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 Friday the 15th day of May 2026 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, gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover, duly seconded by Stefanie C. Addington, this Board hereby amends the agenda by adding County Attorney Item to New Business.

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.

Accounting Manager Bart Shelton presented a general fund budget change report, general fund budget summary, and updated draft budget (Said documents attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute 35 Attachment No: 120).

County Administrator Josh Wilson reported that he met with John Ferguson, Jason Smith and Bart Shelton. He went on to say that they talked about some things the school could do to help with the budget. Mr. Wilson pointed out that we all work together as one team. He noted that the state requirement for the county does not make it easy for us; however, Mr. Smith and Mr. Ferguson have been open to help.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Jason Smith reported that the School Board will be having a Special Called meeting on their budget next week. He went on to say that the projected budget is $9,724,995.00, and that is without the bonus of $156,854.00. The 2026/27 increase in revenue is $142,720.00 without the bonus of $299,574.00. The total budget is $74,000,000.00 and the amended budget is $75,000,000.00. Mr. Smith noted that the minimum wage is going up to $13.75 per hour, and that affects substitute pay for staff. He noted increased fuel costs as well. In addition, he pointed out that a two percent pay increase has been factored in; however, the General Assembly may change that to a three percent pay increase. Mr. Smith stated that the school system wants to compensate employees to attract the best. He went on to say that there has been discussion to cut line items. Mr. Smith stated that the pay increase is needed so that the gap does not become any larger to attract people to Scott County.

Mr. Wilson noted that shared costs are factored into the budget.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about the after-school programs.

Mr. Wilson replied that is a small fraction of what the school gets. If the board decides not to fund it, they will not get state funding for that.

Supervisor Glover inquired about those programs.

Mr. Smith replied those programs consist of Math and Reading Specialists. Technology includes things like chrome books, PowerSchool Program, and cafeteria enterprises.

Supervisor Brickey inquired about all grants being tied to SOQ funds.

Mr. Smith noted that the Board of Supervisors could not fund those, but it is tied to state funding that the school will not receive.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about any of the unspent funds being rolled over to next budget year.

Mr. Smith replied that textbooks can be rolled for FY26. The county share is $136,148.00.

Supervisor Jeter questioned how the remaining funds for FY 2025/26 will be spent.

Mr. Smith replied that will be used for payroll, bills, buses, air handler, and roofs.

Mr. Wilson added that Pierson needs to be paid too. He went on to say that the budget freeze will help with the additional $667,322 owed to the school in the current budget.

There was discussion about the after-school programs.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter questioned Commissioner of the Revenue Tammy Tiller about tax notices.

Ms. Tiller replied that a lot did not get a bill for taxes, 195 supplements were mailed yesterday, a lot will not pay the supplement, but we will continue with that. Ms. Tiller pointed out that her office is pulling in a new year as well. She noted that a mistake was made, but she is trying to fix that. She noted that everyone in her office is working hard.

Supervisor Glover suggested comparing it with last year to determine who needs to be billed.

Ms. Tiller reported that she expects to be charged in the future for the Brights System when needing assistance such as running a report. She went on to say that other localities have already received a letter about that.

There was discussion about the budget adjustment for the schools due to the ADM and students from Tennessee attending Scott County schools.

Bill Dinus suggested asking the Department of Education about the enrollment increase.

Treasurer Kevin Helms reported that personal property collections are 88.9 percent and real estate collections are 93.28 percent. He pointed out that second notices will bump that up. Mr. Helms noted that there will be a property sale in the next couple of months.

BREAK: 2:00 P.M.

RECONENE: 2:15 P.M.

There was discussion about the casino funding and removing the capital improvement funds earmarked for the courthouse project.

Supervisor Michael Brickey inquired about the Department of Education being contacted regarding the ADM for the school.

County Administrator Josh Wilson stated that he would do that, and he noted that there is not a good understanding as to why the numbers are so far off.

County Attorney Sally Kegley advised that there should be an understanding before giving the school money.

On a motion by Michael K. Brickey, duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby authorizes the County Administrator to send a letter to the Department of Education concerning school enrollment (ADM) (Said letter attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 119).

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.

There was discussion about removing the capital improvements funding for the courthouse project.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen inquired about the next solid waste contract renewal.

Bill Dingus replied 2029.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about another section at the Scott County Landfill in Midway being opened.

Mr. Dingus replied no, that cannot be opened.

Supervisor Casteel inquired about the number of years remaining at Blountville Landfill.

Mr. Dingus replied 30 to 50 years.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen requested the amount of interest earned by the Treasurer.

Bart Shelton replied approximately $600,000 has been earned.

