

**VIRGINIA:**

A meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Thursday, June 20, 2013.

- Members Present: F. W. Jenkins, Jr., Chair  
Jason D. Bellows, Vice Chair  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Board Member  
William R. Lee, Board Member  
B. Wally Beauchamp, Board Member
- Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator  
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

Mr. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CLOSED MEETING**

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to enter into closed meeting to discuss matters exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The subject matter to be discussed in the closed meeting is Legal Consultation, § 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The subject and purpose falls within the following exemption under § 2.2-3711.A.7 (for Briefings by Legal Counsel and Staff Members Pertaining to Actual Litigation Entitled “County of Lancaster, Virginia Versus Randolph H. Latimore, Sr., Susan Salg and the School Board of Lancaster County, Virginia.”)

- VOTE: F. W. Jenkins, Jr. Aye  
Jason D. Bellows Aye  
Ernest W. Palim, Jr. Aye  
William R. Lee Aye  
B. Wally Beauchamp Aye

**RECONVENE**

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to reconvene the open meeting.

VOTE: F. W. Jenkins, Jr. Aye  
Jason D. Bellows Aye  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye  
William R. Lee Aye  
B. Wally Beauchamp Aye

**CERTIFICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors convened in a closed meeting on June 20, 2013 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Legal Consultation, § 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

**WHEREAS**, § 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to certify the closed meeting.

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number 1 and number 2 above? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure. There was no comment.

Hearing no further comment, Mr. Jenkins called the question. A roll call vote was taken:

**ROLL CALL**

VOTE: F. W. Jenkins, Jr. Aye  
Jason D. Bellows Aye  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye

William R. Lee            Aye

B. Wally Beauchamp Aye

This certification resolution is adopted.

No action taken on the closed meeting matters.

Mr. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Reverend Phillip Oestreich stated that he wanted to invite everyone to a youth revival on July 11, 12, and 13 at the Town Center property in Kilmarnock.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **1. FY14 Lancaster County Budget**

Mr. Jenkins opened the public hearing.

Mr. Lloyd Hill, a District 4 citizen, stated that he wanted to speak about the school budget. He stated that the last administration was praised for returning funds back to the county and yet the current administration appears to be getting grief for doing the same. He stated that the county's consultant says that there will be \$900,000 of unspent school funds, while the school's finance department says the amount is \$150,000. He stated that that is a great discrepancy in the numbers and that the true figure probably lies somewhere in the middle.

Mr. Hill stated that last year the school board budget was changed after it had been approved. He stated that this year, the Board of Supervisors have approved a categorized budget. He stated that the school superintendent has stated that with the cuts in certain departments, he will have to cut staff and/or reduce hours. He stated that, while a three percent raise was approved, there is a situation where some may lose their jobs. He asked why this was being done when the county is not broke and why is the school system being micromanaged. He stated that an experienced educator had been hired to run the school district and why was he not being allowed to run it. He stated that the school budget should be in a lump sum, so that cuts could be spread across the board.

Mr. Larry Cox stated that he was an employee in the school system and that there were quite a few employees in attendance because they are worried about losing their jobs. He stated that he received a contract that was only for 45 days and he wanted to know what would happen to him in September, after the contract expired.

Mr. William T. Hubbard, Jr., a school employee, stated that when he heard about the possible lay-offs, it bothered him. He stated that he thought he would be a life-long

resident of the county, but if he were to lose his job, he would have to possibly relocate. He stated that he could understand it if it was about poor job performance, but that was not the case. He stated that they have families to support and need answers.

Mr. John Tupponce, a school employee, stated that Dr. Lukich was not in attendance because of personal business, but he would like to summarize a letter that was in the current issue of the Rappahannock Record and submitted by Dr. Lukich. He stated that everything they do at the schools is for the children. He stated that they don't want the kids to suffer and he hoped the Board would reconsider the categories of the budget. He stated that safety, security and cleanliness are all important to the schools. He stated that the decisions being made affect a lot of lives.

Ms. Linda Coye stated that she was an employee of the school system. She stated that she wanted to speak of the cut in the school's category of operations and maintenance. She stated that, as a citizen, she was distressed by the lack of civility between the Boards. She stated that the cut would affect seventeen people, some with over twenty years of service, who are county residents and tax payers themselves. She stated that her appeal would be for the Board to reconsider its decision on the school's budget and to show some appreciation for the custodial staff.

Mr. Jack Larson, a District 1 citizen, stated that he was the consultant that the letter in the Rappahannock Record had referred to. He stated that he was speaking as a citizen and had been working as a concerned citizen, who is concerned about the county from a fiscal point of view. He stated that the reason he had recommended the categorized budget for the school system was because the lump sum method was not working. He stated that the teachers were underpaid, instructional monies were not being spent and teachers not being hired. He stated that a tremendous amount of spending had occurred at the end of the fiscal year and that is simply not done in any public entity.

Mr. Larson stated that, under Virginia code, the schools are required to be both effective and efficient. He stated that, in his opinion, the schools are effective, but they have not been efficient in a long time and the numbers back it up.

Mr. Larson referred to the maintenance and operations category and stated that he had asked a number of questions about the category. He stated that he didn't understand why the janitorial amount was so high, when the county buildings' janitorial amount is one fifth what the schools were. He stated that the Director of Operations needed to come up with a number for his department that reflects efficiency.

Mr. Larson stated that he thought the amount for the school budget of \$14,732,395 was a good number. He stated that the schools could do what they need to do with that figure. He stated that what they don't need to do is dump money at the end of the school year and carry on the inefficiencies that have been going on. He stated that the School Board and the Board of Supervisors should meet and discuss what is really needed and what is nice to have and do it in the spirit of cooperation.

Mr. Larson referred to the letter in the Rappahannock Record, which called him a paid consultant and stated that that was incorrect. He stated that he thought the piece was low, but expected, considering the author. He stated that the letter was written in the school board's name and wanted to ask them if this was the way they wanted to do business. He stated that he was deeply troubled by the letter. He thanked the Board for considering his opinions and hoped everything could be resolved in a professional and civil manner.

Mr. Monty Jackson, a former government employee, stated that he thought an independent, unbiased person should do an analysis of the budget. He stated that he did not think a department should be cut without thinking about the people affected and their lives. He suggested cutting the top paid people, not the lowest paid employees and not to make rash decisions.

Mr. Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the whole budget, not just the school budget. He stated that he did not believe that anyone on the Board of Supervisors picked fourteen maintenance people to lose their jobs. He stated that he did not believe that was the intent at all. He stated that the school budget for this year and last year are practically the same figure.

Mr. Costello stated that if the school system has a problem with the categorized budget, the school board should come back to the Board of Supervisors and work together. He stated that it has been done in the past and can be done again. He further stated that the fourteen people in maintenance are being used and it is wrong in the way it is being done. He stated that he thought it was a tactic that will backfire. He stated that there are responsible people on the school board and the Board of Supervisors and he thought everything could be resolved.

Mr. C. D. Hathaway, a District 5 citizen, stated that he agreed with Mr. Jackson about an independent budget person. He stated that what would happen with the school budget is what happened last year in that there was a delay with the contracts and the loss of some teachers. He stated that the school budget is roughly half of the entire county budget and the school system is the single largest employer in the county. He stated that he respected Mr. Larson and appreciated what he has tried to do, but his suggestion would be to have an independent party come in to evaluate the budget.

Mr. Jenkins closed the public hearing.

Mr. Palin stated that he agreed with the two gentlemen that suggested an independent auditor to analyze the county budget. He stated that his concern at the present time is this year's budget and how it affects employees. He stated that it had been said that the superintendent was using the maintenance department employees' jobs as a trick and he did not believe that. He stated that there are seventeen or eighteen individuals whose lives could be dramatically affected with the present budget. He stated that a number of them are at the age where it would be hard for them to get another job, especially in this area. He stated that if their hours were cut, they would lose their

benefits and they need them. He stated that he would like to see the two full boards get together and discuss adding something back to the budget, so that the staff can keep their full-time jobs. He further stated that the Board could also do as Mr. Larson had suggested and reevaluate the categories. He stated that he did not want opinions to cause people to lose their jobs.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to make clear that it was no Board member's intention that anyone would lose their job. He stated that he agreed with Mr. Palin about the reevaluation of the categories of the school budget.

Mr. Bellows stated that he agreed with Mr. Lee. He stated that it is the school board that runs the school so the decisions of job cuts are up to them and not the Board of Supervisors. He stated that some movement of other categories could help alleviate the shortage in the maintenance and operations category and he had some recommendations.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that the comments that have been made are absolutely correct. He stated that there was no intention by anyone on the Board of Supervisors for anyone to lose their job. He stated that the Board of Supervisors wants a cost effective school system and, in his opinion, he had not seen that in a number of years. He stated that the school system has a little over 1300 students, yet there are about 14 administrators, who earn almost \$1.5 million dollars. He stated that he thought something was wrong somewhere. He stated that he would also like to sit down with the school board and take a look at the budget together.

Mr. Bellows stated that he fully supported if the school board is unhappy with the current categorization, they can come back before the Board of Supervisors and make recommendations for the future.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to appropriate the school budget by semi-annual, categorical appropriation in accordance with Virginia Code § 22.1-115 and § 22.1-94 by the following amounts and categories; grant instruction-\$900,000, non-grant instruction-\$10,140,000 for a total of \$11,040,000 for instruction; technology-\$500,000; administrative and health-\$668,028; transportation-\$1,100,000; operations and maintenance-\$1,438,695; debt services-\$87,395; food service-\$585,000 for a total of \$15,419,118.

Mr. Jenkins asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

Mr. Palin stated that he could support the motion.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE:	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye

William R. Lee Aye

B. Wally Beauchamp Aye

Mr. Jenkins stated that the Code of the Commonwealth precludes the Board of Supervisors from being able to take any further action until after seven days. He stated that he knew it was an emotional issue and he appreciated everyone's conduct.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Palin to adjourn.

VOTE: F. W. Jenkins, Jr. Aye

Jason D. Bellows Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye

William R. Lee Aye

B. Wally Beauchamp Aye