AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	Christopher A. Tuck	-Chair
	Gary D. Creed	-Vice Chair
	Mary W. Biggs	-Supervisors
	April N. DeMotts	
	M. Todd King	
	Darrell O. Sheppard	
	F. Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	L. Carol Edmonds	-Deputy County Administrator
	Martin M. McMahon	-County Attorney
	Angie Hill	-Director of Financial and Management Services
	Marc Magruder	-Budget Manager
	Vickie Swinney	-Secretary to Board of Supervisors
ABSENT:	Annette S. Perkins	-Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Advertised Real Estate Tax Rate - 89¢ per $100 of Assessed Value

The Chair called the public hearing to order for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the County's advertised real estate tax rate of 89¢ per $100 of assessed value. He explained that he would call the names of those who had signed up to speak. Each speaker was asked to state their name and address. The Chair asked that all comments be directed to the Chair and members of the Board and not to the audience or to staff. He further explained that since the purpose of the public hearing was to receive citizens' comments, the Board would not be answering questions. The audience was asked to refrain from applauding or commenting between speakers, and that any written statements could be left with the clerk. There will be a second public hearing on the advertised FY 2016-2017 budget at 6:30 p.m., or at the close of the first public hearing.

Steve Shelor, Long Shop/McCoy Rescue Squad Chief and Vice Chair of the Fire and Rescue Commission, addressed the Board in support of the advertised tax rate and supports .05¢ of the tax rate being allocated to fire and rescue.

Billy Hanks, Town of Christiansburg Fire Chief and Co-Chair of the Fire and Rescue Commission and Chair of the F&R Commission Equipment Committee, spoke in support of the advertised tax rate. He also supports .05¢ of the tax rate being allocated to fire and rescue. The extra funding in the budget will be used for equipment replacement. Mr. Hanks stated it is challenging to replace equipment on a 10-15 year replacement schedule. He thanked the Board for their support.

There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

The Chair declared a 25 minute recess in order to comply with the 6:30 p.m. announced start time for the second public hearing.

Advertised 2016-2017 Budget - $182,106,061

The Chair called the public hearing to order for the purpose of receiving citizens' comments with regard to the advertised FY 2016-2017 Budget in the amount of $182,106,061.

Sharon Williams spoke in support of the Parks & Recreation budget. Ms. Williams, Chairperson for the Parks & Recreation Commission, commented that the Parks & Recreation programs are beneficial to the County.

Susan Miller supports the budget as presented. Ms. Miller appreciates the Board's decision to keep funding the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) which will help cover the cost of the part-time employee. Ms. Miller provided information about the services MCEAP offers. She also appreciates funding to the Parks & Recreation Department and looks forward to having the Parks & Recreations Master Plan presented to the Board. Ms. Miller also supports funding to the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Greg Nelson requested the Board consider allocating funds to hire a technical expert to review the Radford Army Ammunition Plant's permit application. He expressed concerns with the open burning process at RAAP. Mr. Nelson also expressed his opposition to the proposed pipeline and cited concerns about future danger for groundwater contamination.

Devawn Bledsoe requested funding in the budget to cover the cost of an expert to review RAAP's permit application. Ms. Bledsoe stated a technical review is needed to determine if additional tests are needed. She stated that the Virginia Health Department granted a permit to RAAP in 2010 for depleted uranium bullets and questioned how RAAP is disposing of the depleted waste.

Dianna Richardson asked the Board to consider allocating funds to hire an outside legal expert to help with the fight against the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Ms. Richardson stated that Giles County, Roanoke County, Craig County and Preserve Montgomery County have hired Water & Powers Law firm. It would be beneficial to have regional cooperation in order to obtain legal expert advice.

Louisa Gay asked the Board to join forces with surrounding localities to hire Water & Power Law Firm to obtain expert advice regarding the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Ms. Gay also expressed concerns with emergency preparedness in case of damage to the pipeline and stated that MVP should pay for all necessary training that the County's fire and rescue staff will need.

Lynda Majors requested the Board include funds in the FY 17 Budget to hire Water & Powers Law Firm to obtain expert legal advice in regard to the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Lois & Ray Quesenberry asked the Board to approve funding to hire a legal expert in regard to the Mountain Valley Pipeline in order to help the citizens of Montgomery County. Ms. Quesenberry expressed concern about decreased property values and increased insurance costs.

Sarah Garst requested the Board set aside funds in the FY 17 Budget to hire a technical expert to review the RAAP's permit application. Ms. Garst stated she has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and believes the high level of perchlorate in the water is the cause of the high rate of thyroid cancer in the New River Valley.

Anita Puckett asked the Board to set aside at least $10,000 in the FY 2017 Budget to hire a legal expert to deal with issues related to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Ms. Puckett suggested the Board join neighboring counties to hire Water & Powers Law Firm as a consolidated front. She also suggested the Board allocate funds in future budgets to keep money reserved for legal consultation if the pipeline is granted and advice is needed during construction of the pipe line.

Sam Easterling, a Craig County resident, recommended the Board consider hiring expert legal counsel in regard to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Mr. Easterling stated that MVP has a full-time staff while the County does not have staff to dedicate their time just to work on MVP issues. He stated that Craig County has hired Water & Powers Law Firm for legal advice and so far the law firm has been helpful. He encouraged the Board of Supervisors to obtain Water & Powers Law Firm.

Rick Shingles stated that Craig County voted to set-aside $10,000 to hire Water & Powers Law Firm and they now have a strategy to fight Mountain Valley Pipeline. Mr. Shingles urged the Board of Supervisors to do the same.

Phyllis Albritton thanked the Board for their consideration regarding the School Board's budget, especially with the salary increase for teachers and staff. Ms. Albritton also commented that the region will not benefit by having a pipeline as it is a pass thru only. She also spoke about RAAP's open burn process and how she believes it affects the community's health. Ms. Albritton asked the Board to consider allocating $5,000 towards hiring a technical review expert.

Irene Leech requested the Board allocate $10,000 to hire a legal expert to review the Mountain Valley Pipeline project. She believes residents are facing the unknown as MVP is hiding a lot of the facts. She thanked the Board for their support.

Tom Hoffman urged the Board to consider allocating $10,000 to hire a legal expert in regard to the pipeline. He stated the money would go a lot further for the County to pool their money with the other counties and would show a uniform front in dealing with MVP. Mr. Hoffman stated that Water & Powers Law Firm has a lot of experience in dealing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Margret Rosten urged the Board to demand a performance bond from Mountain Valley Pipeline. Ms. Rosten requested the Board estimate the costs associated with the construction of the pipeline, such as road repair, construction of water lines due to damaged wells, and the cost for emergency services. These are costs that MVP will not cover and the citizens of Montgomery County will have pay.

Phyllis Olinger thanked the Board for not increasing taxes for FY 2017.

Janice Guyer supports $10,000 in the County's FY 2017 budget to hire Water & Powers Law Firm. Ms. Guyer expressed her concerns with having a pipeline in Montgomery County and stated she has little faith in MVP and FERC. She also expressed concern with what will happen when the pipeline is closed and Montgomery County has to deal with deteriorating pipes.

There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the Board adjourned to Monday, April 11, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____ ATTEST:_____

Christopher A. Tuck
Chair

F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator