

AT A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA HELD IN THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING AT  
150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA  
ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN D.W.HINTY, JR  
VICE CHAIRMAN J.M. HIGGINS  
R.S. FORD, A.W. LEWIS, JR., R.R CAMPBELL  
CLERK TO THE BOARD: S. H. SUTER  
COUNTY ATTORNEY: V.L. HUFFMAN

**Continued Meeting**

Chairman Hinty reconvened the February 27, 2017 meeting to order on March 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

County Administrator Spencer Suter advised that the Board had continued their previous meeting so that they could discuss the FY 2018 draft budget and the budget impact following their decision to forego developing the Fancy Hill site into a staffed collection center.

**Citizen Comment**

Cliff Woolfrey, of Woolfrey's Trash Disposal, asked the Board if they had plans to increase the per ton tipping fee in July 2017.

Mr. Suter replied that it was not currently projected for commercial trash tipping fees to increase, and if it were to increase, it would be by a very small amount.

Mr. Woolfrey stated that two years ago when the fee was increased, he was not notified in advance.

Mr. Suter advised that the lack of notification was a mistake and it would not happen this time.

Supervisor Lewis asked Mr. Woolfrey where he lived in the County.

Mr. Woolfrey replied that he lives in Glasgow.

Supervisor Lewis asked what type of trash services he provides.

Mr. Woolfrey replied that he collects residential waste - curbside or house services.

Chairman Hinty stated that staff would contact Mr. Woolfrey when they had final information on fees.

## **Budget Discussion**

Mr. Suter briefly reviewed his handout:

Meeting Purpose / Topics of Discussion

- 1) Timing/Schedule issues based on general reassessment
- 2) Budget Overview
  - a. Current Position
  - b. Impact of solid waste collections decisions
  - c. Options

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### **1) Timing/Schedule**

- a. Code Requirements - State code requires notice of public hearing 30 days in advance, if the Board intends to increase the effective tax rate
- b. Logistics - Based on requirements of staff, the Commissioner of the Revenues, and the Treasurer, the decision could be pushed out as late as March 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff does not recommend going beyond that date, as it would require another public hearing to change the ordinance and extend the existing June 5<sup>th</sup> deadline for first-half real estate taxes.

### **2) Budget Overview**

- a. Commonwealth House/Senate Budget
  - o 2% raises for constitutional employees effective August 1<sup>st</sup>
    - **Local Impact - +\$31,000** for county-funded positions and fringe benefits
  - o \$80 per year of service for law enforcement (sworn positions) to address compensation compression issues

- **Local Impact** - Unknown at this time. Estimated to be in the **\$10,000 - \$15,000 range.**
- b. New financing figures for radio system debt service
- **Local Impact +\$5,405** due to taxable nature of some portions of the financing
- c. Solid Waste - reverting to original budget submission - Option 1 (no changes to current operations)
- **Local Impact +\$106,914**

*Note: The following items are being taken from either unassigned reserves or restricted accounts*

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| - Sheriff's Cars                               | \$235,680 - Unassigned reserves  |
| - Fire/EMS Pilot Program<br>restricted account | \$237,000 - EMS Revenue Recovery |
| - Dual Enrollment Tuition                      | \$6,750 - Unassigned reserves    |
| - CTE Cert Exams                               | \$11,000 - Unassigned reserves   |

Other Considerations:

- Raises for County Employees (not in current draft budget)
- 3% = \$70,200
- 2% - \$46,800

**SUMMARY:**

Budget gap = \$1,141,962 without County Employee COLA  
                   = \$1,212,162 with 3% COLA (\$70,200)

**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Reduce proposed expenditures
- 2) Utilize existing reserves/end of year savings
- 3) Tax increase (anything above \$0.69/\$100 of assessed values)
- 4) Combination of all

Supervisor Lewis asked if the schools' request included percentage raises for teachers. He stated that he felt if the Board was considering raises for County staff, they should consider raises for teachers also.

Supervisor Higgins shared he thought it was 1% to 1.5% effective February 2018.

Mr. Suter added that the School Division is anticipating step increases between 1% and 1.5%.

Supervisor Higgins advised that the Board of Supervisors and School Board would be meeting on the March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the School Division's FY 2018 funding request.

Supervisor Lewis stated that he felt they should not be pressured to set a tax rate at this meeting.

Mr. Suter responded that there was no intent to pressure the Board to make a decision on the tax rate.

Supervisor Campbell asked if anyone had heard from Richmond on VRS rate increases.

Mr. Bolster replied that the County's would stay the same and that the School Division's rate would increase from approximately ~14% to ~16%.

Supervisor Higgins advised that the School Board would need assistance in making up the increase in VRS.

Supervisor Campbell stated that the Board needed actual figures from the School Board before making any decisions. He added that the Schools gave their staff an increase last year that the State did not approve.

Supervisor Higgins recommended waiting until the Board of Supervisors and School Board met before further discussing and making a decision.

Supervisor Ford asked Mr. Bolster what would happen if they waited on a decision until after the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bolster responded that he would then advertise on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the public hearing on the real estate tax increase. He added that this would cause another public hearing change for the FY 2018 draft budget.

County Attorney Vickie Huffman advised that there are two public hearings that would need to be held: one for the increased real estate tax rate; and the other for the FY 2018 draft budget, which could not be held

at the same time. She noted that they could be held on the same day, but would be advertised separately at separate times. As an example, one could be advertised to be held at 6:00 p.m., and the other advertised for 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Campbell asked Commissioner of Revenue David Whitesell if he knew how far in advance the Treasurer sends out the first-half real estate tax bills.

Mr. Whitesell replied that bills go out soon after the budget is adopted.

Mr. Suter explained that the *Virginia Code* requires that the tax bills be mailed out 14 days before their due date; however, the Treasurer has always tried getting them sent out more than a month before the due date.

Supervisor Ford recommended the Board make a request to the School Board for materials the Board of Supervisors wished to see prior to their joint meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This would allow both Boards to have the same information readily available for planned discussions on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Ford stated that he was ready to make a motion on the real estate tax rate to be advertised during this meeting.

Supervisor Lewis asked that the Board wait to make a motion until after their meeting with the School Board on the 16<sup>th</sup> to allow for the Board having the latest School Division funding-request figures.

Supervisor Campbell shared that he did not mind waiting until after the joint meeting with the School Board as long as it did not affect the taxpayers' normal real-estate tax cycle.

Chairman Hinty and Supervisor Higgins agreed with Supervisor Campbell.

Mr. Bolster and the Board discussed continuing its March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to March 20<sup>th</sup>; advertising for the real property tax increase public hearing on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; and holding the public hearing on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bolster added that the School Division budget must be adopted no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Hinty asked the County Administrator and Director of Finance to look at this situation further, develop meeting dates and times to meet all *Virginia Code* requirements, and bring back a recommendation to the Board.

Supervisor Lewis asked Mr. Bolster for an idea of the existing revenues versus expenditures estimated for the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Bolster replied that he expects revenues over expenditures to be more than \$1.5 million.

Chairman Hinty asked for the Board's thoughts on a COLA increase for County employees.

Supervisor Lewis asked that the Board treat the schools' employees equally.

Supervisor Ford restated that the schools single-handily determined to give their staff a compensation increase last fiscal year when the state and local budgets ultimately did not provide for it.

Supervisor Lewis replied that he believes that was an incorrect statement. He suggested asking the School Board during their joint meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> for clarification.

Chairman Hinty advised that the County also gave a 2% increase for County staff last year. He asked for the Board's recommendation for COLA.

Mr. Bolster advised that the State is looking at giving their employees 3% raises and Constitutionals 2%.

Supervisor Higgins made a recommendation to give County employees a 3% raise based on what the State is giving their employees. Supervisor Campbell agreed. The recommendation was approved by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

Mr. Bolster asked if the recommendation included the Solid Waste Staff.

Chairman Hinty replied, yes.

#### **Solid Waste Discussion**

Chairman Hinty asked if the money that was placed in the current-year budget last year for the Fancy Hill site was still available.

Mr. Suter replied that all was available except what was used for engineering costs.

Mr. Bolster added that \$127,000 was left for the Fancy Hill site.

Chairman Hinty asked that this funding be carried over into the FY 2018 budget to support alternative staffed collection center options that were under review.

Mr. Suter advised that the Kerrs Creek staffed collection center site was included in this year's budget, and that he hoped to move ahead on this approved capital project in the near future. He added that the Fancy Hill site was also in this year's budget, and funds would need to be pushed forward to support potential alternative locations. He noted that

the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) would need to be revised, not the budget. He added that the Natural Bridge Station site was also included in this year's budget - and those funds too would need to be pushed forward. He shared that the Northwest Quadrant site was also included in this year's budget and so those funds would be pushed forward. He advised that there is an estimated \$110,000 in proposed budget savings when comparing FY 2017 to FY 2018 should the current iteration of the Refuse/Recycling Collection Department budget continue as is in this budget cycle.

