April 12, 2011

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 12th day of April, 2011; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Dr. K. David Smith, Superintendent; and Cindy Wahrman, Division Director of Finance.

Chairman Fore called the special meeting to order for the purpose of viewing the School Board presentation.

In Re: School Board Budget Presentation

Dr. David Smith, Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools, thanked the Board for the support given to the schools. He then reviewed the Prince Edward County Public Schools 2011-2012 Proposed Budget highlights:

- 2011-2012 Budget based upon reduced projected ADM
  - 2010-2011 budget based upon 2,460
  - March 2011 ADM projected 2,393
  - 2011-2012 budget based upon 2,372

- 2011-2012 Budget based upon reduction/elimination of federal funds
  - ARRA Preschool $ 12,304
  - ARRA IDEA $365,377
  - ARRA Title I $159,228
    - Part-time, one or two year, positions funded only
• 2011-2012 Budget based upon addition of federal funds
  o Education Jobs Fund $609,195
  o Part-time positions from ARRA moved to Education Jobs Fund

• Categorical funding levels adjustments
  o Reviewed all expenditures by category
  o Adjusted the categorical balance to reflect projected expenditure needs
  o Reductions in expenditures identified and applied

• 2010-2011 Budget Reduced $1,272,240
  o Reduction of 12 teacher positions
  o Reduction of 2 teacher aide positions
  o Elimination of 2 bus driver positions
  o Elimination of security officer position
  o Reduction in material expenditures
  o Elimination of Teacher Lead Classroom Walkthrough training costs
  o Elimination of Waterford Math training costs
  o Eliminate AVID program support costs
  o Reduction of the school year 4 days
    • Reduction of related expenditures
      o Salaries
      o Operational costs

• Supports 3% across the board salary increase for all employees
  o No raises since 2008-2009 for school employees
  o No bonuses for school employees

Dr. Smith stated the proposed school budget includes a request for enough additional funding beyond level funding ($275,000) to allow giving a 3% salary increase across the board, to all employees.

Ms. Cindy Wahrman, Division Director of Finance, reviewed the 2011-2012 Proposed Revenue Summary and the 2011-2012 Proposed Expenditure Summary. She stated enrollment is declining; revenues are down $251,111. Ms. Wahrman stated unfilled positions from 2010-2011 ($253,820), the elimination of positions for 2011-2012 ($140,360), the elimination of one-time ARRA expenditures ($350,655), and the reduction of expenditures for 2011-2012 ($487,250) provide a total reduction of $1,232,085.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the impact of the request for $275,000 on the county budget; Mr. Bartlett stated the estimate is that there will be $630,000 left at the end of this fiscal year; he recommended the use of part of that to fund the bonus, some capital projects and one-time things. He said he felt there would be enough left over to break even if the Board does grant the $275,000 for the pay raise. The question of impact would be on the following
years. Supervisor Wilck asked if it would not be a tremendous impact on this budget. Mr. Bartlett said it would not impact this budget; he added a pay raise for the school would cause immense pressure from Social Services and our Constitutional Offices to do the same for the County, which would add another $40,000-$50,000 +/-. Discussion followed on the topic of a pay increase versus a bonus.

Discussion then turned to raising SOL scores and attendance.

Supervisor Gantt questioned some of the budget cuts. Dr. Smith stated the reduction reflects funds that were not spent; the budgeted amounts are closer to the actual amounts expended. Discussion followed.

Chairman Fore thanked Dr. Smith and the School Board for the information provided; Dr. Smith thanked the Board for its continued support.

Chairman Fore then stated two organizations were unable to attend the previous budget work session.

Wanda Whitus, Director of the Farmville Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber now has 243 members, and provides information packets to businesses and people looking to move into the area. Ms. Whitus said Leadership Farmville had 25 graduates last month. Ms. Whitus said the Chamber of Commerce requests a donation of $4,750.

Mr. Hugh Kennedy spoke on behalf of the Robert Russa Moton Museum; he requested a continuous yearly donation of $100,000 from the County, and requested that the Board at least maintain the 2008-2009 donation of $28,500. Mr. Kennedy stated the completion of the renovations is anticipated to bring in excess of 30,000 people to the museum.

Discussion followed on the successful fund-raising by the Moton Museum staff and the expenses of the museum.

Mr. Bartlett asked about the museum exhibits. Mr. Kennedy stated the rooms are being prepared for the projectors and speakers.

