

**HALIFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Public Hearing & Work Session**  
**County Administration Building**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting Room**  
**1050 Mary Bethune Street**  
**Halifax, Virginia**  
**March 20, 2023 / 6:00 PM**

**A. Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Chairman Short called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Throckmorton gave the invocation.

Chairman Short led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Attendance Roll Call**

Board members attending were: Mr. C. Short, ED1; Mr. Roller, ED2; Mr. H.W.H. Pannell, ED3; Mr. R. E. Duffey, ED4; Mr. D. E. Throckmorton, ED5; Mr. S. Brandon, ED6; Mr. G. Ricketts, ED7; Mr. W.B. Claiborne, ED8 (arrived at 6:07 p.m.) and Mr. W. Smith, Tie Breaker.

Staff members attending were: Mr. Scott Simpson, County Administrator; Mrs. Stephanie Jackson, Director of Finance Director; Ms. Olivia Epps, Strategic Programs Coordinator; Mrs. Charlene Hendricks, Executive Administrative Assistant.

News reporters attending were: Victoria Thompson, News & Record, and Miranda Baines, The Gazette-Virginian.

**C. Adopt Agenda**

Motion made by Supervisor Pannell seconded by Supervisor Throckmorton, to adopt the Agenda as presented in the Board packet.

**VOTE**

Motion passed 7-0 by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. C. Short, Mr. L. Roller, Mr. H.W.H. Pannell, Mr. R. E. Duffey, Mr. D. E. Throckmorton, Mr. S. Brandon, and Mr. G.B. Ricketts

Nays: No one

Abstained: No one

Absent During Vote: Mr. W.B. Claiborne

Absent During Meeting: Mr. W.B. Claiborne

**D. Public Hearing on County Budget, Tax Rates, and School Budget**

Chairman Short explained the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding the proposed County Budget and School System Budget as well as proposed tax rates which have been published by both the Board of Supervisors and the County Staff.

Chairman Short declared the public hearing open.

With no one wishing to speak, Chairman Short declared the Public Hearing closed.

**NOTICE OF BUDGET ADVERTISEMENT**  
**County of Halifax, Virginia**  
**Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024**

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors on the proposed 2023 - 2024 County Budget in the Board Meeting Room at the Mary Bethune Administrative Complex, 1050 Mary Bethune Street, Halifax, Virginia on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at which time any citizen of Halifax County shall have the right to attend and state their views. There is no allocation or designation of any funds of this County for any purpose until there has been an appropriation for that purpose by the Board of Supervisors. This Budget will not be considered for adoption until at least seven (7) days after the Public Hearing. This Notice is published pursuant to Sections 58.1-3007, and 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended. The following is a brief synopsis of the Budget and proposed tax levies. A full text is available for Public viewing on the County website [www.halifax-countyva.gov](http://www.halifax-countyva.gov) and in the County Administrator's Office, 1050 Mary Bethune Street, Halifax, Virginia, Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

| <b>REVENUES</b>                          | <b>PROPOSED</b>    |
|--|--------------------|
| General Property Taxes                   | 30,620,000         |
| Other Local Taxes                        | 12,988,036         |
| Other Local Revenue                      | 1,797,256          |
| General Fund State Revenue               | 9,599,887          |
| General Fund Federal Revenue             | 47,000             |
| General Funds ARPA Revenue               | 6,000,000          |
| Social Services Revenue                  | 10,504,253         |
| 911 Revenue                              | 1,514,369          |
| Grant Fund Revenue                       | 3,209,552          |
| Airport Fund Revenue                     | 103,600            |
| School Fund Revenue--State               | 45,076,810         |
| School Fund Revenue--Federal             | 19,774,155         |
| School Fund Revenue--Locally Generated   | 1,027,982          |
| School Fund Revenue--County Contribution | 16,302,306         |
| Other Funds                              | 2,120,500          |
| Capital Fund Revenue                     | 103,835,000        |
| Less Fund Transfers                      | (19,846,614)       |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                    | <b>244,674,092</b> |

  

| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>           | <b>PROPOSED</b>    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Administration                | 2,985,855          |
| Parks & Recreation            | 233,427            |
| Public Works                  | 3,192,340          |
| Public Safety                 | 9,602,588          |
| Judicial                      | 1,777,660          |
| Economic Development          | 587,282            |
| Other General Fund Activities | 9,584,686          |
| Social Services               | 10,504,253         |
| 911 System                    | 1,514,369          |
| Grant Activities              | 3,209,552          |
| Airport                       | 103,600            |
| School System                 | 82,181,253         |
| Other Funds                   | 2,120,500          |
| Capital                       | 103,835,000        |
| Debt Service                  | 13,241,727         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>     | <b>244,674,092</b> |

**The Unit Tax Levy for the year commencing January 1, 2023 is proposed as follows:**

- All Districts and Towns Real Estate and Mobile Home (Per \$100.00 Valuation) **\$ 0.50**
- Personal Property (Per \$100.00 Valuation) **\$ 3.85**
- Industrial Machinery and Tools (Per \$100.00 Valuation) based on 50% of original capitalized cost **\$ 1.26**

**E. Continue Meeting to March 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission**

Motion to by Supervisor Pannell, seconded by Supervisor Throckmorton, to continue the Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting to March 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for a Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission and to convene in the Board of Supervisors Work Session.

**VOTE**

Motion passed 7-0 by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. C. Short, Mr. L. Roller, Mr. H.W.H. Pannell, Mr. R. E. Duffey, Mr. D. E. Throckmorton, Mr. S. Brandon, and Mr. G.B. Ricketts

Nays: No one

Abstained: No one

Absent During Vote: Mr. W.B. Claiborne

Absent During Meeting: Mr. W.B. Claiborne

The Board continued its Regular Meeting at 6:03 p.m.

**F. Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session**

The Board convened in its Work Session at 6:04 p.m.

Chairman Short asked if there were any Department Supervisors present who wished to speak.

Sharron Garrett, Director of the Victim Witness Program, introduced herself and commented she has been involved in the program for 20 years. The program is a one and a half staffed program, which provides services and support to victims of incidents that happen in Halifax County. She stated the Victim Witness Program is grant funded; however, she has been informed there will be a 10 percent reduction in federal allocation for FY2024. She requested that the County compensate for the 10 percent reduction, which is a total amount of \$6,992.

Ms. Garrett provided additional information about the program to the Board members and noted it is mandated in the Code of Virginia, and there are Federal guidelines that dictate what the program is supposed to do in terms of assisting crime victims. She explained that her job is to provide the victims with information about the criminal justice system, accompany them to Court, assist the victims in identifying what their needs are as a result of the particular crime that has happened to them, assist victims with obtaining Protective Orders, referrals to Civil Counsel if needed, and assist victims with referrals to other outside agencies.

Ms. Garrett stated the Victim Witness Program, the Domestic Violence Program, and the Sexual Assault Program provide specific types of services for the victims. She emphasized some of the other outside programs do not offer the services which are offered through the Victim Witness Program, such as being able to go to training for professional development. She said it could potentially eliminate being able to provide materials to victims in terms of handouts and other information which is helpful in determining the needs of the victim's treatment.

Vice Chairman Ricketts asked if County staff could explain the grant process in further detail. Mrs. Jackson referred the Board members to the Grant Fund on page 27 of the FY2024 Proposed Budget and said there is a line item under revenue for the Crime Victims Local Supplement. She stated County staff is recommending to provide the additional funding requested to keep the Victim Witness Program whole.

Mrs. Jackson asked if any of the Board members have any questions, feedback, or comments regarding what was presented to them earlier this month.

Supervisor Duffey commented County staff has done an excellent job of providing a balanced budget and thanked them for all of their work.

