

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2009 AT 7:15 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	Annette S. Perkins	-Chair
	James D. Politis	-Vice Chair
	Mary W. Biggs	-Supervisors
	Gary D. Creed	
	William H. Brown	
	Doug Marrs	
	L. Carol Edmonds	-Interim County Administrator
	Martin M. McMahon	-County Attorney
	Angie Hill	-Financial & Management Services Director
	Marc Magruder	-Budget Manager
	Ruth Richey	-Public Information Officer
	Judy W. Kiser	-Assistant to the County Administrator
ABSENT:	John A. Muffo	-Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

To receive citizens' comments with regard to the proposed FY 2009-2010 Budget

The Chair opened the budget hearing with an invitation for citizens to comment on the proposed FY 2009-2010 budget in the amount of \$158,881,766, which includes anticipated federal stimulus funding for the schools in the amount of \$3,221,940. The Chair announced that, at the March 9, 2009 meeting, the Board of Supervisors set the real estate tax rate for the calendar year 2009 at 71¢ per \$100 of the assessed valuation of real estate based on 100% fair market value, which is the same rate as last year.

The Chair explained that each speaker would be allowed five minutes to address the Board.

Lisa Garcia a member of the PTA at Harding Avenue Elementary School, spoke on behalf of the Jefferson Center, a non-profit organization located in downtown Roanoke. The Jefferson Center attracted more than 11,000 patrons last year. Over 2,000 of those patrons were students from Blacksburg High School, Harding Avenue Elementary and Margaret Beeks Elementary. Ms. Garcia pointed out that the Jefferson Center has never received support from Montgomery County for their educational and cultural agencies. The largest number of children it serves outside the City of Roanoke is in Montgomery County. While acknowledging that this is a difficult year for localities in balancing their budgets, she asked that the Board of Supervisors remember that the quality of life is directly tied to our investment in non-profit organizations that enrich our lives and our community, and consider this when allocating Montgomery County's resources.

Erin Bull, Vice President of the Montgomery County Education Association, thanked the Board for their support of educators and students in the past, and asked for their continued support. She asked that the Board maintain the level of education funding. She believes that students with a good education are more likely to find jobs in our changing economy and are also less likely to end up committing crimes.

Angie Cornett, President of the Montgomery County Education Association, thanked the Board on behalf of education professionals in the County for helping to fund the School Board's budget last year. She also thanked those who wrote letters and made phone calls to our legislators to get the stimulus package passed and the General Assembly's budget pushed through. She pointed out that the only salary increase they were requesting for school employees was for step increases, which will help maintain the integrity of their salary scale. She asked that the Board fully fund their budget so they can continue to improve the lives of children and education professionals in Montgomery County.

Karma Castleberry spoke as a resident of Montgomery County and on behalf of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia. She asked for continued funding for Brain Injury Services to assist them in meeting the needs of Montgomery County citizens who have acquired brain injuries. Ms. Castleberry is currently Chair of their Board of Trustees, and is a brain injury survivor. Their goal is to make a positive, measurable difference in survivors' ability to perform their service potential. A major emphasis has been that recipients of their services return to work, return to school, vocational training, or volunteer in their community. She asked that the Board consider the fact that the services they provide help other people give back to their community right here in Montgomery County.

Helen Butler, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia, represents twelve families who are residents of Montgomery County, who are living with the consequences of brain injury. She thanked the Board for their past support, which made it possible for them to say to their legislators that more of the counties in their service area are supporting their organization. To address concerns the Board had last year, several factors were used to determine the amount of their request, such as economic and demographic factors in each of the jurisdictions served, and believe they have provided a fair and equitable and reasonable request.

Susan Mayorga, a Case Manager for Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia, provided examples of how their clients, with some guidance and assistance, are able to return to work, return to school, and/or return to volunteer activities right here in their community. One example was a person who after a year and half of recovering in rehab from a motor vehicle accident was able to get a job working 20 hours a week in retail. It allows him to socialize with customers, and it is a fantastic fit for him and for his employer.

W. E. Atkinson said he did not attend the public hearing to ask for any money. He pointed out that neither state employees nor anyone else will be getting raises, and that most people are lucky to have a job right now. He asked about the funds that were set aside last year to cover the increase in gasoline prices for the Sheriff's Office. He also questioned the increase to the Sheriff's Department of \$925,473 when the Governor had proposed to reduce the Sheriff's budget by \$790,000. Mr. Atkinson said the discussions during the Fire and Rescue Commission meetings about charging a fee could be avoided if county vehicles were only used for county business. He also voiced his displeasure about using funds for School Resource Officers and asked that the Board expand the 5-minute time limit put on citizens speaking at the public hearings.

Larry Martin announced he was pleased about the county's budget and had two comments to make. First, he suggested that the \$3 million stimulus package for the schools not be included in the budget at this time; and second, that the funds for gypsy moth spraying should not have been taken out of the budget. The cost for the spraying is very low, but the damage that can be done to our timber by not spraying is unimaginable, and he asked that the \$10,000 for gypsy moth spraying be put back in the budget.

Supervisor Mary Biggs noted that last year's budget, for the first time, included \$1,000 for Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia. She didn't see it in this budget and asked if it had been left out.

Interim County Administrator Carol Edmonds explained that it was included last year out of the windfall which was one-time only money and it was not included in the base budget this year.

Supervisor Bill Brown thanked the citizens that came out to speak to them about the budget, it is their budget, too. He thanked those who came out and spent a little time to let the Board know what direction they should be going and what they would support or not support.

The Chair echoed Supervisor Brown's comments and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. There being no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by James D. Politis, seconded by William H. Brown and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned to April 6, 2009 at 6 p.m. for a Budget Work Session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Annette S. Perkins
Chair

ATTEST: _____
L. Carol Edmonds
Interim County Administrator