

AT A CONTINUED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY,
VIRGINIA, HELD AT ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, 2893
COLLIERSTOWN ROAD, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

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

Call to Order:

Chairman Hinty reconvened the continued meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Opening Comments:

Chairman Hinty began the discussion on the tax-rate adjustment advertisement.

Mr. Suter informed the Board that the publishing requirement is to give the public a thirty-day notice. He added that the total assessed value exceeds last year's by an average 7.7%. He noted that the "Lowered Tax Rate" would result in .06894/\$100 of assessed value; if the Board decides to increase the rate from that point, it will have to be decided soon due to the additional requirement of a 30-day notice for public hearing. Mr. Suter explained that in order to fund the budget as presented, there would need to be a two-cent increase to the lowered rate, or \$0.71/\$100 ("Effective Rate Increase").

Supervisor Campbell stated that he would not support the \$100,000 consulting costs for the School Board's Financial Software, as he believes it should be included in the purchase price.

Supervisor Ford asked for the Board's recollection of the amount of advance notice members were given last year for the funding request of the MUNIS system and if it was agreed, to let them use the school capital escrow account. No one recalled. Supervisor Ford then stated that it would be imprudent to prevent them from using what they have already purchased and noted that the funding should come from their reserve account. Supervisor Ford moved to approve the School Board's request of \$100,000 for consulting fees. Supervisor Lewis provided the second, and the motion carried by the following roll call vote by the Board:

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

Chairman Hinty returned to the discussion on adjusting the tax rate. Supervisor Campbell asked what the \$504,000 request from the schools included.

Mr. Suter provided a breakdown of the costs as follows:

- VRS = \$271,576
- Health insurance (ten-percent increase) = \$139,796
- Group life insurance = \$41,389
- Utilities = \$30,000
- Two new positions = \$126,500

Supervisor Campbell suggested waiting until there was a final health insurance renewal figure before proceeding.

Supervisor Higgins inquired if the County would pay the current ten-percent increase requested by the schools and allow them to come up with the remaining funding on their own.

Supervisor Ford informed the Board that there is a good possibility of savings in the fuel budget lines in the current fiscal year and that the Board does not need to tie itself to the issue of health care costs at this time in order to set a tax rate.

Supervisor Lewis moved to advertise a proposed tax rate of \$0.71. Supervisor Higgins provided the second, and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

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

Supervisor Higgins moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Supervisor Lewis provided the second, and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

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