

April 29, 2008

County of Greene, Virginia

THE CONTINUED MEETING OF THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE WILLIAM MONROE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.

Present were: Steve Catalano, Chairman
Clarence Peyton, Vice Chairman
Jeri Allen, Member
Carl Schmitt, Member
Mike Skeens, Member
Ray Clarke, County Attorney
Barry Clark, County Administrator
Patti Vogt, Deputy Clerk
Tracy Morris, Finance Director

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY 2008-2000 COUNTY BUDGET AND TAX LEVIES

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment. The Board heard comments from the following individuals regarding the proposed budget, the proposed allocation for the schools, allocation for the Greene County Youth Center, and the proposed tax levies for FY 2008-2009: Pauline Hovey, Linda Haselton, Scott Wills, Cathy Brinkley, Mitch Miller, Kim Powell, Debbie Brown, Andrea Whitmarsh, Lori Gore, Gail Daniel, Erica Saunders, Ernie Inzana, Neil Williamson, Sonny Clay, Darcy Higgins, Jason Collier, Linda Lundin-Seidel, and Ray Dingledine.

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Board member Carl Schmitt spoke on this being his first budget process as a Board member. The decision was made to not change the tax rates due to difficult economic times. He said he was personally honored and proud to be associated with individuals passionate about the

work they do for the good of the community. He felt Greene County has a remarkable array of people who give above and beyond the call, all the time, to help their fellow man. Mr. Schmitt said the Board has to make hard decisions. He felt there was a very successful first step with School Board and School Administration toward a much more open and frank exchange of ideas, needs, wishes, and restraints.

Board member Jeri Allen, who noted this is her seventh budget, said the process is painful. She said she would be very distressed to learn that the inability to fund the Schools request was ever interpreted as a lack of appreciation for the teachers. She felt the Board is doing the best it can.

Vice Chairman Clarence Peyton thanked Board members for the team effort during the budget process. He feels the Board has appropriated sufficient funding to all departments to continue normal business operations. He expressed concern about rescue services and felt action will have to be taken in the near future to help that department. He also commented on efforts by the School Board to improve the teacher's pay scale.

Mr. Peyton noted that 60.65% of the total operating budget is dedicated to the Greene County Public Schools; 6.57% is allocated for Social Services; and the remaining 32% is distributed to all the other departments.

Mr. Peyton felt there is justification for the Board to take another look at the budget request for the Schools. He said he is very conservative and believes every dollar spent must be justified.

Board member Mike Skeens said he has learned a lot in the short time he has been on the Board of Supervisors. He felt it is very important to improve communication with the School

Board and expressed his appreciation to everyone for working with the Board during the budget process.

The Chairman thanked the Board members for their hard work on the budget and also expressed his thanks to staff, constitutional officers, and the public. He suggested the State Legislature be lobbied regarding the needs of localities. Mr. Catalano said the open exchange of ideas is needed to work towards common goals. The Board cares about the quality of the school system/staff and is committed to working towards a good system.

Mr. Catalano briefly reviewed the history of the reserve fund which is actually a fund balance used for cash flow. He said the County is in good financial condition at this time.

The Board decided early on to not increase the tax levies. In regards to economic development, Mr. Catalano said one component is to keep expendable income in the pocket of taxpayers so they can actually patronize businesses.

Mr. Catalano said State funding has been cut in a lot of areas. As an example, unfunded mandates by the State for LEOS retirement for deputies, cost the County \$80,000.

Mr. Catalano said there has been great progress this year in discussions with the School Board. The plan is to discuss priorities further after the budget is adopted.

In regards to the Vehicle Maintenance Facility and operation of the fleet, Mr. Catalano said life cycle costs should dictate the replacement of equipment and vehicles should be rotated on a more frequent basis. The efficiency and cost of utilizing vehicles passed down from the Sheriff Office needs to be reviewed. Mr. Catalano felt the purchase of vehicles should be a matter of safety and noted the County will be purchasing buses for the school system.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to include an additional \$84,000 in the allocation for the Schools to cover the technology teacher, first phase of the lease/purchase of security equipment for High and Middle Schools, and purchase of transportation software.

The Chairman explained that the Board will take action on the adoption of the budget at the meeting on May 13. However, the Board will be voting on the tax levies tonight.

After discussion, the Board, upon motion by Carl Schmitt and unanimous vote, set the following tax levies for FY 2008-2009:

Levies on \$100 assessed valuation:

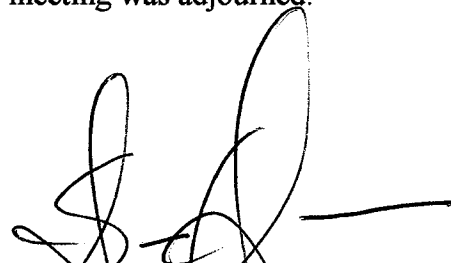
Real Estate	\$0.72
Public Service Corp	\$0.72
Personal Property	\$5.00
Except Farm Machinery & Livestock	\$0.00
Industrial Machinery & Tools	\$2.00

Recorded vote:	Steve Catalano	-	Yes
	Clarence Peyton	-	Yes
	Jeri Allen	-	Yes
	Carl Schmitt	-	Yes
	Mike Skeens	-	Yes

Motion carried.

RE: ADJOURN MEETING

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Steve Catalano, Chairman
Greene County Board of Supervisors