

**AT A SCHEDULED MEETING, OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA,
ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016**

PRESENT:	CHAIRMAN J.M. HIGGINS
MEMBERS:	D.D. HINTY, JR., R.R CAMPBELL, R.S. FORD, A.W. LEWIS, JR.
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CLERK TO BOARD:	SPENCER H. SUTER
COUNTY ATTORNEY:	VICKIE HUFFMAN
FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR:	STEVEN J. BOLSTER

Call to Order:

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m., followed by a prayer led by Supervisor Ronnie Campbell and the Pledge of Allegiance for all those in attendance who wished to participate.

Budget Advertisement Overview:

Chairman Higgins asked County Administrator Spencer Suter for his opening comments. Mr. Suter's only comments were words of appreciation to the Finance Committee, the School Board Executive Committee, and the Finance Department for all of their hard work on this year's budget.

Fiscal Services Director Steve Bolster informed the Board that there were only two changes in the budget since the last meeting: 1) upward adjustment in the County Administrator's budget and 2) consideration of a two cent increase on the real estate tax.

Discussions continued, to include remarks related to the following:

- Mr. Suter spoke of a call received that day from the School Division Superintendent Dr. Jack Donald on recent adjustments to the School's FY 2017 draft budget.
- Mr. Bolster provided details of a decrease in revenues from the City of Lexington equaling \$11,041.
- Supervisor Ford reminded the Board that the Chromebook initiative doesn't require a teacher at the high school level this year (FY 2017), while the proposed funding request for additional positions for the School Division is

based on an average of all of the positions, even though the ITRT (Information Technology Resource Teacher) positions are projected at a higher compensation level.

Mr. Bolster presented the three revenue sources for the School Division's FY 2017 draft budget, as provided earlier in the day by the Schools' Finance Officer, Matthew Crossman:

- State = \$14,203,548
- Local = \$13,710,834
- Lexington tuition = \$1,424,086
- Total = \$29,338,468

The Schools' proposed budget advertisement is \$29,349,509. Supervisor Lewis suggested that we "stick with what we've got" and the surplus can fund the extra position, if needed. Chairman Higgins agreed with Mr. Lewis, recognizing that revenues are \$11,041 less, but if the schools decide not to fund the fourth position there will be a surplus. Supervisor Hinty agreed with their suggestions.

Mr. Bolster transitioned into the County's master fee table which reflects the recoupment of fees from business and industry for waste disposal activities at the landfill. The fees are proposed at \$52 per ton, which matches the tipping fee paid by the County to the Solid Waste Authority. Additionally, he provided an update on the Construction Project Fund, noting that there had been a typing error; the fund is \$44,000 higher in planned expenditures than presented in the previous meeting on March 31st.

Mr. Suter spoke about the Construction Project Fund (Fund 72) and indicated that the \$1,889,076 is for funding the renovations and upgrades to the Lomax building for the new, proposed 911 center and is coming out of the General Fund's unassigned reserves. He indicated that there are no changes in the Capital Purchases Fund (Fund 76); the proposed expenditures in this fund pertain to replacement of voting equipment and vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. He asked for approval to post the operational and capital budgets which include a two cent increase to the real estate tax (from \$0.715 to \$0.735 per \$100 of assessed value).

Supervisor Ford recalled there are two multi-million dollar deals involving the two cities currently under consideration and asked Mr. Suter what limits are posed on changes after the advertisement is posted. Mr. Suter replied that tax rates cannot increase after being posted. Supervisor Ford expressed the hope that "we can get it solved before appropriating funds or setting the tax rate."

Supervisor Campbell made the motion to approve the advertisement of the FY 2017 budget, which includes a proposed increase of two cents on the real estate tax rate; Supervisor Hinty seconded. All five members voted aye.

At 5:46 p.m., Mr. Bolster recommended to convene into the Solid Waste Authority. He presented anticipated tonnage and proposed tipping fees for the upcoming fiscal year:

Rockbridge County - 29,207 tons @ \$52 per ton
Lexington City - 8,378 tons @ \$52 per ton
Buena Vista City - 5,704 tons @ \$36.81 per ton

The proposed fiscal year 2017 tipping fees for Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington are \$52 per ton; as partners in the proposed new Solid waste Authority, they will be building a surplus for the lined landfill project. The City of Buena Vista's tipping fee is proposed at \$36.81 per ton, which represents a rate to meet the operational budget minus the projected surplus of \$566,248. Put another way, the \$36.81 per ton tipping fee represents the \$1,518,229 operational budget divided by the anticipated, combined tonnage of 41,289 tons. Tipping fee revenues above the \$36.81 will generate the estimated surplus. Estimated fiscal year 2017 tonnage is 27,207 for Rockbridge County, 8,378 for Lexington City, and 5,704 for Buena Vista City. Supervisor Ford made the motion to adopt the tipping fees; Supervisor Lewis seconded. All five members voted aye. Chairman Higgins reconvened the Board of Supervisors' budget meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Mr. Bolster announced the remaining budget schedule. The Public Hearing is to be held on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room. The Budget Adoption Meeting is set for Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Meeting Room.

Chairman Higgins made a request for the Board to bring forth any questions or other business they wished to discuss. Supervisor Campbell spoke of a recent RANA (Rockbridge Area Network Authority) meeting update and asked Mr. Suter to explain to the Board what it meant for a 911 system to be "next gen(eration)" ready.

Mr. Suter explained to the Board that the focus of a next-gen system is on how calls get to the center versus how they are dispatched, with an emphasis on cellular calls versus landlines. After giving a brief summary and examples of how 911 calls are received and routed geographically, he informed the Board that to move to the next-gen system means relying less on land (terrestrial) lines and moving toward microwave-capable technologies.

Chairman Higgins informed the Board that an executive session was necessary. At 5:57pm, Supervisor Lewis made a motion to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors to convene in closed session to discuss as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-311(A)(6), discussion or consideration of a matter involving the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, and where if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, namely negotiations with Lexington and Buena Vista on relocation of the Central Dispatch Center; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Ford. All five members voted aye.