

At a (FY 2009) budget public hearing of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on May 19, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)
Walter D. Brown, III (Newsoms)
Anita T. Felts (Jerusalem)
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)
Ronald M. West (Berlin-Ivor)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Franklin)
Moses Wyche (Capron)

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
James A. Randolph, Assistant County Administrator
Julia G. Williams, Finance Director
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Mr. Johnson welcomed everyone and announced that public hearings were being held this evening regarding the proposed FY 2009 annual budget and annual tax levies. The public hearings would begin following a brief presentation. Mr. Johnson presented a PowerPoint presentation illustrating a synopsis of the proposed FY 2009 annual budget and a general overview of the proposed revenues and expenditures, tax rates, and water and sewer rates.

Chairman Jones opened the public hearings.



**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposed county budget and school budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009 on **Monday, May 19, 2008** at 7:00 p.m. at the Southampton County Office Center, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia 23837.

REVENUE ESTIMATES

	2007-2008	2008-2009		2007-2008	2008-2009
COUNTY SOURCES					
General Property Taxes	\$ 15,677,259	\$ 16,275,857	BUILDING FUND		
Other Local Taxes	1,427,313	1,534,000	Utility Taxes	464,000	464,000
Permits, Fees, Licenses	116,850	118,550	Transfer - Utility Reserve	1,261,661	1,924,381
Fines & Forfeitures	604,536	534,776	Rental of Property	60,556	60,556
Use of Money & Property	185,000	120,000	Interest Income/Note Proceeds	240,077	-
Charges for Service	374,434	355,396	TOTAL BUILDING FUND	2,326,294	2,448,937
Miscellaneous Revenue	735,388	773,703	REVENUE FROM COMMONWEALTH		
TOTAL COUNTY SOURCES	19,019,780	19,712,286	Non-Categorical Aid	218,626	196,000
OTHER COUNTY SOURCES					
Transfer-In/General Fund Reserve	788,873	1,521,512	Categorical Aid	3,717,303	3,750,353
School Funds (School Food)	527,680	527,680	Other Categorical Aid	966,035	940,362
School Funds (School Operating)	2,000	2,000	School Aid (School Operating)	14,966,205	16,804,814
TOTAL OTHER COUNTY SOURCES	1,318,553	2,051,192	School Aid (School Food)	14,500	14,500
ENTERPRISE REVENUE					
Water Service Fees	270,840	276,000	School Aid (Sales Tax)	3,320,130	3,299,435
Sewer Service Fees	760,800	786,500	Public Assistance	1,940,365	2,140,676
Other Fees/Connections	87,384	94,815	TOTAL STATE REVENUE	24,743,228	26,654,142
TOTAL ENTERPRISE REVENUE	1,119,024	1,159,315	REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES		
			School Aid (School Operating)	11,500	11,500
			School Aid (Federal Programs)	1,651,323	1,886,179
			School Aid (School Food)	511,820	550,820
			TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	2,474,643	2,450,499
			TOTAL REVENUE - ALL SOURCES	\$ 51,001,522	\$ 54,676,371

