

A meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Rooms 226-228 of the Greenfield Education and Training Center in Daleville, Virginia, beginning at 7:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Members: Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr., Chairman
Dr. Donald M. Scothorn, Vice-Chairman
Mr. I. Ray Sloan
Dr. Richard G. Bailey
Mr. Stephen P. Clinton

ABSENT: Members: None

Others present at the meeting:

Mr. Gary Larrowe, County Administrator
Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P. M.

Mr. Martin welcomed those present and noted that this meeting is to conduct public hearings on the proposed FY 20 County, School, and Capital Improvements Plan budgets and the proposed tax rates for 2019 as advertised.

Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance, then gave an overview of the proposed budget. He noted that these public hearings are the next step in the County's annual budget development and approval process. He further noted that this public hearing was advertised on April 3.

Mr. Zerrilla stated that the County's budget priorities include several functional areas, e.g., governmental, judicial, public safety, public works, parks and recreation, schools, etc. He stated that the proposed budget includes full year funding for the new assistant economic development director position which will help enhance the County's economic development efforts, as well as employee salary adjustments, a facilities study to review the future use of the County's buildings, school funds for debt obligations, debt service funding, and monies for the new Colonial Elementary School project.

Regarding revenues, Mr. Zerrilla noted that the County receives local, State, and federal revenues. He noted that the proposed FY 20 budget totals \$100.9 million which is a \$3.1 million (4.8%) increase over the FY 19 budget. He stated that material growth is anticipated in real estate, personal property, public service corporation, meals tax, Fire/EMS cost recovery revenues, and investment earnings in FY 20. Mr. Zerrilla stated that increased funding is also anticipated from the State Compensation Board for the constitutional officers as well as for EMS grants and a small increase in Comprehensive Services Act funds. He noted that the Personal Property Tax Relief Act funds are set at a fixed block grant amount of \$3.4 million each year. Mr. Zerrilla further noted that a \$49,000 increase is anticipated in federal revenues.

Regarding expenditures, Mr. Zerrilla stated that the General Fund-related expenditures are proposed to total \$36.7 million including a \$400,000 transfer to the Economic Development Authority. He noted that debt service costs are anticipated to decrease 3.4% and the school budget is proposed to be \$59.5 million which is an increase of 2.2% over FY 19. Mr. Zerrilla stated that school-related expenditures amount to 59% of the total County budget, with General Fund items totaling 34%. He further stated that projected public safety expenditures include one Sheriff's Department and one Fire/EMS position, emergency communications system replacement planning, and employee salary adjustments.

Regarding education, Mr. Zerrilla stated that an additional \$400,000 in County funding was included in the advertised FY 20 school budget.

Mr. Zerrilla stated that the Community Development aspect of the proposed budget includes funding for broadband expansion, matching funds for historical preservation projects, regional/community organizations, and for expenses related to updating the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the economic development budget includes funding for small business assistance, business retention, Greenfield development, and economic development performance agreements. He noted that funding is also included for various technology enhancements to improve government accessibility.

Mr. Zerrilla stated that the school system anticipates an increase of \$900,000 in State revenues in FY 20 and flat funding from the federal government. He noted that the school's original budget submittal identified \$2.1 million in needs including one new staff position (CTE engineering teacher), 8 staff reductions, a 2% increase in the teachers' salary scale, and continuation of the school bus replacement program. Mr. Zerrilla stated that the final school budget totals \$24.9 million in County funding or a \$400,000 increase over FY 19.

In summary, Mr. Zerrilla stated that the proposed FY 20 budget is balanced and does not include a tax increase. He further stated that volunteer and career fire/EMS budget categories have been combined into one department, funding is included for four new County staffing positions of which 2 were converted from part-time to full-time, there is \$2.1 million in proposed funding for capital projects, and there are no proposed Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based employee salary increases.

He stated that County staff is also planning for the future and considering potential budgetary challenges including the public safety, economic development, education, facilities and infrastructure categories

Mr. Zerrilla requested that the Board receive public comments on the proposed budget and tax rates and take these comments into consideration. He stated that it is planned that the Board will consider adoption of the FY 20 budget at their April 23 regular meeting.

Mr. Martin then opened the public hearing on the General Fund, School, and CIP budgets for FY 19-20 as advertised. He asked that the speakers come to the lectern, provide their name and address, limit their comments to three minutes, and direct their comments to the Board members. He also requested that the audience exercise courtesy at all times.

Mr. William Brown of Murray Drive in Troutville stated that he lives on the road which will access the new elementary school. He stated that this is a short, narrow street and questioned if there any funding in the budget to improve and widen the road. Mr. Brown stated that the property owners along this road are concerned about how much right-of-way from their properties will be needed for these road improvements.

Mr. Brown stated that they have talked to the Board of Supervisors members, the School Board, and VDoT about this roadway and no one knows what is going on and they are "passing the buck." Mr. Brown stated that, in reviewing the FY 20 budget, he could find no money allocated for these roadway improvements. Mr. Brown questioned what are the plans for this road which serves six residences.

He stated that the County invests in all areas including funding to attract new businesses. Mr. Brown stated that he has heard that the school will use a septic system which will be expensive to install. He stated that there are no sewer or natural gas lines in this area and questioned if there are plans to extend any utilities to this area in the future. Mr. Brown stated that businesses need sewer and natural gas to expand and move to this area of the County.

Mr. Brown stated that Food Lion has to pump their septic tank every month. He stated that “nothing has changed on Route 460 in the last 45 years.” He stated that there is a 4-lane road (Route 460) through this area but “all of the money is going into Daleville.” Mr. Brown stated that they need public sewer in this area as many houses in Rainbow Forest Subdivision are on their second and third septic tanks.

After questioning by Mr. Martin, it was noted that there was no one else present to speak. The public hearing was then closed.

A public hearing was then held on all proposed tax rates for the 2019 calendar year as advertised.

Mr. Martin noted that no changes in the tax rates are proposed.

After questioning, it was noted that there was no one present to speak on this matter. The public hearing was then closed.

Mr. Martin thanked everyone for attending this meeting and for the comments received. He noted that the Board members appreciated their attendance at these hearings.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Dr. Scothorn, seconded by Mr. Sloan, and carried by the following recorded vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 P. M. (Resolution Number 19-04-01)

AYES: Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Martin, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None