

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2001, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District
Kenneth W. Williams, Pinetop District
Lenora O. Weber, Saluda District
John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District

Absent: Frank Jessie, Jamaica District

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator
Michael T. Soberick, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Mr. Williams, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room and opened with a prayer.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Because of a large number of people present for the public hearings, the motion to move the meeting to the Courtroom was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. The meeting was reconvened in the Courtroom. Mr. Williams announced that Mr. Jessie would not be present due to illness.

PUBLIC HEARING - ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION # 2001-01

Tim Wilson, Planning Director, presented an application initiated by the Planning Commission to add a definition of the term "tattoo parlor" to the Middlesex County Zoning Ordinance. This amendment was encouraged as a result of recent State Code changes, which require localities to inspect tattoo parlors with respect to health standards. Whereas this amendment adds the definition of tattoo parlors, it does not add tattoo parlors as a permitted use in any zoning district of the County.

Mr. Williams opened the hearing for comments. There were no comments and the public portion of the hearing was closed. The motion to adopt the amendment was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING - REZONING APPLICATION #2001-01, WILLIAM MAUL, JR.

Mr. Williams presented Rezoning Application #2001-01, an application to rezone a seven (7) acre portion of Tax Map 18-137, total acreage 14, from Conservation to Low Density Rural. The remaining seven acres of the property is already zoned Low Density Rural per the original zoning maps, which used a right-of-way line rather than the

property line as a district divider. The applicant was not the owner at the time zoning was enacted in the County.

Mr. Williams opened the hearing for public comment. There being no comment, the hearing was closed. The motion to approve the request as presented was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Culley presented the proposed school budget, which includes \$4,550,018.00 in local funds for operations, an increase of \$450,000 or 10.98% over the amount approved last year. The School Board Request was for \$4,684,723 in local funding. Handouts were available to the public, which included a bus schedule and summary of the FY 01 adopted budget, FY 02 School Board request and proposed funding by the Board of Supervisors. The School Board budget included a proposal to replace two buses, for \$141,564. No money has been included in the Board of Supervisors proposal to replace buses at this time, based on the mileage records provided by the School System. The School Board had requested Textbook funds of \$47,751 in local funds, which has been included.

The School Board request included an approximate 4% increase for teachers and professional staff, plus an additional \$1,000 for those teachers not at the top of the scale (over 24 years service; 26 teachers). Mr. Culley proposed that all teachers be given the 4% plus \$1,000, and that the 4% increase proposed for support staff be increased to 7%. This proposal would cost an additional \$62,696.00 in local funds. This has not been included in the budget. Board members Crittenden, Miller and Weber expressed their support of the proposal. Mr. Williams opened the hearing for public comment.

- Mary Griffin - speaking on behalf of system bus drivers, requested the Board to reconsider the funding for two new buses, along with competitive salaries for bus drivers, including a salary scale with step increases, longevity pay, increasing summer school driver pay and reinstating the annual bus driver trip.
- Rebecca Gates - requested continued support of teachers and the school system.
- Kathy Vestly - as spokesperson for the "pink ribbon committee" thanked the Board for their support of teachers and especially to the support staff.
- Marny Richardson- encouraged Board to continue supporting higher teacher salaries and reflected on good teachers continuing to leave the system for higher pay.
- Charles Lackey - thanked the Board and added his desire to maintain a 12 year, 150,000 mile bus recycling schedule. Mr. Lackey thanked the audience in attendance for their support.
- Ed Ruark - supported proposed increases for teachers and support staff; recommended the Board begin planning for capital projects at the high school, such as parking areas and demolition which could cost up to \$500,000 in 2003-2004, adding it would be better to have the money in hand rather than borrowing and increasing debt service requirements.
- Shelley Kucera - requested salary scale for teaching assistants - 7% of a low salary is still low.

