

RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAY 7, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

FY15/16 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Present:

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Jean C. Harper, Member
John L. Haynes, Jr., Member
Robert B. Pemberton, Member

Also Present:

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Mercedes L. Pierce, Finance Officer
Dr. Greg Smith, RCPS, Superintendent
John Brown, School Board Chairman
Susan Johns, RCPS, Director of Finance
Joseph Quesenberry, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Jennifer Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue
Susan Pemberton
Pat Pugh
Harry Smith
John Lewis
Approximately 30 others

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

FY16 BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Quicke gave a Power Point presentation showing the proposed FY16 budget.
([Attachment 1](#))

FY16 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Sanders opened the public hearing and informed the speakers that they will be given a three minute limit.

Cadet China Watt spoke to the Board about the possible elimination of the JROTC program. Miss Watt said that the program is a major part of her life, giving her the opportunity to learn leadership, responsibility, and team work. She said that approximately one third of the student population is enrolled in the JROTC program. Miss Watt said as the students speak, she hopes that the Board will see the future leaders of this community trying to save their way of life.

Rhonda Davis, parent of a JROTC cadet, briefly told the Board that the JROTC program teaches students to be loyal, respectful, and selfless, and it would be a mistake to take the JROTC program out of Rappahannock High School.

Cadet Marisol Rodrigues told the Board that the JROTC program has helped her personal life and said it teaches students about life.

Cadet Rebecca Gillon said that the JROTC program has helped her public speaking ability. She said that this is the only program that pushes you towards your future.

Mr. Rusty Acree spoke to the Board about the upcoming budget. ([Attachment 2](#))

Cadet Rashaun Veney told the Board that the JROTC program is primarily made to motivate young students to become citizens. He said that this program has taught him leadership and he praised the ones that have been willing to sacrifice their life for a cadet. Mr. Veney said that you are never alone in this program; you have a partner beside you at all times.

Lori Webb, parent of a JROTC cadet, told the audience that this issue is not up to the Board of Supervisors; the School Board decides what cuts are to be made. She asked the citizens to get more involved by attending the Board of Supervisor and School Board meetings. She said that there is a bigger picture, the county is suffering financially.

Marcellas Dungie, a music teacher, sung to the Board to show how important music is in the schools.

Allen Webb said that Richmond County is preparing our children to go away, not to stay. Mr. Webb said they need to find a solution on how to bring revenue into the County, besides raising taxes.

Robert Barrett, parent of a student in the JROTC program, recommended that the School Board and the Board of Supervisors come together in the same room to answer questions and find solutions.

William Washington told the Board that he has a lot of perspective when it comes to decisions made by the Board. As a member of the Town Council and a member of the joint committee with the Board of Supervisors, they continue to work hard to bring new businesses to the area, but to find a contemporary business that is compatible to Warsaw is very difficult. Mr. Washington said he doesn't understand the relationship between some of the Board members and the School Board. He stated that decisions need to be made that will promote growth and development.

Chairman Sanders closed the public hearing and thanked everyone for coming to the public hearing. Chairman Sanders thanked the JROTC students for commenting on what they believe in.

Chairman Sanders asked the members for a date to set the adoption of the FY15-16 budget.

Mr. Haynes recommended adopting the budget during the May 14, 2015 meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to adopt the FY15-16 budget on May 14, 2015 during the 9:00 a.m. meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and told the JROTC students to keep up the good work.

Mrs. Harper commended the JROTC students and said they have their support.

Mr. Haynes said he was sorry that the young adults were so upset and feels there was never any intention to cut the JROTC program. Mr. Haynes said that a good school system is one thing that helps draw people into a county. He stated Richmond County's policy allows anyone from any county to attend our schools with no tuition, which encourages people not to move into our County and is damaging to our County. Mr. Haynes said he was disturbed by Chairman Brown's recent Facebook post, which stated inaccurate and misleading information. Mr. Haynes said he agrees with keeping children before politics and asked others to do the same. Mr. Haynes commented that the School does a lot of good things and that the Board is highly committed to the JROTC program. Mr. Haynes said that students and parents are scared and he asked that the kids be left out of this.

Mr. Pemberton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors