

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Patrick, held at the Patrick County Administration Building thereof on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Crystal P. Harris, Chairperson; H. Danny Foley, Sr., Vice Chairman; Darrell Cockerham, Roger L. Martin, and David G. Young, Board Members; Regena H. Handy, County Administrator; Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator; Eric Helms Monday, County Attorney; and Mary Beth Roberson, Assistant to the County Administrator.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

Regena H. Handy, County Administrator, gave the invocation.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a Moment of Silence in honor of U. S. military personnel serving abroad.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

2004 – 2005 Draft Budget for Patrick County: The County Administrator stated that she presented the Board with a balanced draft budget at the last meeting and is presenting same again, largely due to additional State funding. Mrs. Handy noted that the budget totals \$30,530,038 and includes the General County Fund, E911 Program, Social Services, Comprehensive Services Act, and the School System. She advised that this budget does not rely on any increases in the local tax levy or General County Carryover, other than in specific instances such as Tobacco Grant carryover, to balance the budget. She noted the increase in the Virginia Retirement System's rate, which went from 9% last budget year to 13.5%. Mrs. Handy stated that the budget from the School Board does request level funding from the Board, which is the same amount that was given the last budget year. She advised that the School Board's budget does include a minimum of 3% raises for teachers and certain school employees, funding for the purchase of new school buses, and an additional \$15.00 per month for each employee's health insurance. She advised the Board that a line item for the Emergency Management Department would need to be added; this line item will be used to identify Federal and State grant money, such as Homeland Security money. Mrs. Handy noted that no salary increases for Board employees were included in the draft budget. She asked that the Board consider a raise in salary for their nineteen employees. She presented the Board with the following list of possible scenarios to consider for the employees: (1) To cover the cost of health insurance increase only for all county employees [not school system] who are covered under the County policy (not all employees are under the policy so not all will benefit); (2) To update salary scales from 2001-02 and give step increases to eligible Board employees (including fringes); (3) To give Board employees 3% flat salary increase, across the board (includes fringes); (4) To give increases only to people due steps (not at the top of their scale; based on old 2001-02 scale). She said that doing this skews the scale and would eventually have people with less years service pass those with more; also, to give increases to only a few does not assist those whose health insurance cost increase which will mean that they have less take home pay than current. Mrs. Handy also presented the Board with a list of possible means for funding a board employee salary or health insurance increase, which totals \$42,610 in extra revenue.

The Chairperson asked that when a part-time soil and erosion employee is hired, would the current part-time building inspection employee still be needed. The County Administrator stated that she had spoken with Jason Brown, Building Official, and asked if he would still need as much part-time employee, as it had been raised by the Board at a previous meeting. She said that Mr. Brown said that he felt that he would still need the part-time person the number of hours as requested. She then advised that the Department of Conservation and Recreation had originally proposed that Patrick County hire a full-time employee for soil and erosion, and that Patrick County is looking at creating this position on a part-time basis only.

The Chairperson stated that she does not want a department taking advantage of having an extra employee.

Mr. Martin stated that he is not in favor of raising taxes but that the Board employees deserve a raise. He noted that some of the citizens cannot afford their insurance and that the County cannot take money from people and spend it without setting priorities and doing it in a proper manner. Mr. Young said that there are areas in the budget where spending can be reduced and that the salary scales need to be adjusted. He then noted that the County is currently looking into insurance coverage by another provider. Mr. Cockerham said that there are several employees who are due salary steps and have been frozen at those levels for many years. He said that those salaries need to be updated. He then reported the following approximate number of foreclosures in Patrick County: 28 in 2002; 21 in 2003; 13 from January to April, 2004. He stated that some people lost their homes due to the current economic conditions; however, some people have lost them by their own doing. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this matter, with Mr. Martin commenting that he did not feel the Board should judge in such matters.

Mr. Martin also stated that he does not feel that the taxpayers should pay for the recreational leagues, but that the parents and volunteers in the community should fund them. Mr. Young said that equipment is expensive and that it needs receive extremely good care. He then noted that there are a lot of taxpayers who are pleased that their money is allowing their children and grandchildren to be involved in sports, and then there are some citizens who are not in favor of this expense. He said that he was informed that some coaches are being paid and some are not, therefore, the County should not pay any of the coaches. He stated that the referees should be paid for their services and also reimbursed for their mileage. Mr. Cockerham noted that referees must be certified before they can be appointed.

Mr. Young asked the County Attorney if the County could set a price that it is willing to pay for vehicle services and create an approved list of vendors who will participate. The County Attorney said that the County is allowed to do that. Mr. Martin stated that he is in favor of competitive bidding.

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Roger L. Martin and carried, the Board made the following changes to the Department of Parks and Recreation: Line Item: 1003 Part-time Wages: Program Supervisors from \$35,000 to \$30,000; and Line Item: 5412 Recreation Equipment & Supplies from \$17,500 to \$10,000.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by Roger L. Martin, seconded by H. Danny Foley, Sr. and carried, the Board made the following change to the Department of Building Inspection: Line Item: 5408 Vehicles and Equipment: \$4,500 to \$4,400.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following change to the Department of Sheriff – Law Enforcement: Line Item: 5408 Vehicles and Equipment: from \$65,000 to \$64,000.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following changes to the Department of Solid Waste Disposal: Line Item: 5203 Telephone / Cell Phone: from \$775 to \$450; and Line Item: 5408 Vehicle & Equipment Supplies from \$5,000 to \$4,500.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following change to the Department of General Buildings & Grounds: Line Item: 5408 Vehicle & Equipment Supplies from \$5,000 to \$4,500.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following change to the Department of Maintenance of Rotary Field / Buildings: Line Item: 8006 Rental of Portable Toilets Deleted.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following change to the Department of Recycling & Litter Control: Line Item: 5807 Litter Clean-up: from \$3,200 to \$2,500.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board made the following change to the Nondepartmental budget: Line Item: 5715 Rental Assistance Contract: from \$12,000 to \$8,000.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board reduced Line Item 5408 Vehicle and Equipment Supplies by 1% (one percent) for all department budgets, unless a specific change is made for a department.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board reduced Line Item 5401 Office Supplies by 3% (three percent) for all departments.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board reduced Line Item 5410 Uniforms & Wearing Apparel (for uniforms that are purchased) by 20% (twenty percent) for the Departments of Animal Warden and Building Inspection.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board approved the following reduction in expenditures and additional revenues / changes:

\$2,917Recommended changes as made at the last meeting by Board.

\$8,000Remove life insurance premiums from General County Fund budgets.

\$15,000 ...Reduce Motor Vehicles and Equipment category under Sheriff (Law Enforcement).
(This is with Sheriff's concurrence.)

\$2,356Reduce Radio Equipment category under Sheriff (Law Enforcement).
(This is with Sheriff's concurrence.)

\$400Cancel Recreation Department and Maintenance Department Pagers.

\$5,000 ...Reduce Marketing category under Economic Development budget.
(This is with concurrence of Assistant Administrator.)

\$33,673 Total Expenditure Reductions

\$6,937 ...Additional Revenue: Previously incorrectly calculated Election/Registrar reimbursement.

\$5,000 ...Increase in Erosion Control Permit Fees

-\$3,000 ...Deletion of Revenue: SRO Officer Revenue Error

\$42,610 ...Extra Revenue over and above amount presented in balanced budget

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by Roger L. Martin, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board approved the updating of salary scales from 2001-02, giving step increases to eligible Board employees (including fringes), and the covering of the cost of health insurance increase only for all county employees (not school system) who are covered under the county policy.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Roger L. Martin and carried, the Board approved the rollover of excess revenue into the Contingency Fund, which includes any reflected savings through the bid processes that have been put in place this year.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by Roger L. Martin and carried, the Board hereby requires the County to solicit bids for the following items and services for fiscal year 2004-2005: bottled water, rugs, pest control, restroom supplies, office supplies, HVAC maintenance, machine maintenance, pagers, and cell phones.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board authorized the Transportation Committee to meet and develop a cost scale that the County would be willing to pay for oil changes, lube jobs, and other normal maintenance procedures on vehicles, the pay scale would be submitted to County garages, and those that

wish to service County vehicles will sign up to accept the price established by the Transportation Committee.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Young stated that the Board has discussed a meals tax at great length and that Patrick County can impose a 4% (four percent) tax. He noted that a lot of people eat at County restaurants and pay no other taxes to Patrick County and that other localities in Virginia have had a meals tax for many years. Mr. Young advised that this tax would offset some of the pressure on the Personal Property and Real Estate taxes over time. According to State figures, Mr. Young stated that restaurant sales in Patrick County in 2001 equaled approximately \$6.5 million, which would have amounted to approximately \$280,000 in revenue for the County. Mr. Cockerham noted that Patrick County is surrounded by localities that have a meals tax. The Chairperson stated that the people of Patrick County should make this decision.

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board directed the County Attorney to draw up a resolution and to apply to the Circuit Court Judge to have a referendum on a meals tax placed on the ballot in November's General Election.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, and Young

Voting Nay: Martin

Mr. Martin stated that he voted no because he will not vote for any new taxes, however, he understands why the Board would like to have the meals tax referendum added to the ballot.

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss legal matters [Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), 1950 Code of Virginia as amended] and prospective business [Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), 1950 Code of Virginia as amended].

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board reconvened into regular session, based upon the following:

WHEREAS, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Martin stated that he still has not seen a line item budget from the School Board and that he would like to discuss the funding of the SRO position for the High School, the purchase of new school buses, and other items. The County Attorney advised that the Board is entitled to a line item budget from the School Board through the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, but that the Board does not have line item veto authority. Mr. Martin stated that he is not asking to control the School Board's budget, however, he would like to see some creditability. Mr. Young said that the County has a really good School Board in place at this time and that the new Board is trying very hard to do a good job.

The County Administrator stated that the County must advertise the proposed budget and then hold a public hearing if the Board approves this revised draft budget.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by Roger L. Martin and carried, it is hereby ordered that a synopsis of the budget for informative and planning purposes for fiscal year, 2004-2005, be advertised for a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., as provided in Section 15.2-2506, 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended.

Voting Aye: Harris, Foley, Cockerham, Martin and Young

Voting Nay: None

The Board further scheduled an adjourned Board Meeting to be held on Monday, June 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Third Floor Board Room in the Patrick County Administration Building for the purpose of adopting a county budget for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Ordered that the Board be adjourned.

, Chairperson