- Gayle Anderton - has been critical of Board before and wanted to thank the Board publicly for its commitment to school improvements. Issued a reminder that new schools do not work without good teachers.
- Amy Holmes - schools need to take more of a priority in the County budget to catch the system up to par with surrounding systems.
- Tom Guill - supported new bus purchase; stated his daughter regularly rides a 16 year old gasoline bus listed as "spare".
- Palmer Curdts - appreciates all teachers and encouraged the Board to continue to support increasing salaries.

There being no additional comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed. Mr. Crittenden informed Mr. Guill that information provided to the Board from the School system showed that only diesel buses were used for regular routes and the gasoline bus as a spare. Mr. Williams spoke in support of the system.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Culley presented the proposed County budget, a total of \$12,803,237, a 13.3% increase over last year's budget. Mr. Culley proposed a three (3) cent tax increase and using \$75,000 carry-over funds to balance. An additional \$62,696.00 from the carry-over balance would be required if the Board adopts the proposal presented for increasing salaries to school employees. Handouts were available to the public showing department requests and recommendations, and pie graphs of revenue and expense. A 7% salary increase is proposed for County employees.

Mr. Williams opened the hearing for comments from the public:

- Sherry Inabinet, Librarian, stated the library would lose all state aid, \$38,649, unless the library receives County funds that meet or exceed the budget from three (3) years ago. Mrs. Inabinet stated this will result in reduced hours for the libraries. Mr. Culley noted that previous County budgets included one-time funding to the library for their automation project. Funding of that one-time project should not be considered in the year-to-year operating budget for the library. Mrs. Inabinet indicated she would send a line item budget to the State, which would separate operating budget lines from special project funds. She has been told that the State will continue to consider the total budget, not just operations.
- Robert Barlow, Library Treasurer - commented on the fund drives and activities held for the library to raise funds. Reduction in funds cuts into the requirements for maintenance.
- Lloyd Gammon - requested funding for more deputies. The Sheriff has requested funding for two (2) road deputies with vehicles and a resource officer.
- Katherine Fowl, Larry Lucas and Mary Graff spoke in support of additional funding for the library. Suzanne Smith commented that the Middlesex libraries are among the busiest in the State, however, are funded much less than even surrounding libraries.
- Larry Green spoke in support of more deputies.
- Jack Dozier commended the Board for support to the schools and his support for vocational training. Mr. Dozier spoke in support of adding additional police services.
- Dana Watson, wife of Deputy Watson, spoke in support of funding for additional deputies.

- Bill Hight spoke on behalf of the Urbanna merchant's Association. Support funding for additional deputy noting that Middlesex County has a seasonal population and the number of deputies needs to be based on the number of seasonal citizens.
- Aubrey Packett - requested funding for at least two deputies. Mr. Packett referenced Gloucester County's subsidies paid to retain the deputies they had.
- Raynell Smith - funding for education and libraries should be at the top of the scale.
- Linda Douglas - discussed library services relating to the School's gifted program, including the summer reading program and accelerated reader program.
- Sheriff Guy Abbott - requested Board funding of three (3) positions - two (2) road deputies with vehicles and a school resource officer. A federal grant application, due in April, would fully fund a position for three (3) years; the County would have to fund the position for one (1) year after that. Requests have also been made to the State for funding. The Sheriff currently schedules solo coverage at night. Many times there is also no one available in the daytime due to court appearances, serving papers or being tied up with processing an arrest. The Sheriff reissued a warning that the County could be held liable if because of funding, response is not available.
- Susie Jones - requested funding for additional deputies, stating she and others needed protection and kids at school needed protection.
- Lloyd Gammon spoke again suggesting that taxes should maybe be raised by five cents. Mr. Gammon referred to petitions circulated that contained 1100 signatures of people in favor of increasing the number of deputies in the county.
- Larry Green spoke again asking the Board not to put deputies at further risk by making them work night shifts alone.
- Barbara Thomas - The Board encourages clean businesses to come to the County. Recreation is a clean business, but it needs to be protected or people will no longer want to come to Middlesex for recreation.

There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the hearing for public comment. Mr. Williams explained the State Code requirements of delayed action to adopt the budget and set tax rates.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn until the regular meeting scheduled for April 3, 2001, was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Kenneth W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Supervisors