RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
May 7, 2020  

BUDGET WORKSESSION MINUTES 

RECONVENE MEETING ON MAY 7, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. – BUDGET WORKSESSION 

Present:  
F. Lee Sanders, Chairman  
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman  
Robert B. Pemberton, Member  
William C. Herbert, Member (Via Zoom Meeting)  
J. David Parr, Member 

Also Present:  
R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator  
Hope Mothershead, Director of Planning & Zoning  
Denise Dunaway, Director of Finance & Development Services  
Dr. Greg Smith, School Superintendent 

Chairman Sanders called the meeting back to order. 

BUDGET DISCUSSION 

Mr. Quicke advised the Board that the purpose of this meeting was mainly to review the school budget as figures have changed since the first presentation of the budget. 

Dr. Smith reviewed the revised 2021 School Budget with the Board members. 

Dr. Smith noted there have been significant cuts to their funding and they are being addressed as best as they can. 

Dr. Smith mentioned the school has essentially lost contact with around 300 children. Dr. Smith noted as of March 13th the school has been diligently calling and trying to reach a number of the families. Dr. Smith stated that when the Governor announced school closing it was a closure to the facilities not the end of the operations of the school. Dr. Smith also stated Richmond County Public Schools are fearful with the number of returning students. 

Dr. Smith noted the AEM calculations are based on the number of students in the school system. 

Mr. Parr asked is there any way to know the number ratio of how many students were out of County students compared to the in-County students trying to be contacted. Dr. Smith mentioned that number has not been calculated.
Dr. Smith reported the total Revenues from State Funds, Federal Funds & Grants, Other Funds and Local Government Funds is $15,084,579 with a plus difference of $315,920.

Dr. Smith noted the budget is based upon $15,084,579.

Dr. Smith mentioned Food Services is serving around 7,000 meals a week with the support of the transportation department as well as the cafeteria workers. Dr. Smith noted this food service program will extend into September.

Dr. Smith reported the Revenue from the County is $4,821,727.

Dr. Smith mentioned the biggest expenditure changes are in Health Insurance with a 15% increase. Dr. Smith noted since there are no salary changes the school board tried to improve the employer share of the calculations.

Dr. Smith noted he anticipates some level of surplus at the end of this year with transportation cost being slightly less with the differences in the tutorial program not taking place with other essential programs that they traditionally have every year.

Dr. Smith mentioned he believes it is important to create a cushion in case of being in this situation again next year. Dr. Smith noted the School is trying to be conservative with hopes to have a significant rollover fund as they have had in the past.

Dr. Smith noted the Regional Special Education Reimbursement Program began to receive those funds about 3 years ago, and those payments are in the Regional Special Education account and are accumulating but has not been included in the operational expenses. Dr. Smith also noted he is anticipating receiving $110,000 this year to put in that account. Dr. Smith mentioned in 2021 if there should be an emergency those funds can be used.

Mr. Thomas asked is there a certain amount that is received from the lottery. Dr. Smith mentioned most of the educational monies that go to the localities come out of the lottery fund.

It was a consensus of the Board to move forward with advertising the FY21 budget and tax rates in a public hearing.

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C Herbert – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to advertise the FY21 budget in the amount of $26,796,994.00 and schedule a public hearing on May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion."

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C Herbert – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to advertise the following FY20 tax rates: Real Estate - $.70/$100; Personal Property - $3.75/$100; Machinery and Tools - $.40/$100; Merchants Capital - $3.50/$100; and PPTRA (car tax) 46% and schedule a public hearing on May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion."
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Mr. Thomas asked about how the public can contact to stress concerns or interests in regards to the Public Hearings. Mr. Quicke noted meetings will be advertised, they will be held electronically and written comments will be accepted and read out loud. Mr. Quicke mentioned he is also thinking about doing a budget presentation live in the next week or two giving a review of the highlights of this year’s budget and letting people know how they can comment, review or ask questions interacting through live video.

Mr. Quicke noted the zoom video is open to anyone who would like to join. Mr. Quicke also noted they are trying to do everything with advertising on social media and in the newspaper to make sure people know there is a limit with operating right now but your voice can still be heard.

Mr. Thomas asked is there a way to track how many people tune in on the live video. Mr. Quicke mentioned it tallies up how many people have watched the meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors