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, June 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT None.

Chairman Chris Maness called the meeting to order.

Accounting Manager Bart Shelton distributed the budget with no tax increase. Mr. Shelton reported that the school has not requested their FY25 budget amount of $10,988,983.00. He noted that the county would receive $2,137,451.00 back from Pearson Virtual Academy; therefore, $8,861,532.00 would be owed to the school from the General Fund. At that point, the General Fund balance would be $8,518,655.61. In addition, Mr. Shelton noted that $9,391,796.53 is in the General Fund as of today (Said draft budget being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 53).

There was discussion among the Board as to the amount to keep in the General Fund.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus noted that the Rescue Squads need an extra $300,000 to enhance compensation support for hiring and retention. He pointed out that equates to a two-cent tax increase.

There was discussion as to tax collections.

Mr. Shelton distributed questions that Supervisor Eddie Skeen had regarding the FY26 budget, and there was discussion among the Board (Said questions attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 54).

The following changes were made:

Fines & Forfeitures - $35,000

Landfill Disposal Fees - $90,000

Scott County Park Receipts - $100,000

It was the consensus of the Board to remove the County Administrator – Fuel from the budget.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus pointed out that the budget does not include additional funds for rescue squads. He clarified that the rescue squads need an additional $300,000.

There was discussion as to removing vehicles from the budget and funding the rescue squads $300,000. In addition, there was discussion as to implementing a lease program for vehicles next budget year.

BREAK: 2:35 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:55 p.m.

Rescue Association President Roger Carter explained that rescue squads need a total of eighteen employees with an additional five dollars per hour to get them near market. He pointed out that it is difficult to retain employees when they can go to Tennessee and make $21 per hour instead of $14 in Scott County. Also, Mr. Carter noted that they can make more at McDonalds with less stress. He reported that the rescue squads are mini emergency rooms that can prepare a patient for the cath lab. Mr. Carter noted that skilled employees for advanced level care are needed, and they have to be paid at market level to retain them. He stated that billing for Duffield is 40 percent; therefore, it is not self-sufficient. In addition, there are state mandates. Mr. Carter recalled a fourteen-year employee that he lost to Kingsport. He pointed out that Kingsport bills and then turns it over to collections. Mr. Carter stated that he does not turn over unpaid bills to collections.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that the State needs to provide some EMS funding; furthermore, Terry Kilgore, Todd Pillion, and Governor Youngkin need to know the situation Scott County is in with EMS. The Board confirmed with Mr. Carter that the additional funds for EMS would not be needed up front. It could be requested monthly.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested that that the school system fund the $300,000 that is needed for EMS.

There was discussion as to a member of the Board meeting with John Ferguson. In addition, the Board addressed funding from the casino and regional investments.

It was the consensus of the Board to remove three vehicles for the Sheriff and the litter control vehicle from the budget and look into a lease program for the county. By removing the vehicles from the budget along with casino funds, the board realized that amount is close to the $300,000 needed to fund EMS.

Acting County Administrator Bill Dingus suggested asking the school for a contribution for EMS since they are on-site at school functions to assist with emergencies instead of asking them for $300,000.

On a motion by Eddie N. Skeen, duly seconded by Danny M. Casteel, this Board hereby approves reaching out to Superintendent of Schools John Ferguson about providing funds to support EMS in the amount of $300,000.

Darrel W. Jeter – Yes

L. Michele Glover – Yes

Eddie N. Skeen – Yes

Michael K. Brickey – Yes

Danny M. Casteel – Yes

Christopher S. Maness – No

Stefanie C. Addington – No

The Board considered advertising the budget with a deficit of $1,511,140.00 to be taken from the general fund.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby authorizes that the budget synopsis be sent for advertisement on June 6, 2025 with a public hearing to be held on June 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and meeting to adopt the budget on June 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

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 Maness adjourned the meeting to June 23 at 6:00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN CLERK