Supervisor Brandon said the additional amount being requested for the Victims Witness Program is approximately \$7,000, which is doable. Mrs. Jackson verified the additional funds have already been included in the County staff recommendation.

Chairman Short stated there is correspondence from the Halifax County Fire Commission dated March 16, 2023 with concerns for decreases in their request. There is a line item in the amount of \$50,000 to test hoses, air packs, ladders, and pumps, but the amount was decreased to \$25,000.

Mrs. Jackson stated when the \$1 million donation was received from the ConEdison monies, which went into the Capital fund, \$50,000 was allocated specifically to training for the Volunteer Fire Departments. She explained how funding is allocated in the yearly budget process based on reviewing actuals and trends. She said a new ladder truck has been purchased and the cost of maintenance is not anticipated to be as expensive. She noted annual testing is required for the new ladder truck and funds have been allocated to cover those requirements.

Chairman Short said \$10,000 was allocated to classroom training this year. He asked if the Volunteer Fire Departments used those funds. Mrs. Jackson stated their request was for \$10,000 to update and maintain the fire training grounds in the last fiscal year, and it is not something that needs to be done on a regular and recurring basis. She stated \$2,500 is more appropriate for next year since they had the \$10,000 allocated in the current year to get the updates done. Chairman Short asked if those updates had been done yet. Mrs. Jackson said she is unsure if the project has been completed.

Supervisor Brandon said he thought the Volunteer Fire Departments have a valid point regarding monies for the discussed line items. He stated he understands how funds are allocated according to the trends. He wanted to know if there are any available funds in other areas that could be shifted around. Mrs. Jackson said County staff reviewed the trends and each department budget to try to provide a staff recommendation that is realistic to accomplish the goals of the Board. She stated if there are funds the Board would like to see put back into a certain budget, the proposed budget can be reviewed in an effort to find recommendations for areas that can be reduced in order to accommodate their request.

Supervisor Throckmorton asked if the \$50,000 is still allocated in the Capital funds from the ConEdison donation for the fire department training, and Mrs. Jackson verified that is correct.

Supervisor Roller said according to the correspondence, the fire departments have three issues: training, the ladder truck, and repairs to the floor in the classroom. He asked Mrs. Jackson if there is any money left over in the current budget that could be used for the repairs to the floor in the classroom. She noted if there is an existing project that goes over the fiscal year, those funds can be carried over to the next year.

Mr. Simpson stated he recently spoke with Supervisor Brandon about continued requests related to pickleball courts. He said there are very few amenities in the County that are true pickleball courts. He stated he has a few estimates for the possibility of building a few pickleball courts with one of the Courts being enclosed and noted it will cost approximately \$125,000. He said a meeting will be held in the near future with the Recreation Committee to discuss recommendations which can be brought back to the Board members, but noted this is an item that is not currently in the proposed Capital Budget. He commented this is something for the Board members to consider for Adult Recreation in the area.

Supervisor Duffey said constituents have contacted him with regard to the pickleball courts. Mr. Simpson said the Mary Bethune Gym is being used a few days a week for the pickleball games, but

there are scheduling conflicts with basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer. He stated the pickleball group is growing well, so it would be a good opportunity to invest and make improvements at Edmunds Park for the group and other activities that need an indoor type of space or a flat concrete pad.

Chairman Short asked if any of the other Board members had any other topics to discuss. Hearing none, he asked for a Motion to adjourn the Work Session.

### **G. Adjourn**

Motion made by Supervisor Brandon, seconded by Supervisor Duffey, to adjourn the Work Session.

### **VOTE**

Motion passed 8-0 by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. C. Short, Mr. L. Roller, Mr. H.W.H. Pannell, Mr. R. E. Duffey, Mr. D. E. Throckmorton,  
Mr. S. Brandon, Mr. G.B. Ricketts, and Mr. W.B. Claiborne

Nays: No one

Abstained: No one

Absent During Vote: No one

Absent During Meeting: No one

The Work Session adjourned at 6:17 p.m.