

VIRGINIA: At an Adjourned Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Accomack held in the Board of Supervisors Chamber in Accomac, VA on the 13th day of March, A. D., 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Robert D. Crockett, Chair
Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chair
Harrison W. Phillips, III
Paul E. J. Muhly
Ron S. Wolff
Laura Belle Gordy
William “Billy” Tarr
C. Reneta Major

Member Absent: Grayson C. Chesser

Others Present: Michael Mason, County Administrator
Cela Burge, County Attorney
Shelia West, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

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

Public Hearing

Chairman Crockett stated that the Board was holding two (2) Public Hearings; the FY2018-2019 estimated budget and the proposed Calendar Year 2018 tax rates.

Chairman Crockett opened the Public Hearing.

County Attorney Cela Burge read the rules governing conduct during Public Hearings.

Mr. Crockett recognized County Administrator Michael Mason for an overview of the FY18-19 Estimated Budget and the Proposed Tax Rates for Calendar Year 2018 Tax Rates.

Overview of FY 2019 Estimated Proposed Budget and Tax Rates

County Administrator Michael Mason gave a brief overview of the updated Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Proposed Budget and Tax Rates. Mr. Mason stated that the

proposed budget was 4.4% lower than the budget adopted in 2017 resultant of a decrease in the debt service and because the capital spending was much lower.

He stated during the development of the FY19 Budget, the following priorities were observed.

- 1) Keep property tax rates at or below their current levels
- 2) Become a more “business resilient” County
- 3) Continue to attract and retain a high performing workforce
- 4) Maintain the County’s investment in its infrastructure and prepare for future capital replacement
- 5) Maintain or improve customer service & employee/customer safety
- 6) Continue to strengthen “Rainy Day” fund to a “best practice” level
- 7) Honor contractual commitments, agreements and mandates

Mr. Mason stated there were no changes in the information given and discussed in prior budget meetings regarding the “FY19 Budget At-A-Glance” depicting graphs which showed where the money comes from and where the money goes. He stated that education continued to be the largest portion of the budget as far as the local tax dollars and where it goes.

He discussed a few key points in reference to revenues and tax rates. He stated that 2018 reassessment is estimated to reduce property values across the County by 1.8%, which equates to about \$400,000 revenue loss without a tax rate “equalization”, and defined same. He stated that there were no property tax increases in the proposed budget and explained the “shifts” in the individual tax rate components. He further stated that the “shifts” do not impact the overall tax rate except in the Town of Chincoteague, which will see a tax rate decrease of 1cent (from 49 cents to 48 cents). He noted that the differential was because the County does not have paid EMS staff on Chincoteague.

Mr. Mason continued discussion regarding revenue and tax rates, informing members that there were no changes in personal property tax rates and stated there were some proposed user fee increases.

He stated there was a 7% increase, on average, in Building, Zoning and E&S fees, Increase in landfill tipping fee of \$5.50 proposed which takes it from \$69.50 to \$75.00 (7.9% increase), noting the last increase was approved in FY16. He stated the increase was needed to cover future closure and post-closure expenses.

He told members that the County's proposed budget included an increase of \$1.9M (3.9%) in recurring operational expenditures, approximately \$1.7M for capital or 1-time operating expenditures, a decrease of \$1.2M in annual debt service cost (22.9%), and \$855,000 transfer to the "Rainy Day" Fund.

Mr. Mason stated that in looking at the majority of the operating increase, the largest increase was \$493,000 to the public school system based on the traditional formula for revenue sharing. He continued to discuss other major operational initiatives funded such as new positions (\$400K was proposed to fund 6 new full-time career EMS positions to provide Monday through Friday daytime staffing in Melfa, Saxis, and Greenbackville), salary increases (\$153K was proposed to provide salary increases for County and State-supported local positions effective 12/1/2018), \$197,000 for targeted salary increases for deputies and correctional officers, employee health insurance related (\$98K for the employer share of 5.9% increase in employee health insurance), \$30K to offset the additional cost of insuring employee spouses and dependents (county currently pays for 35% of the additional costs and this would increase to \$40% if this initiative was adopted).

He also offered highlights regarding some of the major capital or one-time operating expenditures that included the following:

- EOC shared use facility/generator (\$540K)
- Building Maintenance and ADA Access (\$180K)
- 911 System Capital Maintenance (\$146K)
- Permitting Software Replacement Year 2 (\$145K)
- Sawmill Park Ball Field Lighting (\$100K)
- Airport Pavement Rehab Year 2 (\$90K)
- Building/Employee/Customer Security Improvement (\$77K)

Other uses were to transfer to Rainy Day/Stabilization Fund (\$855K).

He informed members there were some proposed policy changes/additions which could be revisited at another meeting.

Mr. Mason told the Board they could not take any action on the advertised budget until 7 days after the public hearing per Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2506, and any change in tax rate which results in a rate which is above that which was advertised for public hearing would require another public hearing to be held.

He informed members that the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget was posted on the County website as well as Boarddocs. He advised members that a pdf of the presentation was available on the County's Board Docs Website as well as the Finance Department's Webpage. <http://www.boarddocs.com/va/coa/Board.nsf/Public>
<http://co.accomack.va.us/departments/finance/budget-development-fy19>

The following persons offered comments relative to the proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Estimated Proposed Budget and Tax Rates:

- 1) Mr. Hayden Gordon, 1415 Stockton Avenue, Greenbackville, VA – spoke on behalf of himself and his wife, and offered expressions of gratitude to the Board for their diligent work on the budget and providing funding for EMS day time coverage in Greenbackville, Saxis and Melfa.
- 2) Mr. Chuck Bradford, 31110 Abrams Drive, New Church, VA – offered expressions of gratitude to the Chair and Board members for listening to the

volunteers and acting on the need for paid EMS on the northern end of the county and in Melfa.

- 3) Mr. Chris Holland, 21218 Ocean View Highway, Parksley, VA – as Superintendent of Accomack County Schools, Mr. Holland offered expressions of gratitude to the Board for its funding formula used to appropriate money to the School Board and noted its benefits. He advised members of some of the proposed plans during the FY19 School Budget year and informed them of other related school matters.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing.

Adjournment

Mr. Wolff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muhly seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mr. Chesser absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.