



MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2010 BUDGET

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Montgomery County, Virginia – Montgomery County’s Board of Supervisors will advertise a proposed FY 2010 budget of \$158,881,766, which includes anticipated federal stimulus funding of \$3,221,940 for public schools. There is no proposed increase in the real estate tax rate.

A public hearing is scheduled March 26 for citizens to comment on the budget plan, which is based on preliminary information from the State that County schools may receive \$3.2 million from the federal stimulus package approved by Congress.

Local revenue uncertainties, funding reductions and prior funding commitments were the dominant issues for the FY10 budget. The FY10 General Fund budget of \$39.3 million represents an increase of only \$4,198 over last year. Although more than \$3 million in additional budget requests were submitted to the County, the total General Fund dollars in the advertised budget remain relatively flat.

An additional \$1 million was required to meet the County’s obligation to the new Western Virginia Regional Jail. Also, the issuance of \$77 million in bonds for school and County capital projects committed County resources to increased debt service costs of more than \$4 million. At the same time, the Governor proposed a state budget that reduced state revenue to the County by \$5 million, including schools. The County’s final budget will likely include adjustments as more details become known about the General Assembly’s restoration of state funds using federal stimulus dollars.

In order to address the County’s commitments within the existing revenues, reductions were made in a number of areas. Strategies to generate savings currently under way include freezing vacant positions and consolidating functions. There also are no compensation increases or new positions proposed in the budget. As much as possible, reductions to public safety have been minimized.

The public hearing will start at 7:15 p.m. at the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg. For more information, the proposed budget is posted at www.montgomerycountyva.gov, and may be viewed at the County Government Center, Montgomery Floyd Regional Library branches, Blacksburg and Christiansburg municipal buildings, Christiansburg Recreation Center and Blacksburg Community Center.

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