

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

May 21, 2019

A meeting of the Campbell County Board of Supervisors was held on the 21st day of May 2019 in the Board of Supervisors meeting room of the Walter J. Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Eddie Gunter, Jr., Chairman, Presiding	Concord Election District
James A. Borland	Spring Hill Election District
Bob Good	Sunburst Election District
Jon R. Hardie	Rustburg Election District
Susan R. Hogg	Timberlake Election District
A. Dale Moore	Altavista Election District
Charlie A. Watts II	Brookneal Election District

Also present were:

Frank J. Rogers, County Administrator
Clifton M. Tweedy, Deputy County Administrator
F. E. "Tripp" Isenhour, III, County Attorney
Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Chairman Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed.

// RECOGNITION OF 2019 VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS

It was an honor for the Board to recognize eight outstanding youth of Campbell County who achieved the highest grade point average for his or her graduating class to be named the 2019 Valedictorians and Salutatorians for each of their high schools. Administrator Rogers read the proposed resolution into the record and a motion was offered by Supervisor Hardie to adopt the same.

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, each year each of our four County high schools select one student, with the highest grade point average for his or her graduating class, to be the Valedictorian, and one student, with the second highest grade point average for his or her graduating class, to be the Salutatorian;

WHEREAS, the coursework completed is difficult and the competition for such an honor is fierce;

WHEREAS, these students serve as role models and examples to follow for their classmates and underclassmen;

WHEREAS, these students are honored at their graduation ceremonies, but because the achievement is so significant and worthy of approbation, the Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize it as well;

WHEREAS, the Altavista High School Valedictorian for 2019 is John Henry Hunter IV; and the Salutatorian is Cameron Tyler Cheek;

WHEREAS, the Brookville High School Valedictorian for 2019 is Lora Rae Callahan; and the Salutatorian is Sarah Wang Light;

WHEREAS, the Rustburg High School Valedictorian for 2019 is Daniel Meriwether Smith; and the Salutatorian is Aaron Rush Bailey;

WHEREAS, the William Campbell High School Valedictorian for 2019 is Joshua Tye Keller; and the Salutatorian is Joshua Seth Kerr;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors commends the students named as Valedictorians and Salutatorians for 2019 on their impressive accomplishments.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

Chairman Gunter presented a signed resolution to each of the five students present for the meeting. At the request of Supervisor Hogg, each student shared their future aspirations.

- John Henry Hunter IV – plans to attend Virginia Tech and study computer science
- Lora Rae Callahan – plans to attend Virginia Tech and study environmental science
- Daniel Meriwether Smith – plans to attend Virginia Tech and study criminology
- Aaron Rush Bailey – plans to attend Virginia Tech and study engineering
- Joshua Seth Kerr – plans to attend Liberty University and study chemistry

Chairman Gunter congratulated the students and wished them well in their future endeavors.

// FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ADOPTION

The Board conducted a public hearing on May 14, 2019 on the proposed FY 2020 budget. The Appropriations Resolution presented for approval was the same as advertised and reflected the Board's direction to lower the Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax by five (5%) percent and the Personal Property Tax by \$0.05 which lowered General Fund revenues and expenditures by \$287,453 from the budget presented at the April 9th work session. A proposed tax resolution was presented for the Board's consideration which reflected a real estate tax rate of \$0.52 as advertised and the amended tax rates as directed by the Board.

On motion of Supervisor Watts, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors adopts the following resolution:

TAX RESOLUTION

It is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors that there shall be levied for the tax year 2019, a tax of \$0.52 per \$100 of assessed valuation on all taxable real estate, a tax of \$4.40 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation on all personal property segregable for local taxation by Virginia law with the exception of a tax of \$3.85 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation for motor homes and all non-motorized pull behind recreational trailers and a levy of \$3.25 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed value on vehicles that are for hire and receive an apportioned tax; and a tax of \$3.25 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation on machinery and tools. Taxation of real estate and personal property of public service corporations shall be based on the assessment thereof fixed by the State Corporation Commission, located in this County on January 1, 2019 at the tax rates stated herein; and

It is further **RESOLVED** that there shall be levied for the tax year 2020, BPOL tax rates of \$0.1520 per \$100 of gross receipts for contractors, \$0.1900 per \$100 of gross receipts for retail sales, \$0.3325 per \$100 of gross receipts for personal service & repair, \$0.4750 per \$100 of gross receipts for professional service, \$0.0048 per \$100 of gross receipts for public service and \$0.0475 per \$100 of gross purchases for wholesalers, in accordance with the provisions of the Campbell County Code of 1988, Chapter 14, *Licenses and Permits*.

It is further **RESOLVED** that there shall be levied for the tax year 2019, Transient Occupancy Tax of 2% of charges for occupancy.

Before the vote was taken, there was discussion on the motion. Supervisor Borland saw the \$0.52 real estate tax rate as a seven (7%) percent increase in taxes on those who owned real estate. He offered a substitute motion to adopt the equalized real estate tax rate of \$0.49 with the other tax rates as stated.

On substitute motion of Supervisor Borland, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors adopts the following resolution:

TAX RESOLUTION

It is hereby RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors that there shall be levied for the tax year 2019, a tax of \$0.49 per \$100 of assessed valuation on all taxable real estate, a tax of \$4.40 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation on all personal property segregable for local taxation by Virginia law with the exception of a tax of \$3.85 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation for motor homes and all non-motorized pull behind recreational trailers and a levy of \$3.25 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed value on vehicles that are for hire and receive an apportioned tax; and a tax of \$3.25 (nominal) per \$100 of assessed valuation on machinery and tools. Taxation of real estate and personal property of public service corporations shall be based on the assessment thereof fixed by the State Corporation Commission, located in this County on January 1, 2019 at the tax rates stated herein; and

It is further RESOLVED that there shall be levied for the tax year 2020, BPOL tax rates of \$0.1520 per \$100 of gross receipts for contractors, \$0.1900 per \$100 of gross receipts for retail sales, \$0.3325 per \$100 of gross receipts for personal service & repair, \$0.4750 per \$100 of gross receipts for professional service, \$0.0048 per \$100 of gross receipts for public service and \$0.0475 per \$100 of gross purchases for wholesalers, in accordance with the provisions of the Campbell County Code of 1988, Chapter 14, *Licenses and Permits*.

It is further RESOLVED that there shall be levied for the tax year 2019, Transient Occupancy Tax of 2% of charges for occupancy.

There was additional discussion on the two motions. Supervisor Good supported the substitute motion pointing out the County would realize an additional \$2 million dollars in revenue at the equalized rate which did not include the future revenues from the meals tax. If the County continued to see positive growth, the County could utilize the natural growth in revenues without imposing a real estate tax increase. Bedford County just adopted the equalized rate, and adopting a higher tax rate would put Campbell County at a competitive disadvantage. Proponents of the meals tax voiced their support on the premise that real estate taxes would not have to be increased. Supervisor Borland added the Town of Bedford also adopted the equalized rate.

Supervisor Hardie supported the original motion indicating no one on the Board was in favor of raising taxes but were in favor of keeping the tax rate level at \$0.52. He supported the reduction in personal property taxes and the BPOL tax to support the residents and businesses. He referred to data from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership that indicated that while Campbell County had a nominal rate of \$0.52, its effective tax rate was at \$0.48 per \$100 when considering its assessment ratio. Bedford County's effective tax rate was at \$0.51 and believed citizens were getting a better deal in Campbell County. Supervisor Hardie would support maintaining the current real estate tax rate of \$0.52 to tackle some of the mistakes in the past and the things that needed to be done in the future.

