

**MINUTES
KING WILLIAM COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC HEARING MEETINGS OF APRIL 21, 2014**

At a scheduled public hearing meeting of the Board of Supervisors of King William County, Virginia, held on the 21st day of April, 2014, scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, with the following present:

O. O. Williams, Chairman
T. S. Stone, Vice-Chairman
C. T. Redd III
T. J. Moskalski
S. K. Greenwood

T. L. Funkhouser, County Administrator
T. Bingham, Financial Services Manager

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, O. O. Williams, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked for a roll call vote:

Those members voting:

C. T. Redd III	Aye
S. K. Greenwood	Aye
T. S. Stone	Aye
O. O. Williams	Aye
T. J. Moskalski	Aye

RE: ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

On motion by T. S. Stone, seconded by T. J. Moskalski, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda for this meeting as presented by the County Administrator

RE: NEW BUSINESS

a. Public Hearing – Proposed Budget FY15 - Chairman Williams declared the public hearing open to receive comments on the proposed FY15 Budget. The following persons appeared to address the Board:

1. Robert Shannon, of the 3rd District, said income is property. Continuing he said reasonable people agree that essential government must be funded; in his opinion beyond that you are taking someones property for something not essential. He said data has been provided to the Board members showing staffing in public schools have gone through the roof. He suggested paid fire and EMS staffing be added on a ballot in the form of a referendum to let the citizens decide. In his opinion

household incomes have declined in the past four years in the private sector. He disagrees with the request for adding a Resource Officer position for the schools.

2. Bill Hughes, 638 Edgar Road, said his main source of income is social security and noted the increase he received last year was 1 ½% and further compared it to the 5% increase he calculates the County is requesting in the proposed budget.

3. Don Wagner, of the Mangohick district, stated he is a little perplexed at the insinuation the members of this Board ignores information provided to them. He is in favor of hiring a Resource Officer for the schools and said whether there are any incidents or not is immaterial; the officer is there for the protection of the children while in school. He hopes the funding for Bay Aging, Bay Transit, Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center were left in the budget. He also feels the funding for Arts Alive is important to the citizens in this county. In his opinion a 2 or 3 cent additional increase should be considered to help with recovery of the issues with the Town of West Point and to meet the critical needs of this county.

4. Tammy Garber, of 1756 Infield Road, has been a resident in King William for 34 years and is an instructor for two free senior programs for Parks and Recreation. She gave a brief description of the programs; mahjong and canasta. She stated the materials needed for the startup of the programs were supplied by the previous Parks and Recreation director. She noted the advertisement of these programs is now only available on the Parks and Recreation website; no longer printed and distributed. She noted some issues occurred during the start of the programs recently and she contacted Ms. Stone and Mr. Bingham with her concerns. In her opinion the Parks and Recreation office could be run more efficiently. She feels the continuation of the senior programs is important to the health for those that participate and asked the Board for their continued support.

Ms. Stone clarified King & Queen County does not have a little league program so they participates in the King William Little League program; they have a contract and make payment to King William County for the use of the Parks and Recreation ball fields. The funds paid to King William for the use of the field are not paid by King & Queen County.

5. Mike Padgett, 431 Walnut Lane, has lived in King William for approximately 14 years. In his opinion the Board is out of touch with what is happening to citizens. He said incomes have dropped; fees have gone up; services provided outside of the County have gone up and citizens cannot afford a tax increase. He also pointed out the number of properties along Route 30 that are for sale and in his opinion the prices have dropped on them because they are not worth the original asking price. He wonders if a county of this size needs all the assistants that are employed; he feels younger people should be hired with less experience and offered less pay. In his opinion citizens of King William County cannot afford to pay the high tax rate given the state of the economy and he is opposed to a tax increase.

6. Mollie Longest, of the 3rd District, feels the Board of Supervisors can do a better job. She supports the seniors in the county and feels they are not being supported in proportion to the taxes they pay. She said seniors make up about 32% of the population in this county. She supports the continuance of the Parks and Recreation department and the senior programs. In her opinion the Parks and Recreation staff is not attentive to messages left on voicemail.

Mr. Moskalski clarified the bylaws of the Board of Supervisors do not allow one speaker to yield their time to another speaker. He noted Ms. Longest is welcome to submit her comments in writing.

Mr. Redd commented that the items the speaker is speaking to have nothing to do with the budget.

Ms. Longest said she feels some of the Board members are not interested in hearing what their constituents have to say. She contacted her representative last week and received a reply call on Easter Sunday morning during worship time; she feels this is unacceptable.

Mr. Greenwood stated he is the supervisor for the speaker and said he returns calls to constituents when he has time.

7. Ann Basser, of McCauley Park, agreed to read additional comments on behalf of Ms. Molly Longest. She feels Ms. Longest was treated rudely by the Board.

Ms. Stone noted in reference to the time limits during the public comments period all speakers are treated the same.

Continuing Ms. Basser pointed out the proposed ball field renovations for the High School in the budget and also for a new school. She asked how carefully this issue was researched. She feels constituents deserve better service from elected officials. She thanked Mr. Williams for listening to the citizens. Ms. Basser stated she has lived in King William for less than a year and had she known the tax situation she would have not moved here. She feels the values of homes in King William have been affected by the tax rate.

