

SCOTT

VIRGINIA

At an adjourned budget workshop of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Supervisors' meeting room located at the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Darrel W. Jeter  
L. Michele Glover  
Eddie N. Skeen  
Michael K. Brickey - Chairman  
Danny M. Casteel  
Christopher S. Maness – Vice-Chairman  
Stefanie C. Addington

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey called the meeting to order, gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the agenda.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented an updated Emergency Operations Plan for the Board of Supervisors to consider.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby approves the Emergency Operations Plan (Said plan attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 63).

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

County Administrator Freda Starnes presented a contract for audit services with a new firm Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates for the Board to consider.

The Board questioned the change.

Ms. Starnes explained that the firm we have been using was not providing good service. It took too long for them to get us things we need. They do not have experience with Munis Software, and we are the only county they audit. Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates have more staff, experience with Munis Software, provide audit services for other localities; therefore, they would be a better fit.

The Board inquired about the cost.

Ms. Starnes replied that the cost is a little more; however, the cost for audit services goes up every year.

On a motion by Darrel W. Jeter, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby approves an audit contract with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates (Said contract being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment No: 64).

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

The Board considered a letter regarding the proposed Russell County Landfill. Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested that environmental impacts and forever chemicals be added to the letter. County Administrator Freda Starnes stated that she could add additional bullets for environmental impacts and forever chemicals then send the updated letter to the Board for final approval.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby approves the Russell County Landfill letter contingent upon adding additional bullet points to include environmental impacts and forever chemicals. Updated letter will be sent out for final approval (Said letter being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 34 Attachment 65).

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Kim Howell with Planning District One Behavioral Health thanked the Board for their partnership, presented an annual report, and noted services provided. In addition, she addressed funding that has helped with staffing issues and increased personnel.

Steve Pike with Spearhead Trails gave an update. He expressed appreciation for the County's contribution in the past. Mr. Pike pointed out that Virginia Tech is working on a Strategic Plan. Scott County is the gateway for those traveling to trails in other counties, and those individuals spend money in Scott County for gas, food, and other items. Mr. Pike went on to say that the Governor signed a budget that provides them with \$5,000,000 along with 11 new jobs. Mr. Pike requested that Scott County continue funding Spearhead Trails.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about support from other counties.

Mr. Pike reviewed contributions from other counties in 2022 that ranged from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per locality. Mr. Pike went on to say that he wants to expand the trail system in Scott County by leasing land from landowners. There was discussion about the ability to use public roads in St. Paul to ride an ATV to the trail.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out the amount of unpaved roads in Scott County and the possibility of ATV's using those gravel roads.

Mr. Pike indicated that he is interested in leasing land in Scott County and pointed out a huge interest to rent horses and commented on a Nickelsville Town meeting about equestrian trails in Scott County.

Supervisor Maness inquired about Mr. Pike speaking with the National Forest about their trails.

Mr. Pike replied that it gets more complicated with the National Forest. There has been discussion with the National Forest in the past, and he is willing to pursue that again.

Commonwealth's Attorney Kyle Kilgore, Dan Fellhauer, and Jessica Keith addressed the Board about the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program. They reported that Lee and Wise counties have a similar program; however, they place people in their program that are already on probation. Scott County looks at what they are charged with and selects them before they have been sentenced if they are a good fit. They are assigned 100 hours of community service or a \$1,200 fine.

Supervisor Skeen inquired about the program being self-sustainable. There is \$300,000 in a separate account.

The group replied that was never part of the original agreement. Those funds are used for tools and gas. This was a program that the office of the Commonwealth's Attorney was asked to implement due to the population of the Regional Jail, and the cost to the county being \$48 per day for each of their inmates.

Supervisor Skeen pointed out that the Wise County program has two employees, and the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program has seven employees.

The group replied that Scott County does not have a drug court. S.C.O.T.T. Service acts as our drug court. There are 51 people in the program, two to fifteen daily, and forty are employed. When one enters the program, we are trying to teach them life skills and encourage them to be productive citizens. Everyone is monitored, required to complete community service, and drug screened. The jail cost savings is a major factor.

The Board inquired about the time frame to complete the program, the number of hours they are required to work, weekend community service hours, and increasing the fee to participate.

The group replied that the time varies based on the crime. It can be as short as three months and up to two years. They are allowed to complete their hours on Saturday, and they are given a number of hours per day. The defendant pays a \$250 participation fee. No one is removed from the program because they cannot pay. They are placed on a payment plan instead. The Board of Supervisors would have to increase the fee to participate.

Sheriff Jeff Edds and Major J C Starnes addressed the Board about their budget needs. They pointed out that the top five patrol vehicles average 105,000 miles, 17 have over 100,000 miles, and two were decommissioned this week. Investigators are working their own cases and need their own vehicles. There have been two all hands on deck in the last eight months. Everyone responded.

There was a suggestion that the Animal Control Officer be placed under the Sheriff to monitor Tennessee plates in Virginia and assist with funerals. In addition, it was suggested that School Resource Officers patrol in Carters Valley to monitor Tennessee plates and older cars be used by School Resource Officers. It was noted that the Boozy Creek area does not have enough patrols and more employees are needed instead of vehicles.

Sheriff Edds pointed out that is why he is asking for additional people so that there are three officers per shift.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen asked about the county COLA and merit percentage.

County Administrator Freda Starnes replied that there is no COLA in the budget. There is a merit based on an evaluation.

There was discussion among the Board as to funding Spearhead Trails.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested \$14,000.

Supervisor Chris Maness did not think it should be added back.

Supervisor Danny Casteel spoke in favor of \$14,000.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that there are no trails in Scott County.

Chairman Mike Brickey stated that he did not hear anyone asking for more money for Tourism at the last meeting.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen replied that tourism is adding to the economy instead of taking away.

Supervisor Chris Maness stated that could be a temporary cut.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen recommended level funding in the amount of \$14,000 for Spearhead Trails. There was a roll call vote.

Darrel W. Jeter - no

L. Michele Glover - yes

Eddie N. Skeen - yes

Michael K. Brickey - no

Danny M. Casteel - yes

Christopher S. Maness - no

Stefanie C. Addington - no

Spearhead Trails funding remained \$5,000.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the County Attorney position and surrounding counties that have a part-time County Attorney. There was a suggestion to remove the allowance for paralegal supplement.

County Attorney Sally Kegley explained that she received \$20,000 when her Paralegal retired. The agreement was that she would give up the \$20,000 if a Paralegal was hired.

Supervisor Chris Maness stated that it should start with the Board of Supervisors' salary if \$30,000 is being cut from the budget.

There was a roll call vote to reduce the County Attorney salary by \$20,000.

Darrel W. Jeter - no

L. Michele Glover - yes

Eddie N. Skeen - yes

Michael K. Brickey - no

Danny M. Casteel - yes

Christopher S. Maness - no

Stefanie C. Addington - no

The County Attorney salary remains as is.

There was a roll call vote for the Board of Supervisors' compensation to be zero for FY25.

Darrel W. Jeter - no

L. Michele Glover - yes

Eddie N. Skeen - no

Michael K. Brickey - yes

Danny M. Casteel - no

Christopher S. Maness - yes

Stefanie C. Addington – yes

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested reducing the S.C.O.T.T. Service program budget.

Supervisor Chris Maness suggested that the fee be increased to \$300 and a \$100,000 transfer from Fund 1325.

There was a roll call vote to transfer \$100,000 from the S.C.O.T.T. Service Program Fund 1325.

Darrel W. Jeter - yes

L. Michele Glover - yes

Eddie N. Skeen - yes

Michael K. Brickey - yes

Danny M. Casteel - yes

Christopher S. Maness - yes

Stefanie C. Addington – yes

S.C.O.T.T. Service \$100,000 transfer from Fund 1325 approved.

It was the consensus of the Board that two vehicles be funded for the Sheriff.

There was discussion as to eliminating one position in the Inspections Department and Bill Dingus assist in that department. There was also a request to gather information regarding the building permits.

There was discussion as to Animal Control and Litter Control reporting to the Sheriff's Office. Supervisor Skeen suggested a split shift. Hours of 8-4 and 12-8 would provide more coverage. Supervisor Skeen noted that Animal Control was called out four times since November; therefore, there is no need to drive a vehicle home.

There was discussion as to tipping fees. It was noted that Clinch River Trash Service would have to raise prices due to an increase in tipping fees.

There was discussion as to a pickle ball court and a part-time seasonal employee for the golf course. If the course could stay open later it would generate more revenue.

County Administrator Freda Starnes noted that the Economic Development Authority has \$115,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds that have not been used. Chris Maness will be at their monthly meeting and ask the status of them returning the funds to the county. General project progress will be given.

It was the consensus of the Board to remove \$60,000 for one sheriff's vehicle and \$51,000 for one litter control officer vehicle.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Economic Development Authority American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$115,000 be added to the budget and \$50,000 from S.C.O.T.T. Service Fund 1325 be added to the budget.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington asked Mr. Skeen if he would prefer funding Spearhead Trails instead of the Sheriff's Office.

Supervisor Skeen replied that Spearhead Trails is bringing in revenue.

There was a roll call vote to fund two sheriff's vehicles.

Darrel W. Jeter - yes

L. Michele Glover - no

Eddie N. Skeen - no

Michael K. Brickey - yes

Danny M. Casteel - no

Christopher S. Maness - yes

Stefanie C. Addington – yes

On a motion by Christopher S. Maness, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby approves advertising for a public hearing on a possible ten cent personal property tax increase.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Christopher S. Maness, this Board hereby authorizes a public hearing to increase the transient occupancy tax to five percent.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey  
Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

Chairman Michael K. Brickey adjourned the meeting to June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK