

V I R G I N I A:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Wednesday, May 27, 1992, at 7:00 p.m., at Abingdon High School, Thompson Drive, Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

Joe W. Derting, Chairman
 James T. Osborne, Vice Chairman
 Kenneth G. Mathews
 James P. Litton
 Maurice H. Parris
 Jackson Barker, Jr.
 Cecil K. Simcox

Bruce E. Bentley, County Administrator
 Cliff Walsh, County Attorney
 Mark W. Seamon, Director of Accounting
 Sandra M. Hatfield, Secretary

1. Call to Order

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mr. Joe W. Derting, Chairman of the Board.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Jackson Barker, Jr.

Mr. Jackson Barker, Jr. gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Reading of Public Hearing Rules

Chairman Derting read the rules for conducting the public hearing.

4. Commencement of Public Hearing on FY 1992-93 County Budget

Mr. Derting opened the public hearing inviting comments on the FY 1992-93 County Budget for Washington County.

The following people addressed the Board of Supervisors specifically concerning the School Board's budget:

David Winship, emphasized the importance of continuing adequate funding in order to have better schools, and encouraged the Supervisors to support the school budget as presented.

Michelle Robbins, stressed the importance of supporting the school budget as presented and asked the Supervisors to increase taxes in order to fund quality education.

Tamara Grimm, President-Elect of Washington County Education Association, commented on the per pupil funding for Washington County Schools in relation to other Counties in the state. She urged the Board of Supervisors to approve the school budget as presented plus allowing the School Board to retain carry-over funds.

Barbara Cross, spoke in support of funding the school budget as recommended and allowing the School Board to keep carry-over funds.

Barbara Jurs, commented on the limited funds to provide a quality education for pupils in Washington County. She reiterated a point made concerning teachers purchasing supplies for the students from their personal funds. She reemphasized the disparity of per pupil funding in Virginia.

H. R. Stevens, speaking as a taxpayer, distributed Washington County School data encompassing a ten year period which illustrated the improvement of pupil teacher ratio and Grade 4 test results in reading and math, both statewide and at the national level. He provided financial data covering an eight year period illustrating the growth in assessed property values, and the decreases in the debt fund, indebtedness of assessed value, payment for indebtedness and budget for indebtedness. He contributed all the successes to the staff's good management of the schools.

Mr. Stevens reflected on the future of technology in Washington County, and encouraged the Supervisors to start planning for a high tech high school by increasing real estate taxes, revising land use, and increasing the wheel tax. Mr. Stevens proposed earmarking the revenues in a contingency fund to pay for the school building project.

Tim Widener, PTSA President, Holston High School, urged the Supervisors to fund the school budget as presented plus the carry over funds.

Homer Marmalejo, commended the School Board for their management of funds and asked the supervisors to support the school budget as proposed. In addition, he asked the Supervisors to consider increasing the funds to the School Board.

The following people addressed the Supervisors on the FY 1992-93 budget:

L. B. Atkins, expressed his pride over the Supervisors working together; he suggested savings by employing an Assistant County Administrator who would have responsibilities for economic development and Emergency Services, and placing E911 under the direction of the Sheriff's Department; stated people in the community would like to see a good life saving crew in Washington County; and, in conclusion, he suggested the school board budget should be

funded so that children can receive free textbooks rather than paying a rental fee for the textbooks.

Randy Brown, speaking in support of Highlands Rescue Squad, urged the Supervisors to fund the squad.

Charles Nickols, resident of Mendota, asked the Supervisors to consider adjusting the tax rate downwards in the Mendota community because of closing of the school and the lack of services.

On motion of Mr. Parris, second by Mr. Mathews, it was resolved to take a ten minute recess.

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

Mr. Mathews	Aye	Mr. Litton	Aye	Mr. Derting	Aye
Mr. Osborne	Aye	Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Barker	Aye
Mr. Simcox	Aye				

Jim Mosier, spoke of the limited services in the Mendota community. He suggested the County work with state and federal agencies to increase the share of funds coming to Washington County stating it would have a greater impact than any tax increase at the local level.

Patrick Mannix, resident of Wilson District, opposed a proposed tax increase because the County is not collecting taxes that are due. He illustrated his point by citing an incident at Virginia Highlands Airport Commission whereby a special use permit for an expansion project is not on file in the Planning Office and a fee has not been collected. Also he advised that the Treasurer is not collecting taxes now due, he wants the Assistant County Administrator job and that the Resource Manager has saved County \$400K.

Chris Monteleon, who registered to address the Board of Supervisors, stated he would withhold his comments.

5. Close Public Hearing

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

6. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Mathews, second by Mr. Parris, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

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

Mr. Mathews	Aye	Mr. Litton	Aye	Mr. Derting	Aye
Mr. Osborne	Aye	Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Barker	Aye
Mr. Simcox	Aye				

Joe W. Derting, Chairman