Supervisor Higgins stated that the previous meeting was not easy for him. He advised that he and Chairman Hinty have been looking at two properties in the Fancy Hill area as a replacement for the site denied during the previous meeting. He added that he has concerns about the Route 60 Boat Lock site closure, as it is a very condensed area. He stated that his citizens would have to travel to the Landfill once the Boat Lock site is closed - and the Landfill hours are not the same as the other staffed collection center sites. He stated, as he had in the previous meeting, that he is the voice for the citizens of his district and would like to have the same number of staffed collection center sites as the other districts have or are planned to receive.

Chairman Hinty agreed that the Fancy Hill site was on the borderline of his district. He stated that it would be helpful to have actual drawings of the proposed new staffed collection centers.

Supervisor Lewis stated that they could go ahead and make the improvements to the Fairfield and Greenhouse Road sites and then take pictures of those to show what the new sites will look like. He added that, when he had a change of heart during the previous meeting and voted



against the Fancy Hill site, he had no desire to change the Board's overall desire on moving ahead with the previously approved Solid Waste plan. He stated that the temporary hold on the closures of green box sites was just temporary, and that the Board needs to recommit to the plan and start moving ahead.

Chairman Hinty stated he would like to see everything put back on track and go ahead and work on the other sites.

Ms. Shafer indicated that staff could move forward with the Kerrs Creek staffed collection center site, as they have a task order ready to be sent.

Supervisor Hinty asked for a few extra months before closing the Boat Lock site.

Supervisor Lewis suggested the Board give consideration to a new Buffalo District staffed collection center site. He added that the difference in Landfill hours compared to collection sites was an issue. He asked Ms. Shafer to explain.

Ms. Shafer explained that to make the hours at the Landfill the same as at the other staffed collection centers, there would be a need to add two part-time staff members to support the extended operational hours. She added that there would be additional permitting fees to change the Landfill's hours.

Chairman Hinty stated that the Landfill is listed as one of the collection centers in the Solid Waste plan, and so it needs to have the same hours as the others.

Supervisor Lewis advised that in order to do so, there is a permit process that would need to happen.

Supervisor Higgins asked Supervisor Campbell how he felt since the majority of his citizens would be using the Landfill after the planned closure of the unstaffed collection centers in his district.

Supervisor Campbell replied that he would like to keep the hours consistent but also understands DEQ's regulation requirements for additional permitting. He noted that the Landfill collection center would not be able to accept brush because the other centers do not. He suggested maybe moving the center at the Landfill outside of the scale house area.

Supervisor Ford commented that, once the new collection plan is in place, the citizens in his district will have about the same distance to travel to a collection site as the citizens in the Buffalo District. He added that his citizens would have to spend more time due to the many traffic lights they would travel through compared Buffalo District citizens traveling to the Landfill. He stated that he could not see the Buffalo District citizens falling into more of a hardship than the people in his district. For that reason, he felt the Landfill collection center should be just like the others in the County in terms of operating hours.

Supervisor Campbell asked that all discussions related to the collection sites be held individually between Supervisors from this point on. He also asked that the Board consider removing one (1) green box site from each district, starting with the most abused ones first. He noted that this is the first time he has received phone calls from citizens because they do not want to see their dumpsters removed if the Board isn't removing sites from the south end of the County.

Supervisor Higgins asked how many green box sites were in each district; some may have 10 and some may have two.

Supervisor Lewis commented that the green box sites to be removed from the South River district is referring to existing sites whereas in other districts, that is not the case. He added that to deal equally in districts, it may not make sense or work.

Supervisor Ford stated that is why the Solid Waste Committee wanted to work on the Fancy Hill site first, to make collections more equal by district. He asked if there was anything holding staff back from extending hours at the Landfill collection site.

Mr. Suter replied that he would need to get an estimate of the cost of extending collection hours at the Landfill and did not foresee any other problems.

Supervisor Higgins commented that the Board needs to take their time and do things right the first time.

Chairman Hinty stated that he would like to see a packet that includes all information on how many dumpsters are in each district right now; a map of the sites; the article from the local paper that explains what is being proposed; Landfill collection center changes; and the possibility of an additional Route 608 site.

Supervisor Ford stated that an additional Route 608 site would not be fair to all citizens, and that the Board should stick with the SCS Engineers' recommendations.

Supervisor Higgins asked for permission to work on an additional Route 608 site.

Chairman Hinty asked the Board for their thoughts.

Supervisor Lewis asked whether the Board were going to be considering these issues instead of the Solid Waste Committee and would the entire Board need staff's recommendations.

Chairman Hinty commented that he felt that Supervisor Higgins should continue with the process to find a new site to replace the unstaffed Boat Lock collection center.

Supervisor Lewis agreed by adding that he was still not sure how SCS Engineers identified the Landfill as the center for the residents in the Boat Lock collection center area.

