board of Supervisors.
3. The responsibilities of the committee shall be to advise the Board on the above stated financial matters.
4. The main objectives supporting the committee in accomplishing its mission will be to give consideration to cost savings across the budget, priorities within the budget and justification for supported activities.
5. The committee shall be supported by a Staff Support Group, comprised of members of the various affected agencies, as coordinated by the County Administrator.

Economic Development Needs/Opportunities

Economic and Community Development Director Larry D. Forbes briefed the Board on economic development issues, capital improvement projects, business opportunities for the County, various other major developments, and responded to questions.

Financial Trend Analysis

Mr. David Rose and Mr. Courtney Rogers, Davenport & Company gave a PowerPoint presentation on the County's financial statements, offered recommendations and responded to questions.

Financial Update

Finance Director Michael T. Mason gave a PowerPoint depicting recent state budgetary cuts and the impact on County functions, the County's current financial condition, and responded to questions.

Cost-Cutting Efforts

Staff Consultant Dan Hillman gave an overview of recent brain storming sessions held with employees and the suggestions offered for consideration for cost-cutting efforts. Mr. Hillman responded to various questions.

Solid Waste Issues

Public Works Director Stewart Hall offered a briefing related to solid waste issues and the following recommendations from the Solid Waste Committee to address the landfill revenue shortfall.

1. Implement the following measures as soon as practical:
 - Increase tipping fee to \$66/ton
 - Close both landfills on County holidays (with the possible exception of Christmas Eve, the day after Christmas, New Year's Eve, the day after New Year's) Estimated annual savings of \$13,800
 - Reduce the 400# exemption to 200# - Estimated annual savings of \$41,000
2. Conduct further investigation on the following:
 - Special solid waste levy per Code of Virginia §15.2-2159
 - Solid waste permit/decal system or per bag fee at County collection facilities
 - Minimize North Landfill operations to increase utilization of South Landfill air space and personnel
 - Close the landfills one additional day per week - Estimated annual savings of \$15,400.

Mr. McCaleb made a motion to increase the tipping to \$66.00. Mr. Chesser seconded the motion. Ayes: Mr. Wolff, Mr. Chesser, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Mears, Mr. Mallette, Mrs. Gordy, Mr. McCaleb. Nays: Mrs. Thornton. Absent: Mr. Hart.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gordy made a motion to adjourn 8:45p.m. Mrs. Thornton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Hart absent.

Stephen D. Mallette, Chair