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

	2007-2008	2008-2009		2007-2008	2008-2009
GENERAL FUND					
General Government Administration			ENTERPRISE FUND		
Board of Supervisors	\$ 100,724	\$ 258,549	Enterprise/Sewer	921,641	913,652
County Administration	320,389	342,140	Enterprise/Water	522,438	570,718
Commissioner of the Revenue	266,074	292,006		1,444,079	1,484,370
Board of Assessors	8,100	8,100	BUILDING FUND		
Treasurer	247,961	266,112	Capital Projects/Debt Service	3,604,418	4,275,719
Delinquent Tax Collection	25,000	25,000	Transfer to School Fund	(130,332)	(34,909)
Accounting	221,803	232,636		3,474,086	4,240,804
Data Processing	228,280	227,529	SCHOOL FUND		
Insurance/County Code	128,930	142,355	Instruction	18,381,423	19,160,302
Registrar	147,191	151,557	Administration, Attendance & Health	1,204,409	1,352,329
	1,764,462	1,945,904	Operation and Maintenance - Transportation	2,000,323	2,916,251
Judicial Administration					
Circuit Court	71,616	73,888	Operation and Maintenance Services	2,870,863	3,422,838
Combined District Court	22,823	25,943	School Food Service and Non Operating	109,340	106,902
Special Magistrates	1,438	1,438	Facilities	204,026	629,026
Clerk of Circuit Court	438,078	471,367	Debt Service	1,839,450	1,766,829
Sheriff - Bailiff	356,047	432,965	Rental Textbooks	204,756	246,497
Courthouse Security	67,590	68,816	Technology	208,000	208,000
Commonwealth's Attorney	418,269	544,950	At-Risk 4 Year Olds	129,503	138,049
Victim Witness Assistance Program	64,882	87,427	Early Reading Intervention	44,274	52,374
	1,442,703	1,686,904	Federal School Funds		
Public Safety					
Sheriff - Law Enforcement	1,594,014	1,659,318	Title I	542,777	513,151
Enhanced 911	157,853	163,689	Title VI Flow-Through	636,018	644,636
Wireless 911	45,924	47,568	Title VI Innovative Education Program	7,312	-
School Resource Officer	45,584	47,573	Substance & Drug Prevention	12,542	12,208
Volunteer Fire Departments	292,344	305,030	Vocation Special Education	50,912	49,666
Volunteer Rescue Squads	920,679	927,394	Pre-School Incentive	13,500	13,852
State Forestry Service	13,257	16,960	Title IIA Training and Recruitment	146,680	149,458
Sheriff - Detention	2,585,816	2,667,250	Title IID Ed. Tech.	5,863	5,446
Probation	63,196	78,140	Reading First Grant	195,559	166,662
Inspections	140,964	119,237	21st Century Community Learning	135,870	135,870
Animal Control	101,830	103,765	Opportunity, Inc.	200,000	200,000
Medical Examiner	500	500	Total School Funds	29,633,692	31,885,575
Emergency Services	68,400	89,489	SCHOOL FOOD		
	6,000,563	6,227,513	School Food	1,054,000	1,093,000
Public Works					
Streetslights	44,000	44,000		1,054,000	1,093,000
Assign-A-Highway	52,355	53,415	VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND		
Refuse Collection	677,555	734,773	Eligibility Administration	676,757	1,000,762
Refuse Disposal	1,152,860	930,370	Service Administration	401,364	740,595
Buildings & Grounds	469,952	475,154	Joint Administration	387,805	-
	2,366,722	2,236,712	Benefit Programs	719,350	779,890
Health & Welfare					
Health Department	310,398	316,606	Energy Administration	21,550	-
WTCGB	79,056	80,637	VIEW Administration	106,143	-
State & Local Hospitalization	3,597	3,568		2,312,969	2,521,307
Senior Services	14,350	14,550	TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL FUNDS		
Comprehensive Services Act	67,865	62,007		\$ 51,001,522	\$ 54,676,371
STOP Organization	1,708	1,708	General Fund Reserve		
	476,972	499,074		\$ 3,227,682	\$ 3,335,219
Parks, Recreation & Cultural					
Community Concert Association	6,000	6,000	This publication is intended as a brief synopsis of the proposed budget for informative and fiscal planning purposes only. Full copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection in the County Administrator's Office, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia during normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All citizens of Southampton County are invited to attend this hearing and state their views thereon.		
Rawls Museum Arts	15,000	15,000	SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS		
Historical Society	30,000	30,000	<i>Michael W. Johnson</i>		
W.C. Rawls Library	239,910	266,772	BY _____		
	290,910	317,772	Michael W. Johnson, Clerk		
Community Development					
Planning	232,980	252,081			
Economic Development	150,000	150,000			
Soil & Water Conservation	10,280	10,280			
Cooperative Extension	55,114	56,095			
	448,374	468,456			
Non-Departmental					
Non-Departmental Operating	70,000	70,000			
	70,000	70,000			
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,000,096	\$ 13,451,315			

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section(s) 15.2-1427 and 58.1-3007, *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia to consider an ordinance to impose the following tax levies for 2008 (fiscal year 2009). All levies will be due on or before December 5, 2008:

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2008</u>
REAL ESTATE		
General	\$0.68/\$100	\$0.72/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$0.68/\$100	\$0.72/\$100
PERSONAL PROPERTY		
General	\$4.00/\$100	\$4.00/\$100
Machinery & Tools	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Mobile Homes	\$0.68/\$100	\$0.72/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$4.00/\$100	\$4.00/\$100
Merchants Capital	\$0.50/\$100	\$0.50/\$100
Farm Machinery	\$1.95/\$100	\$1.95/\$100
Farm Machinery/Single Product	\$1.25/\$100	\$1.25/\$100
Construction Machinery	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Motor Carriers	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100

A full copy of the proposed ordinance is on file and available for public inspection at the County Administrator's Office, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia during normal business hours. Any persons wishing to speak in favor of or in opposition to the above referenced ordinance are encouraged to appear and be heard at the aforementioned place and hour. Any persons wishing to attend this hearing who may have special needs should contact the County Administrator at (757) 653-3015 (voice) or (757) 653-3013 (TDD), preferably seven days prior to the hearing.

