

LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM
LUNENBURG COURTS BUILDING
LUNENBURG, VIRGINIA

Minutes of May 23, 2024 Public Hearing FY2024-2025 Budget

The continued meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom, Lunenburg Courts Building, Lunenburg, Virginia for the purpose of public hearing for the proposed FY2024-2025 County Budget. The following members were present: Supervisors Frank Bacon, Greg Currin, Alvester Edmonds, T. Wayne Hoover, Edward Pennington, Robert Zava, Mike Hankins, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee and Executive Assistant Gail Gregoric.

Chairman Edmonds called the continued meeting to order.

Supervisor Hoover spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. He shared the following facts with the Board and the audience regarding the County funds provided to the school system.

- The Required Local Effort is for Standards of Quality mandated funds and the Required Local Match is for all budgeted programs.
- The School Board requested an increase of \$1,120,918, based on Required Local Match, with an ADM of 1,500 and an additional \$100,000 in contingency funds.
- The Board of Supervisors used the State-recommended ADM of 1,483 for Required Local Effort and proposed the School Board budget at \$5,275,000, which is \$176,567 short of Required Local Match.
- The School Board requested the Board of Supervisors allow the use of \$313,715 in carryover funds to be placed in the School Construction Fund to assist with match.
- The updated recommended amount is 100% of the 1,483 ADM for Required Local Match made up of \$640,643 in new local funds (\$5,451,657 plus the carryover of \$313,715 to equal \$5,765,372).

Supervisor Hoover noted the following highlights in the proposed FY2024-2025 budget.

- Includes an early pay-off of debt, which saves \$7,400 in increase.
- Added \$40,000 for match and \$103,000 in DCJS grant funds for two School Resource Officer positions.
- Includes a full year of support for the Sheriff's Department compensation and works toward 24-hour coverage.
- Adds \$500,000 in new support for EMS, with \$250,000 coming from General Fund reserve and \$250,000 from a final use of ARPA funding.
- ARPA will be depleted in FY25.
- One-time solar siting agreement payments are being used to fund Emergency Services Capital, including \$225,000 for fire apparatus.

Supervisor Hoover advised that Real Estate revenue is projected at \$4 million, Personal Property is projected at \$3 million and total school funding would be at \$5,765,372. He added that three quarters of county taxes collected are going to school funding. He advised that in FY2025-2026, the County will not have savings from debt service to rollover or any ARPA funds. To maintain the same funding as the proposed 2024-2025 budget, the real estate tax rate would need to increase by eleven cents per hundred. The Finance Committee believes that not all tax payers would agree to such a large increase. Supervisor Hoover noted that Administrator Gee and the Finance Committee had worked many hours on the proposed budget.

Supervisor Pennington made motion, seconded by Supervisor Hankins and unanimously approved, to enter Public Hearing for the FY2024-25 Budget.

Administrator Gee directed the Board to the proposed FY2024-25 budget. She noted that the updated budget included taking \$250,000 out of ARPA funds for EMS support. It also includes fund 250 \$5,451,657 in funding for the school system, which is \$640,000 over the current budget year amount. Landfill host fee revenues are increased to \$650,000. She noted that \$370,000 had been added to the total proposed budget from the advertised proposed budget, however, changes up to one percent of the total budget are allowed without having to readvertise and hold another public hearing. The updated proposed FY2024-2025 budget will be presented for a decision at the June meeting.

Chairman Edmonds asked if there was anyone from the public to speak. Administrator Gee read the Public Hearing Speaking Resolution for the record.

The following people spoke before the Board in favor of increasing funding to the school system:

Dawn Bacon, 2075 Bacon Fork Road, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Ricky Ramirez, 100 S. Commerce Street, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Geoff Seamster, 112 N. Grace Street, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Elveta Bridgeforth, 820 Dundas Road, Kenbridge, VA 23938
Micheal Bender, 316 E. 5th Avenue, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Patricia Harper-Tunley, Unity Road, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Lucy Hall, 11075 Plank Road, Kenbridge, VA 23944
Catherine Reid, 6373 Longview Drive, Kenbridge, VA 23944

The following people sent emails to the Board in favor of increasing funding to the school system:

Nikole M. Johnson, 247 County Club Road, Blackstone, VA 23824
Trudy Berry, 1662 Bethel Church Road, Green Bay, VA 23942
Kenbridge Town Mayor Wanda Morrison

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Currin and unanimously approved, to exit Public Hearing for the proposed FY2024-25 Budget.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Pennington and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

Alvester Edmonds, Chairman
Board of Supervisors