



VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE SURRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022, AT 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY

ABSENT:

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. DANIELLE POWELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DELON BROWN, NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR, IT DIRECTOR
MS. DOREATHA PIERCE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MR. HORACE WADE, PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MR. RAY PHELPS, CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MR. JONATHAN JUDKINS, COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE
SHERIFF CARLOS TURNER, SURRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lyttle who then asked those present to stand and say the pledge of allegiance. Chair Lyttle asked if there were any questions or changes needed on the agenda as presented. There being none, the public hearing was turned over to staff.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Real Estate Tax Increase

1. Presentation by Staff – Mrs. Melissa Rollins, County Administrator
2. Open the Floor for Public Comments –
 - Mike Eggleston, Dendron District – Against – Asked why we are raising taxes with 20 million dollars in undesignated funds, what are you doing to justify raises and what are you doing to justify taxes.
 - Frank Fields, Claremont District- Against- Stated that he was told by his supervisor that the money was going towards new emergency vehicles, which he says he haven't seen. Also stated the tax burden is on the younger people of the county, which means there will not be many new young people to come here and continue the lifeblood of this county.
 - Robert Chandler, Bacon's Castle District - Against- Made references of how the increased tax rate would impact the county.



- Bill Etcherson Surry District – Against – Stated this tax rate increase will put farmers out of business.
 - Susan Corvella – Carsley District - Against – Suggested the tax rate to dropped further. No new positions.
 - Helen Eggleston -- Dendron Against – Suggested rather than increases, the county should look for ways to cut expenses.
 - Kimberly Bailey- Surry District – Against- Suggested the county to consider not raising the real estate tax and to take in consideration the things that the county does not have; hospital, grocery store....
 - Jeremiah Williams, Dendron District - Asked what citizens will gain for this tax rate and what type of service does Surry County offer taxpayers.
 - Abram Chatham – Suggest that the county find ways to help the citizens instead of costing them more struggle.
3. Close the Public Hearing: Mrs. Lyttle closed the public hearing.
4. Comments from Board Members
- Supervisor Drewry – Stated he is concerned with the fixed income people and suggested consideration of elder tax relief.
 - Supervisor Calhoun – Stated he hope additional conversation be made to reduce the minimal rate. Ask the school board to find ways to reduce their budget request. Find other ways to reduce tax.
 - Supervisor Lyttle – We all are taxpayers, and the same issues that you are having, we are having as well. Spoke of the needs of the county that was mentioned and stated that the board is trying to get those amenities to the county. Stated we understand the struggles that many are facing, as well as inflation. She also stated some of the services that the county provides to citizens.
 - Supervisor Elliott – Stated the only county that has a lower tax rate than Surry County is Sussex County. Advised citizens that the county must be able to afford the amenities that are needed. Stated that the board does take the citizens in consideration, but still must maintain a functioning county.
5. Closing Remarks by Staff – Mrs. Rollins – Reiterated that it is not the job of the County Administrator to raise taxes but is the job of the Board of Supervisors to be able to assess the tax rate. She stated her job is to let them know the daily operations that are becoming demanding by citizens and what's needed on an annual basis to conduct the business of the county.

FY 22-23 County Administrator's Proposed Budget

1. Presentation by Staff - Mrs. Melissa Rollins, County Administrator
2. Open the Floor for Public Comments: Mrs. Lyttle opened public comments.
 - Mike Eggleston, Dendron – Against - Asked who pays for fuel and upkeep on the vehicles that are parked in the back.
 - Robert Chandler, Bacon Castle - Against – Stated there was no line-item breakdown and shared his perception of the budget.
 - Bill Etcherson Surry District – Shared the comparison of teacher salaries, school graduation rates, school dropout rates, and testing scores among Surry County Public Schools and other districts.
 - Susan Corvella, Claremont – Stated that citizens are concerned with the cost of fuel for county vehicles and the cost of county department heads travel expenses for those that are living outside of the county



- Kimberly Bailey, Surry District – Asked what considerations the county considered as it pertains to the increase in personal property taxes.
- 3. Close the Public Hearing: Ms. Lyttle closed public comments.
 - Comments from Board Members
 - Supervisor Elliott – Elected not to share a comment at this time.
 - Supervisor Drewry – Asked had the state budget been approved and how it would have an impact on approving our (Surry County) budget.
 - Mrs. Rollins answered, Surry and every other county that's waiting are going ahead and adopting their budget. Also stated there could be opportunities to make changes after the budget is adopted if needed, but we need to move forward with the best projections we have at the time.
 - Supervisor Drewry: Suggested that the board meet again to continue discussions on expenditures.
 - Supervisor Calhoun – Stated additional work can be done on budget. Look at school reductions, additional work session and look at line items.
 - Supervisor Lyttle– Agreed to having another Work Session.
- 4. Closing Remarks by Staff: Ms. Rollins clarified that all budget information was on the website and available for citizens to view.

Budget Materials:

1. Permit Fees: Ms. Rollins shared with the board that the permit fees recommendation was available in board packages for general information at this time.

Supervisor Drewry left the meeting at this time.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion on Employment of County Attorney:
Supervisor Elliott made motion to advertised for a full-time position for a county attorney. Judy Lyttle seconded the motion. All present voted as follows: (Approved)

SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM "TIM" CALHOUN	NAY

Supervisor Calhoun left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Danielle Powell, County Attorney, advised that at this point, no more actions could be carried out because a quorum was no longer present.