Chairman Fore called a five-minute recess, stating, “Board members, I have a couple things that I’d like to talk to you about, and we can move into the conference center and continue to work while we eat, so what I’m going to do is declare a recess, move into the conference room and – and while we eat, I’ll reconvene the meeting and talk about these couple of items. So right now I’m declaring a five-minute recess.”
Chairman Fore reconvened the Board meeting in the Third Floor Conference Room for a budget work session. All Board members were present; Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, was also present.

Chairman Fore stated a resolution has been drafted to honor the Virginia State Parks 75th Anniversary to be presented to State Park Staff during the 7:00 p.m. meeting; Prince Edward County has three state parks, more than any other county in the state.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion to approve the Resolution Honoring the 75th Anniversary of Virginia State Parks; the motion carried unanimously:

Aye:  Howard M. Campbell
       William G. Fore, Jr.
       Don C. Gantt
       Robert M. Jones
       Charles W. McKay
       Howard F. Simpson
       Jim R. Wilck
       Mattie P. Wiley

Nay:  None

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD, VIRGINIA

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF VIRGINIA STATE PARKS

WHEREAS, the County of Prince Edward, Virginia is home to three Virginia State Parks – Twin Lakes, high Bridge Trail and Sailor’s Creek Battlefield, more than any other county in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Twin Lakes State Park originally opened in 1950 as Prince Edward State Park for Negroes, was Virginia’s eighth state park and the only pre-Civil Rights Era Park for African-Americans. Nearby Goodwin Lake was a recreational area for local whites. With the end of segregation in 1964, Prince Edward Park and Goodwin Lake staff began working together on large-scale projects. Eventually, the two recreational areas were merged in 1976 and officially became Twin Lakes State Park in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Crest Conference Center came to fruition in 1991 as a meeting facility at the historic concession, dining and dance hall of Prince Edward State park. Family reunions, weddings, business meetings, and training classes are conducted year round. Historical displays in the lobby of the conference center, as well as themed rooms and lodgings, offer a glimpse into the site’s history; and

WHEREAS, High Bridge Trail State Park was established in December 2006, when Norfolk Southern Railway Company donated a 29.9-mile tract of abandoned railroad to the Commonwealth for the establishment of a new linear state park. The abandoned corridor was part of the Petersburg to Lynchburg rail line. On August 22, 2008, four miles of the park were opened to the public; and
WHEREAS, High Bridge Trail State Park is a multi-use trail ideally suited for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The trail’s surface and dimensions make it easy for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy it. Its centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and rises 160 feet above the Appomattox River. The original bridge was built in 1853 as part of the South Side Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Park began with the establishment of the “Sayler’s Creek Battlefield Park Association,” on May 30, 1934; and through their efforts, the 1936 Virginia General Assembly passed a bill appropriating $1,500.00 for the purchase of land under the direction of the Virginia Conservation Commission. This started with the purchase of the historic Hillsman farm house and ten acres of land at $150.00 per acre. In partnership with Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties, $1,500.00 was appropriated to restore the structure; and

WHEREAS, Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Park, with Virginia and National Historical Landmark status, became a stand-alone state park in July 2008, and has now expanded to 324.62 acres, with an adjoining 623 acres of land preserved under a conservation easement, and with a renovated Hillsman farm house museum and new visitor center; and

WHEREAS, Virginia was the first state in the nation to develop a park system of six state parks; which were dedicated on June 13 and 14, 1936, with Governor G. C. Perry presiding; and

WHEREAS, Virginia’s State Parks have been nationally recognized as the best managed state park systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, Twin Lakes, High Bridge Trail, and Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Parks draws visitors from far and wide, thus contributing to the local economy, and the recreational and educational opportunities for Prince Edward County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia hereby congratulates the Virginia State parks system on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary, and specifically honors our very own Twin Lakes State Park, High Bridge Trail State Park, and Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Park and pledges our support and best wishes for many years to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward does hereby designate Saturday, June 18, 2011 as “Twin Lakes, High Bridge Trail, and Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Parks Day” in the County of Prince Edward, Virginia.

Chairman Fore led a discussion with the Board regarding publication of a historical, chronological compilation of information regarding the Sandy River Reservoir Water Treatment and Distribution System.

Supervisor Gantt made a motion to publish the historical compilation of information regarding the Sandy River Reservoir Water Treatment and Distribution System, with a caveat that it includes a disclaimer that the Board of Supervisors did not write or edit the document.

Following further discussion, the motion carried:
Chairman Fore led a discussion on a schedule of community meetings.

On motion of Supervisor McKay and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:  Howard M. Campbell  Nay:  None
      William G. Fore, Jr.
      Don C. Gantt
      Robert M. Jones
      Charles W. McKay
      Howard F. Simpson
      Jim R. Wilck
      Mattie P. Wiley

the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.