

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, May 14, 2002, at 5:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

Joe W. Derting, Chairman
 John B. Roberts, Sr., Vice Chairman
 Bobby D. Ingle
 Phillip B. McCall
 Dulcie M. Mumpower
 Anthony S. Rector

Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
 Naoma A. Cook, Administrative Supervisor
 Mark W. Seamon, Accounting & Purchasing Manager

ABSENT:

Jack H. Barker

1 Call to Order

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mr. Joe W. Derting, Chairman of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Derting noted the absence of Jack Barker, who was absent due to attending a previously scheduled class, and stated that Mr. Barker will be present for the 7:00 PM regular meeting.

2 Statement Concerning Purpose of Public Hearing:

Mr. Derting explained the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed and recommended County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. This hearing is being held pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the 1950 Code of Virginia as amended.

3 Public Hearing Opens

Mr. Derting opened the public hearing and invited comments on the proposed and recommended County Operating Budget for FY 2002-2003.

Pat Mannix addressed the Board expressing concerns about various expenditures.

The following persons addressed the Board of Supervisors requesting that they give consideration to Washington County Public Schools when looking at the FY 2002-2003 County Operating Budget:

Dr. Ron Ely, member of the Washington County School Board, addressed the Board speaking in support of

the School Board's budget request. He said the school system offers some excellent services, but have some major problems. Dr. Ely stated that the school system is doing well with the top quartile academic students, but there are signs that indicate the school system is not doing well with the third and fourth quartile academic students. The current Standards of Learning performance rates indicate that 30 to 40% of the Class of 2004 will not graduate. Dr. Ely told the Board that the economic vitality of the community requires that action be taken to improve academic performance in the School System. In closing, Dr. Ely said that an additional \$1.1 million dollars was requested to give a 3% increase to the staff. He told the Board that a teacher in Washington County with 20 years of experience could leave for Bristol or Smyth County and receive a \$10,000 pay increase. Dr. Ely said this is not in the County's best interest.

Mr. Buckey Boone, member of the Washington County School Board, addressed the Board in support of the School Boards budget request. He thanked the Board for conducting the public hearing and stated that he realized each of the Supervisors cared for the children of Washington County. Mr. Boone explained that the Commonwealth of Virginia had not kept its bargain with the localities, children and the school systems in that they have not been funding the Standards of Quality. This leaves the quality of schools left up to the localities in areas such as teacher pay raises. He stated that the teachers deserve a raise and even if it is a small percentage it will help Washington County to compete for teachers.

Mr. Jay Doucette, a teacher in the Washington County School System, appeared before the Board asking for their consideration in reinstating the full amount of funding requested by the School System so that raises for the teachers may be granted. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support of the school system.

This concluded the speakers present at the public hearing at this time. Upon discussion the Board decided to recess to allow time for additional speakers to arrive at the public hearing.

On motion of Mr. Ingle, second by Mr. Robert, it was resolved to take a 30-minute recess.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Ingle</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The Board reconvened and took comments from the following persons:

Mr. Bob Boatwright, with the Washington County Lifesaving Crew, addressed the Board regarding their support of emergency medical services in the County. He expressed his concerns about the elimination of the ambulance rotation fund. Mr. Boatwright stated that he had been Treasurer of the Washington County Lifesaving Crew for ten years, and without the financial support from the County, the squad would cease to exist as it is now and he doesn't want to see this happen. He requested that the Board look further at the funding issue and create an adequate plan for all emergency medical services organizations in the County.

4 Public Hearing Closes

There being no further comments, Mr. Derting declared the public hearing closed.

5 Adjourn

On motion of Mr. Ingle, second by Mr. Rector, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Ingle</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Prepared by:

Naoma A. Cook, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Joe W. Derting, Chairman