8. Rev. Maria Harris, of 1796 E. River Road is an advocate for the disabled and elderly. She currently serves as a Board of Director for Bay Aging representing King William County. She spoke of the cuts in the budget made to Bay Transit and Meals on Wheels services. She asked the Board to please consider restoring full funding to the agency so the citizens in need of these services can still survive.

9. Joe Bartos, lives in the 1st District and Chief of West Point Fire Department, referred to an article in the *Tidewater Review* he recently read that stated the FY15 proposed budget level funds the fire and rescue departments. He feels the funding for King William Volunteer Fire Department is not level funding; the amount listed is a significant increase in funding. He also pointed out the budget was amended several times in the current fiscal year for KWVFD. He said the reason he brings up the KWVFD is they are an entity comparable in size and call volume to the West Point Fire Department; the West Point Fire Department is not receiving anything resembling the same amount of funding from the County. He also spoke of the fire study done in 2009 and cost to the County was zero dollars; to his knowledge none of the recommendations in this report have been enacted or discussed. In his opinion the proposed \$35,000 for a new study could be put to better use.

10. Linda Benson, of the 2nd District, has lived in King William County for approximately 30 years, back when the population was approximately 6,000. She moved here, and chose to remain here, knowing this is a rural county without city facilities and services; she said we have chickens. She has nothing against the senior programs through Parks and Recreation if they are self-funded. In her opinion, the majority of folks in the County would agree they chose to move here and remain here knowing they will not get the services, or expect the services, that you get in larger

surrounding localities. She agrees a referendum on a ballot for citizen input is a good idea. She commented on office supplies listed in the budget and feels they can be reduced.

11. Lori Dillon, of 794 Fairfield Drive, spoke in favor of the senior programs offered through Parks and Recreation. In her opinion, proposed user fees should be imposed on all programs; not just selected programs. She stated she has a mortgage, as do many senior citizens in the county, and cannot afford to pay more for programs offered as suggested. She suggested a survey be conducted to see what programs seniors would like to have offered.

12. Tom Gresh, of the 4th District, commented on costs to the county mandated by the State such as the 5% funding for employees to the VRS system; this doesn't make sense to him. In his opinion the job of the principals in the schools are to protect the children and wonders why a coach or principal can't be trained instead of hiring a resource officer. He doesn't agree with spending money we don't have.

13. Paul Jamerson, of the 3rd District, would like to know how the Affordable Care Act has affected the bottom line of the county budget. He said in the private sector businesses have to address this sticker shock and suggested the county use some of those strategies. He suggested the county could pass some of the cost of insurance on employees and gave some examples. He is curious if any of the ideas were utilized in the budget that were received during the citizen input meetings.

14. William Tornatore, of the 5th District, moved to King William in 2006 in anticipation the county would grow in the business sector. He has been trying to sell his home for 2 years at below the assessed value and could not sell, so he decided to stay. He feels he has lost a lot of value in his home and now will be faced with higher taxes. In his opinion the county has not done anything to attract growth. He said he is fortunate he has been able to stay in his home; some of his neighbors have not been as fortunate. He suggested the county look at development and services offered.

15. A letter was submitted via email by Bob Ehrhart of the 5th District for consideration during the budget public hearing. He feels with the aging infrastructure and maintenance, the county schools should not seek any budget increases, in light of economic conditions and decreased median household incomes. He listed comments

on a number of funds from the budget and the following is a summary of those comments: he feels Arts Alive is not an essential government function and funds should be removed from this category; he supports a contract based on performance for employees; he feels the county should conduct an evaluation of costs based on capital and operation expenses; in his opinion the county should look to reduce administrative costs in the school system, including exploration of a single system which combines West Point schools with King William schools. He said King William County must not continue to balance its budget and revenue sources on the backs of homeowners. In closing, he urged the Board to take a hard look at altering the eligibilities and determinations associated with open space and conservation land use.

There being no other persons appearing before the Board to speak for or against the proposed FY15 Budget, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

b. Public Hearing – Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2014

The Chairman declared the public hearing open to receive comments on the proposed Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2014.

There being no persons appearing before the Board to speak for or against the proposed Tax Levies for Calendar Year 2014, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Redd clarified the resource officer for the school is a grant funded position through the schools and has nothing to do with the budget as a whole. He said he is not defending the school's position but feels a principal of a school has a lot more to do than stand at the door and watch who comes and goes.

Ms. Stone said, to her knowledge, the Board did not cut any Parks and Recreation programs. The only programs that do not have any type of user fee are the senior programs. The idea is that all of the programs that have a user fee will have a longer viability. She clarified the Board asked that each program be viably sustainable and the fees cover the cost. Once again she stated no senior programs were cut.

Mr. Redd said it was discovered some programs were not totally self-funded; there was a big difference in the revenue coming in and the cost. He said the Parks

and Recreation department has been given the task to adjust accordingly. He said there are going to be some programs, not senior programs, that will go up in cost to the participants because they are not self-sufficient.

RE: ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business to come before this Board on motion by C. T. Redd III, seconded by T. J. Moskalski, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

COPY TESTE:

O. O. Williams, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

T. L. Funkhouser,
County Administrator
Clerk of the Board