Supervisor Campbell recommended moving forward with the SCS Engineers implementation plan and once it is complete, if the Board sees the need to add a site someplace, consider it then.

Supervisor Ford shared that the County paid for the SCS Engineers study and they should continue with the Fancy Hill site. He asked if the Board should direct Solid Waste Director Jeremy Garrett to do an elevation sketch of what that site would look like.

Mr. Suter asked the Board at what point do they wanted the renderings of each site, or would Mr. Garrett's sketches be good enough, or should a 3<sup>rd</sup> party be considered.

Supervisor Campbell noted that each site should be looked at separately, as some would not need as much landscaping as others.

Chairman Hinty recommended starting with the sites that are most visible.

Supervisor Higgins told Supervisor Ford that he was not in favor of the Fancy Hill site and that the majority of the Board voted against it, so he felt it was a waste of time to go back and look at it.

Supervisor Lewis stated that the Fancy Hill site was "dead", and he was surprised it was brought up again. He added that a generic drawing of a site would be a luxury to have.

Mr. Suter stated it might be a case-by-case drawing, because a generic sketch wouldn't be suitable for those sites that have slopes and elevation challenges to mitigate. He added that the visibility from a person's house or a business is going to be different for each site.

Chairman Hinty asked that the site drawings be looked at from the neighbor's point of view.

Mr. Suter requested that the Board review each site drawing on a case-by-case basis, because some renderings might not need in-depth analysis to garner approval from the Board.

Chairman Hinty responded that the Board would give direction to which sites needed renderings.

Supervisor Higgins asked the Board for support to develop a collection center site near the Route 608/Route 60 intersection, since it is a heavily populated area and brings different challenges when compared to other district population areas.

Chairman Hinty stated that he still receives calls from citizens who used the unstaffed Route 501 collection site that was closed last year. He stated that those citizens use the unstaffed Boat Lock site currently.

Supervisor Higgins advised that the Buffalo District citizens did not want to travel through Buena Vista to drop off their household waste at the Landfill collection.

Supervisor Lewis accepted Supervisor Higgins' request for support to investigate for an additional collection center on or near Rt. 608 as a

form of a motion and provided a second. He added that this proposed additional site may not come to fruition. The request carried by the following roll call vote by the Board.

AYES: Higgins, Lewis, Hinty  
NAYES: Ford, Campbell  
ABSENT: None

Mr. Suter asked the Board for a vote on the temporary hold on closures of the unstaffed green box sites. He noted that the temporary hold was based on consensus by the Board, but that he would like a motion.

Chairman Hinty recommended that the Board look at each district to see which sites could be removed.

Ms. Shafer stated that, according to the County's hauler, his staff are being swamped with questions right now because citizens do not know what is going to happen and when. She stated that one site in the Natural Bridge District was emptied four times on Sunday afternoon. She added that their hauler would like to see all green boxes removed at the same time. Ms. Shafer advised that removing one site before the other will simply cause overload at the sites that remain. She also advised that there is a piece of land owned by VDOT that could be used near the Route 60/Route 608 intersection. She stated that VDOT is willing to work with the County for use of the property.

Supervisor Campbell and Chairman Hinty reiterated that the Board needed to look at the collection side of solid waste as a whole Board and that anything else could be reviewed by the Solid Waste Committee.

Supervisor Ford stated that time is being wasted and the new Landfill will be open soon.

Supervisor Campbell reminded the Board that the County's Engineering Consultant, Draper Aden Associates, has said that transitioning to staffed collection centers, in conjunction with minimizing unstaffed sites, is vital to the long-term protection of the new lined landfill.

Chairman Hinty asked the Board for a motion.

Supervisor Higgins moved to put the closure of the unstaffed green box sites on hold until the Board receives more information to assist with a future decision on developing new collection centers and eliminating unstaffed sites. Supervisor Ford provided a second. Supervisor Lewis agreed, adding that the temporary suspension created a view by the public that the Board had lost commitment to the Solid Waste plan and that this motion proves such a perspective to be incorrect. He added that the Board would do more research and revise the closure schedule before moving forward. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

AYES: Higgins, Ford, Campbell, Lewis, Hinty  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

Mr. Woolfrey commented that he did not believe it is fair that the County pays a hauler to bring trash from the dumpsters to the Landfill when he is having to pay to bring the trash from his clients. He asked the Board to consider no tipping fee for such a service to its citizens.

### **Adjourn**

Supervisor Lewis moved to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Supervisor Ford provide the second, and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

AYES: Lewis, Ford, Campbell, Higgins, Hinty

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None