

AT A BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA ON MONDAY
MARCH 16, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN R.H. RIEGEL
MEMBERS: R.S. FORD, M.R. SMITH A.W. LEWIS, JR.
ABSENT: C.R. COMSTOCK
CLERK OF BOARD: CLAIRE A. COLLINS
FISCAL DIRECTOR: ROBERT E. CLAYTOR

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Riegel called the meeting to order. Supervisor Lewis gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

County School Board Budget Presentation

County School Superintendent, Mr. John Reynolds, introduced Ms. Sarah Deacon, School Board Chairperson, and handed the budget presentation over to her. Ms. Deacon recognized the rest of the School Board Members also in attendance. She proceeded in describing the difficult budget decisions that were being proposed in response to the revenue shortfall the Schools faced. Ms. Deacon thanked the Schools' staff and principals for their participation in preparing the draft budget. The School Board requested from the Board of Supervisors level funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Both Boards discussed the potential of more volatile circumstances for the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget session. To date, the current cuts to the County School Board budget will not affect class size but Mr. Reynolds warned this may not be the case in the next few years if revenue shortfalls continue. Everyone acknowledged education for the County children would remain top priority for funding.

The Board of Supervisors thanked the School Board for all of their hard work during such tough economic times.

Board Budget Discussion

Mr. Claytor and Ms. Collins led the Board in its discussion of the draft operating budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Outside of the draft budget discussion, Mr. Claytor informed the Board Sheriff Day agreed to purchase just two new vehicles for his department rather than the approved five and Mr. Claytor asked for authorization to execute the purchases. Supervisor Smith made the motion to authorize staff to purchase a car and truck for the Sheriff's Department and Supervisor Ford provided the second. The following was recorded:

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Ford, Smith, Riegel
NAYES: Lewis
ABSENT: Comstock

Supervisor Lewis commented he felt the Board was not sending the right message by at least providing level funding for “safety net” agencies such as Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) and the Rockbridge Area Free Clinic. After further discussion, Supervisor Smith motioned to fund RARA \$10,000 and fully fund the Free Clinic’s operational account for \$33,000 for FY09/10. The following was recorded:

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Ford, Smith, Lewis, Riegel
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Comstock

Supervisor Lewis motioned to add a full time position for the Planning & Development Department and Supervisor Smith provided the second. Since the resignation of Mr. Mike Webb from The Rockbridge Partnership, the County, along with the assistance of Ms. Valerie Lewis, agreed to address economic development issues as they arise until a decision is made on filling the Executive Director vacancy. The administrative assistant position will be equally funded between the County and The Rockbridge Partnership. The following was recorded:

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Ford, Smith, Lewis, Riegel
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Comstock

Adjourn / Continue

The meeting was continued until Wednesday March 18th at 6:00 p.m.