V I R G I N I A:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Thursday, May 12, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia the following were present:

PRESENT:

John B. Roberts, Sr. Chairman
Phillip B. McCall, Vice Chairman
Bobby D. Ingle
Dulcie M. Mumpower
Odell Owens
Anthony S. Rector
Kenneth O. Reynolds

Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
Mark W. Seamon, Accounting Manager
Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

ABSENT:

Lucy E. Phillips, County Attorney

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Roberts, Chairman of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Phillip McCall gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Statement Concerning Purpose of Public Hearing

County Administrator Mark Reeter explained the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed tax increase to be effective beginning in County Fiscal Year 2005-2006 as a result of the general reassessment of real property undertaken in Calendar Year 2005.

4. Public Hearing Opens

Mr. Roberts opened the public hearing and invited comments on the proposed tax increase to be effective beginning in County Fiscal Year 2005-2006 as a result of the general reassessment of real property undertaken in Calendar Year 2005.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Mazie Cook expressed her concerns about the substantial increase in her real property tax reassessment. Ms. Cook explained that the reassessment showed her having a lot that she did not own. She met with the assessors and they removed the lot from her reassessment; however it did not decrease the amount of her reassessment.

Billie Nash presented the Board with petitions from taxpayers against the 2005 real property tax assessment. Ms. Nash asserted that the reassessment was not conducted according to the Constitution of Virginia, Article 10 that she asserted states that property is to be assessed at fair market value. Ms. Nash said that she does not believe the reassessment was conducted using fair market value. She explained that her reassessment increased by 100%. After she met with the assessors it was decreased by 50% , which tells her that the reassessments are to high. Ms. Nash stated that young people and senior citizens would not be able to afford an increase in their real property taxes.

Patrick Mannix commented about various County expenditures. Mr. Mannix stated that the County should cut expenses.

Jennifer Illowiecki stated her concerns with the reassessment. Ms. Illowecki stated that the reassessment of property increased approximately 37%, which is above the average. If the Board adopts the proposed $.60 levy per $100 of assessed value for real property then her taxes will increase by two-thirds. She encouraged the Board to consider lowering the real property tax rate to offset the increase in the reassessment.

Tom Whittaker stated that he believes Blue Ridge Appraisal should be replaced because they are not doing a fair and adequate job for the taxpayers of Washington County. Mr. Whittaker commented that his reassessment was seven times higher than the last reassessment conducted four years ago.

Warren Odum spoke about his reassessment for three acres of property. Mr. Odum stated that property located beside his was assessed substantially lower. He questioned how this could be.

Chairman John Roberts outlined for Mr. Odum the appropriate procedures for disputing a reassessment.

Tom Illowiecki addressed the Board regarding concerns about the proposed real property rate. Mr. Illowecki stated that the tax rate should be reduced to offset the increase in the reassessment. He further stated that property in his community is selling below the appraised value. Mr. Illowecki suggested the Board consider cutting funding to various County agencies.

5. <u>Public Hearing Closes</u>

There being no further comment, Mr. Roberts declared the public hearing closed.

6. <u>Recess to 7:00 PM Public Hearing on Proposed and Recommended County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006</u>

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Mr. Reynolds, it was resolved to recess to 7:00 PM Public Hearing on Proposed and Recommended County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

The vote on this motion was as follows: (7-0)

Mr. Ingle	***Aye***
Mr. McCall	***Aye***
Mrs. Mumpower	***Aye***

Mr. Owens	***Aye***
Mr. Rector	***Aye***
Mr. Reynolds	***Aye***
Mr. Roberts	***Aye***

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Prepared by:

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Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

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John B. Roberts, Sr., Chairman