

Patrick County Board of Supervisors

Work Session

Patrick County Veteran's Memorial Building – Third Floor – Boardroom

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Present: Ron Knight, Vice – Chairperson, Jonathan Large, Karl Weiss, and Lock Boyce Board Members

Absent: Crystal P. Harris, Chairperson, and Tom Rose, Assistant County Administrator

Staff Present: Jay Scudder, County Administrator, Alan Black, County Attorney, and Geri Hazelwood, Assistant to the County Administrator/Clerk

Media: Steven Walker, WHEO, Nancy Lindsey, the Enterprise

Call to Order: Mr. Ron Knight, Vice – Chairperson

Items for Discussion:

Ms. Lisa Price Hughes, VDOT Residential Engineer; gave the Board an update on the Six Year Plan which included decreases in funding to \$200,000.00 for the next six years and recommendations to drop all but one rural rustic road Route 773 Ararat Highway that had received previous funding. She provided the Board with a detailed list of projects. (see packet on file)

The Board had discussion on the proposed 2009 – 15 secondary roads 6 – year plan and 2009 construction budget. By consensus of the Board to leave the six year plan as presented by Ms. Hughes and vote at the Monday, May 11, 2009 business meeting.

Presentation: County Budget FY 2009 – 2010

Mr. Scudder gave the Board an overview of the FY 2009 – 2010 budget with noted recommendations and changes per the Budget Committee. The committee worked on the budget 16 hours in office with Mr. Scudder and Ms. Shough. The committee stated they also worked countless hours outside of the office, this was no easy task. Mr. Scudder stated that this year's budget compared to last year's is pretty much level. Last year's numbers reflected \$39 million and this year's numbers reflect \$42 million. This year we have \$1million dollars to the schools,\$1.5 million PSA water and sewer project, debt service, \$350,000 jail project, and \$150,000 in interest. Mr. Scudder stated there were a lot of changes in 2008 such as a 60% cut of the county's attorney and other staff. This year we have an increase with the county transfer station and the price of fuel. Each department cut 10% and will add twice the work to each department due to these cuts. The budget committee did a great job.

The Board had discussion concerning the county's contributions.

Mr. Weiss and Mr. Large stated that contributions were cut with no exclusions.

Ms. Shough stated that STEP had requested \$10,000 for operating expenses for the new facility as well as the contributions that the county gives each year in the amount of \$10,000.00.

The committee cut that contribution.

Terri Bridges, STEP, INC from Franklin County stated that those funds were used to oversee 70 properties for low income families.

Mr. Large asked that a letter be written from Terri explaining the situation before the committee could make any adjustments.

Mr. Weiss stated the Chamber of Commerce only used 50% of the allocation given them last year. Mr. Scudder stated that the contribution to the Crooked Road and Round the Mountain came out of the Chamber's contribution.

Mr. Boyce stated that the contribution to the Chamber should be reduced because the funds were not used. The county should stop giving contributions to the Crooked Road and Round the Mountain.

Mr. Large stated that by contributing to the Crooked Road we now have a major venue status representing Patrick County.

Mr. Weiss stated that Tourism is needed here in Patrick County and is not in favor of the budget being cut anymore. The Tourism budget was cut over \$100,000 last year. Tourism is growing here in Patrick County stating that Fairystone Park is the most used in the state of Virginia. He also stated that the lodging tax was up the first part of the year and possibly it will be able to fund the Tourism budget.

The Tourism budget reflects an increase based upon part of Tom Rose, Tourism Director's salary; and part of Wilma Pendleton, Administrative Assistant's salary was moved into that budget.

Mr. Knight had concerns with causing people hardships due to the cuts in contributions such as; the Health Department, Free Clinic, and the local food bank.

Mr. Scudder stated that he had talked with other County Administrators concerning the cuts to contributions and that everyone was making cuts where they could. Folks will have to make adjustments.

Mr. Large stated that it was a very difficult decision to make these cuts.

The Board received information that Ms. Harris's son Tracy Harris had passed away.

Mr. Knight stated that he knows that everyone is saddened by the news and that his heart goes out to them.

Mr. Boyce stated that the Board should adjourn out of respect for Ms. Harris and family and meet at another time. He also stated that the Board do a resolution expressing their deepest sympathy and condolences.

On motion by Lock Boyce seconded by Karl Weiss and carried unanimously the Board adjourned.