There was discussion about motor vehicle licensing, delinquent tax collection, Sheriff's vehicles, and fire tax.

Economic Development Director John Kilgore addressed his budget and noted not much has changed in the last eight years. Mr. Kilgore pointed out that his total budget is $347,000 with control over $41,730. He pointed out increased audit costs. Mr. Kilgore noted revenue brought in through grants by the Economic Development Authority. He went on to say that the Economic Development Authority manages conservatively. He noted electrical expenses and taxes that still need to be paid out of the $750,000 from the sale of the Pioneer Center. That reduces the amount to $740,000. He noted that could be used as a grant match. In addition, Mr. Kilgore noted costs for site development in Duffield.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter inquired about paving for the Riverside Property being included in the budget.

Mr. Kilgore replied that is not included in the budget.

Supervisor Casteel inquired about rent from the church going the Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Kilgore replied that pays for the loan.

Chairman Maness inquired about the amount needed for site development in Duffield.

Mr. Kilgore replied that it is estimated to cost $100,000 per acre, and there are 45 acres remaining.

Supervisors Darrel Jeter and Danny Casteel inquired about any interest in the second-floor building in Duffield.

Mr. Kilgore replied that he does have interest in that building. Mr. Kilgore stated that he is working with three prospects.

County Administrator Josh Wilson requested direction from the board.

Chairman Maness stated that everyone seems to agree with putting the casino money in the budget and removing the capital improvement funding.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested speaking with the judge about doing video conferences instead of transporting inmates to the courthouse.

There was discussion about implementing a fire tax.

Supervisor Skeen stated that he would prefer doing a tax based on inflation instead.

Supervisor Casteel suggested raising the tax rate by two percent instead of paying for a reassessment.

County Administrator Josh Wilson replied that the reassessment is a requirement. Also, he cautioned the board about using reserves to balance the budget.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen suggested revisiting the school system and Economic Development. He went on to say that site development is not needed right now.

County Administrator Josh Wilson pointed out that the $750,000 would be a decision for the Economic Development Authority Board.

Mr. Kilgore stated that he could ask his board to make that decision. He explained that the Duffield Development Authority dissolved. The county received the first disbursement. Scott County received the Pioneer Center with the second disbursement for economic development while the other counties received cash for economic development.

Chairman Maness suggested one scenario to balance the budget that includes adding casino funds, removing capital improvement funds for the courthouse project, imposing a five-cent tax, and requesting that the Economic Development Authority provide $310,000.

There was discussion about school funding, rolling over textbook funding, and school additions.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that the school receives 80 percent of the real estate tax.

Supervisor Stefanie Addington pointed out school programs that include compensation supplement, Math and Reading Specialists, Tech UPSA Program, At Risk Program, Early Reading Intervention Program, K-3 Class Size Reduction Program, Algebra Readiness Program, and Virginia Preschool Initiative Program with a county share of $1,500,000 that enables the school to receive $9,100,000. Supervisor Addington stated that she is not in favor of cutting those programs.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter pointed out that a lot of elderly people cannot pay extra taxes.

There was discussion about non-SOQ funds.

The majority of the Board agreed to have more discussion with the school system about non-SOQ funding.

Darrel Jeter – Yes

Michele Glover – No

Eddie Skeen – Yes

Chris Maness – No

Michael Brickey – Yes

Danny Casteel – Yes

Stefanie Addington – No

Bart Shelton advised that the county portion of the SOQ will go up from the State if this Board cuts the county portion of the SOQ. Scott County is the third lowest in the state and will owe a larger share. In addition, Mr. Shelton pointed out that the $400,000 cost sharing will go away.

Bill Dingus noted the backlash the board will have from teachers, school staff, and parents.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that she would like Roger Carter and Wendel Burke to come in and explain more about the fire tax.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen replied that is a real estate tax increase.

Chairman Maness pointed out that the Board can lower the tax rate after the reassessment if needed.

There was discussion about cutting the Economic Development Authority budget.

Bart Shelton advised that the school cannot send money back to the county. Shared cost is a way to get money back.

Supervisor Eddie Skeen stated that he is not for a four-cent fire tax.

Supervisor Darrel Jeter stated that he is undecided about a four-cent fire tax.

Supervisor Michele Glover stated that she is undecided about a four-cent fire tax.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a budget workshop on May 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

On a motion by Stefanie C. Addington, duly seconded by L. Michele Glover, this Board hereby authorizes the County Attorney to advertise for Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission public hearings on the Zoning Ordinance amendments for battery storage at solar site units.

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 Chris Maness adjourned the meeting to May 22, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN	CLERK