Supervisor Good questioned the Board patting itself on the back for a \$287,000 decrease when taxes were being effectively increased by \$3 million dollars (\$1.3 million in real estate taxes and a projected \$1.6 million in meals taxes). His suggestions to balance the budget at the equalized rate by reducing the amount to be set aside for debt service payments by \$1.3 million and providing \$425,000 in additional funding for School salary increases was not supported by a majority of the Board.

In response, Supervisor Hardie stated he was proud the Board was trying to provide quality services and agreed on tax reductions for property and business owners.

Chairman Gunter commented that several of the Board members toured the County middle and high schools a few weeks ago and saw firsthand the improvements that were needed at the schools, especially Rustburg Middle School. Also, the Board had been discussing the need for broadband in the County. The Board needed to plan for these two projects in the future and pointed out that property values in the County only increased by six percent over the last eight years.

Supervisor Hardie agreed that if your property only increased six percent over eight years, it could be interpreted as not a good investment. Most people who invest in property want to know their investment was growing in value.

Supervisor Good added that growth had not been stagnant in the County pointing to increased revenues over the last three years and the recent increase in property values from the general reassessment. He supported being patient and utilizing the natural growth to meet budget priorities without raising taxes.

A vote was taken on the substitute motion.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Moore
Nay: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Watts
Absent: None

The motion failed; therefore, a vote was taken on the original motion.

The vote was: Aye: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Watts
Nay: Borland, Good, Moore
Absent: None

// ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET

The Board next considered adoption of the Appropriations Resolution for the FY 2020 budget.

There were a number of suggested amendments to the proposed budget, as follows:

- Supervisor Watts suggested the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance be fully funded at \$69,379 from Future Debt Service. [Administrator Rogers reminded the Board the amount of funding in Future Debt Service was intended to fund the baseline proposal per the financial advisors for the long-term School Capital Improvement Project. The Board should understand the implications of any funding reductions to that line item.]
- Supervisor Hardie supported maintaining funding in the budget for a grant writer position at a cost of \$50,000 for a full-time position (salary equivalent of \$36,000).
- Supervisor Good suggested eliminating the funding to reinstate the Hodges Convenience Center in the amount of \$47,000 recalling it was staff's suggestion to eliminate that site in a prior budget. [Administrator Rogers explained the elimination of the Hodges transfer station was one of the budget balancing strategies in the FY 2018 budget as it was one of the lower tonnage sites.]
- In light of an approved five (5%) percent salary increase for School employees, Supervisor Good recommended increasing funding to provide a 5% salary increase for law enforcement and public safety employees at a cost of \$136,000.
- Supervisor Good recommended eliminating the subsidies for the Town of Altavista and the Town of Brookneal and reduce the grant writer position to a part-time position.
- Supervisor Borland recommended eliminating the \$5,000 in funding to Avoca and Red Hill as they were private entities and had their own donor base.

There was Board support for additional compensation for Public Safety and Sheriff's Department staff. Administrator Rogers acknowledged the value of the Public Safety and Sheriff's Department staff, but he wanted to advocate for the entire organization. As a reminder, Public Safety staff received a four percent (4%) increase in FY 2018 while the rest of the organization received two percent (2%). In FY 2019 Public Safety compensation was increased by four percent (4%) while the rest of the organization received two percent (2%). A three percent (3%) increase was proposed across the organization based on the State's proposal to increase salaries for Public Safety by three percent (3%). From January 1 to May 14th of this year, ten people left the Sheriff's Department, six separations and four retirements. He

suggested the Board take a measure of time to compare compensation data of all County positions against the surrounding localities before approving additional funding.

The Board discussed the funding for Avoca and Red Hill with the majority of the Board supporting a contribution of \$2,500 for each speaking to its impact to the County in tourism dollars and the educational opportunities they provided at no cost to County students. There was disagreement by Supervisor Moore and Supervisor Good in the role of government to support private entities.

Chairman Gunter entertained motions to consider amendments to the proposed FY 2020 budget.

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved the Board approves fully funding the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance in the amount of \$69,379.

Supervisor Borland offered a substitute motion.

On substitute motion of Supervisor Borland, it was resolved the Board approves funding the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance in the amount of \$50,000.

The vote on the substitute motion was:

The vote was: Aye: Borland
Nay: Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Absent: None

The vote on the original motion was:

The vote was: Aye: Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: Borland
Absent: None

Employee Compensation

Supervisor Good offered a motion to provide a 5% salary increase for Public Safety and Sheriff's Department staff, but withdrew the motion following additional discussion on compensation and the potential to create salary structure inequities. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the County Administrator to compare the County's salaries with salaries of the neighboring jurisdictions and return to the Board with recommendations on compensation.

Funding for Red Hill and Avoca

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors retains \$2,500 in funding for Red Hill and \$2,500 for Avoca in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

The vote was: Aye: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: Borland, Good
Absent: None

Funding for Hodges Convenience Center

On motion of Supervisor Good, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors eliminates \$47,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Hodges Convenience Center.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Moore
Nay: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Watts
Absent: None

Funding for Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

The Board next discussed where to offset the funding for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance.

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved the Board approves lowering Future Debt Service by \$69,379 to offset approved funding for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and Appropriations Resolution

On motion of Supervisor Hogg, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors adopts the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget as amended.

Supervisor Good indicated he would oppose the motion as he supported the equalized rate of 49 cents and not the 52 cent tax rate that imposed a \$1.3 million tax increase.

The vote was: Aye: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Watts
Nay: Borland, Good, Moore
Absent: None

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors adopts the FY 2020 Appropriations Resolution as amended which would include a three (3%) percent cost of living salary increase effective July 1, 2019 for eligible full time County employees.

The vote was: Aye: Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Watts
Nay: Borland, Good, Moore
Absent: None

// CLOSED MEETING

On motion of Supervisor Hogg, it was resolved the Board of Supervisors enters into a closed meeting at 7:18 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property, in accordance with the acquisition or disposition of property exemption §2.2-3711 (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// The Campbell County Board of Supervisors entered into a closed meeting on this 21st day of May, 2019 at 7:18 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property, in accordance with the acquisition or disposition of property exemption §2.2-3711 (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

// On motion of Supervisor Hogg, it was resolved the meeting return to open session at 7:25 p.m.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// On motion of Supervisor Borland, the following resolution was adopted:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Campbell County Board of Supervisors had convened a closed meeting on the 21st day of May, 2019 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Campbell County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Campbell County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Campbell County Board of Supervisors.

The roll call vote was:

Aye:	Borland
Aye:	Good
Aye:	Gunter
Aye:	Hardie
Aye:	Hogg
Aye:	Moore
Aye:	Watts
Nay:	None
Absent During Meeting:	None
Absent During Vote:	None

Chairman Gunter recessed the meeting at 7:25 p.m. to reconvene in the Multi-Use Room for a discussion of the regional radio system.

// BRIEFING ON REGIONAL RADIO SYSTEM

At the Board's April 2, 2019 meeting Tracy Fairchild, Director of Public Safety, provided an update on the radio system and the challenges to keep the system operating efficiently. At that meeting she indicated the last update in 2015 moved the system to a five site analog VHF simulcast system. While it improved coverage, the first responders were receiving interference and the system was limited in that it was difficult to receive calls inside buildings. In addition, repairing the aging equipment and locating parts was also a challenge.

This meeting was scheduled to understand the current radio system and options available to support the radio system in the future. Mrs. Fairchild presented a diagram showing the current five (5) site analog VHF simulcast radio system which centered from the Long Mountain tower, the hub of the system. The Long Mountain tower was connected to the Concord, Brookneal and Johnson Mountain towers and the E911 Center. The Johnson Mountain tower provided connection to the Altavista tower. There were currently 389 to 450 radio users on the system which included the Sheriff's Department, Altavista Police Department, Brookneal Police Department, Public Safety Career EMS, EMS and Fire Volunteers, Virginia State Police and Game Wardens.

As stated previously, Director Fairchild indicated the current system was experiencing coverage issues, particularly in the more densely populated areas of the County, lacked interoperability with other localities and it was increasingly difficult to locate parts for the aging system. In fact, they were in the process of having a \$15,000 part built to maintain communications with Brookneal. The system also lacked interoperability and operability with neighboring jurisdictions. Campbell County provides service in Bedford County, Amherst County and the City of Lynchburg, and it was important to be able to communicate with them. The lack of a reliable 24/7 maintenance agreement was also an important issue.

Director Fairchild wanted to bring the status of the radio system to the Board's attention now because it would take at least 18 months to build and install a new system. Deputy Fairchild introduced Cindy Klus, Senior Specialist, System Engineering Group, of Harris Corporation; Myra Simpson, Deputy Director for Communications, John Evans, Communications Technician, and Captain Dewayne Wade of the Sheriff's Department. Harris was the contractor for the Regional Radio Board.

Ms. Klus reviewed a proposal to expand the regional radio system into Campbell County should the Board choose to go with that option. This would be accomplished by replacing the existing equipment with the P25 800 MHz technology to cover all of Campbell County. It would

mean using the regional board's existing towers and the County's current towers and upgrading Campbell County's dispatch center to connect with the region. The current paging system could be maintained. Connecting to the regional system would allow Campbell to participate in the maintenance agreements and increase interoperability and redundancy with surrounding jurisdictions. The Concord microwave site would not be needed when you moved away from the VHF system to an 800 MHz system.

The alternative would be to build a standalone system using the P25 800 MHz technology. This would require adding one or two towers, replacing the existing equipment including radios and reconfiguring space to accommodate the new equipment. The current paging system could be maintained.

An exact cost was not known, but Administrator Rogers estimated \$3.5 million to replace the equipment with either option. There would be a cost savings with the regional system by not requiring the addition of one or two towers and the advantage of participating in the regional maintenance contracts. This would be an annual contract based on the number of devices. The Regional Radio Board of which the County would become a member incurs debt on behalf of its members, and Campbell County would become a partner to share in that debt.

There were several questions from the Board to Harris on the competitiveness of its contract with the Regional Radio Board. Chuck Spruill, Accounts Manager for Harris, indicated the contract with the Regional Radio Board was competitively procured by the region. Ms. Klus added they did receive competitive pricing through their preferred equipment providers.

The Regional Radio Board was currently made up of the City of Lynchburg, Town of Bedford, Bedford County and Amherst County. Pittsylvania County currently used a 700 system. Appomattox, Halifax and Charlotte Counties were still on a VHF system. Director Fairchild indicated Campbell worked more closely with the City of Lynchburg than the counties on the southern end. Gary Christie, Executive Director of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, indicated Campbell County would pay a negotiated amount to join the Regional Radio Board. If a locality incurred debt as a member, that locality would still have an obligation if the locality decided to leave the regional group. Mr. Christie projected the system Campbell County would be buying into would have a life expectancy of 13 to 15 years, and at that time, the County would want to assess current options. Administrator Rogers added he would provide the Board a copy of the Master Agreement of the Regional Radio Board.

Supervisor Borland commented this was a huge and important priority for Public Safety operations in the County. He suggested the Board look at using reserves for future debt to not delay this project. Director Fairchild commented the system was currently meeting public safety need, but she realized the current equipment would not last indefinitely and it was a priority to avoid a system failure.

Administrator Rogers advised staff would provide additional information at the Board's June 4th meeting and seek direction from the Board to proceed toward joining the regional radio system or submitting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a standalone system.

// ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Borland, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

EDDIE GUNTER, CHAIRMAN

Approved: _____