Southampton County Board of Supervisors
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section(s) 15.2-107 and 15.2-1427, *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia to consider an ordinance to impose the following utility fees pursuant to Section 15.2-2119 and 15.2-2604, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended:

	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2009</u>	<u>PERCENT INCREASE</u>
<u>WATER</u>			
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$22.00	\$23.00	4.55%
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$22.00	\$23.00	4.55%
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$2.00	\$2.00	-
<u>SEWER</u>			
Monthly Residential Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$30.00	\$31.00	3.33%
Monthly Commercial Base Rate (≤ 4,000 gal.)	\$30.00	\$31.00	3.33%
Monthly Rate per 1,000 (> 4,000 gal.)	\$5.00	\$5.00	-
Narricot Industries per 1,000 (Industrial Process)	\$1.25	\$1.30	4.0%

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The following remarks are those of individuals who spoke at the public hearings:

Ms. Joyelle Saunders, Program Coordinator for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) addressed the Board. She asked them to reconsider their stance on CASA. (*Note: The Board did not include funding for CASA in the proposed budget.*) CASA recruited volunteers and trained them to care for and advocate for abused and neglected children. They assisted the courts in so many ways. A CASA volunteer would work with a child, find out what was going on with that child, and advocate for that child. Through CASA, she had seen children get the medical care they needed. She had seen a foster mother become a successful mother for her foster child, and the list goes on. The large case loads of social workers often prevented them from helping these children as much as they would like to. CASA volunteers were willing to give their personal time to help these children. An investment in CASA did show dividends. Children assigned a CASA volunteer were placed in foster homes quicker. This was a very important program. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

Ms. Melissa McPhillips spoke. She thanked the Board for the school facilities. She stated that she had 3 kids in the Southampton County public schools. They were receiving an outstanding education. She was very pleased with the teacher student ratio. But further improvements were needed for school progress to continue and be consistent. Without the funds needed, cuts in pay would be inevitable. That would result in the loss of teachers, which would be detrimental to progress. She asked that the Board fully fund the School Board's request. (*Note: Funding*

included in the proposed budget for schools was \$567,113 less than what the school board requested.)

Ms. Dorothy Urquhart spoke. She advised that she had lived in Southampton County all of her life and was a teacher in the Southampton County Public School System. She recognized her 2 children who were in the audience. One had already been through the System and now attended Old Dominion University, and the other would graduate next year. Her daughters had received a fabulous education. The principals always asked what the teachers needed. In order for the principals to supply what they needed, money was needed. Some of that money came from the Board of Supervisors. She felt that that her child was safe and had no doubt that her child was receiving an excellent education. Speaking as a parent, she did not expect any less. She thanked the Board for their support of the schools.

Mr. Glenn Updike spoke. He stated that he knew he was going to make some people mad. He thanked the Board for their work on the budget, but he wanted them to do it over. He did not see where they were cutting corners. We were selling our children out for 30 pieces of silver. They needed to go back and see where they could cut the budget. The Reserve Fund was not for operating expenses. The cost of things needed to do be put out on the table – if they wanted this, this was what it was going to cost – they needed to leave the Reserve alone. The Reserve was for buildings, future projects, and emergencies. Since 1990, the earned income of American people had been going down. But yet the County kept borrowing and borrowing. They were spending every dime they received, and when projects came up, they did not have any money set aside. The County was getting bombarded with financial requests from ball clubs and other sports organizations. He thought the County should set aside a specified lump sum of money and let all the sports organizations know they were eligible to apply for it. And once the money was gone, it was gone. Fuel costs were outrageous. How many state cars did you see parked at grocery stores? Those people needed to pay to go back and forth to work. It was ridiculous and costly to operate schools for a half day. He knew they could not control the drug testing policy of the schools, but the Board of Supervisors were the only ones who had any say whatsoever in what the schools do. You could have the best schools in the world, but people needed a roof over their heads far worse. Passing the SOLs (Standards of Learning) was nothing to be proud of. They needed to reach for the top 10%, and not just the minimum.

Mrs. Roberta Naranjo, Vice-Chairman of the Southampton County School Board, spoke. She invited Mr. Glenn Updike to the Honors Graduate Program on June 2. The academic honors the children achieved could be matched anywhere. She did not know where Mr. Updike got his information, but he was ill-informed. She wanted to stand up for the teachers and students.

Mr. Charles Turner, Division Superintendent of Southampton County Public Schools, spoke. He stated that he was appreciative that Mr. Johnson, County Administrator, indicated that the Turner Tract and the Radio System, and not just Riverdale Elementary, were included in the debt service. He appreciated the proposed 2.01% increase in local funds for schools. He was proud to be a part of Southampton County Public Schools. Education got us where we are. You could not measure the impact of education on children. He was appreciative of the support of the Board of Supervisors. He thanked Ms. McPhillips, Ms. Urquhart, and Ms. Naranjo for their comments. They just got in SOL scores. The bar was 70%. They did not strive for 70%. There were scores significantly above that. The scores were: Capron Elementary – 96%, Hunterdale Elementary – 93%, Meherrin Elementary – 100%, Nottoway Elementary – 90%, Southampton Middle School – 81%, and Southampton High School – 92%. The numbers speak for themselves. He stated that Supervisor Brown had asked before if salaries had an impact on their people. He informed that since the last meeting, they had lost some very good teachers to other localities. Salary was the key. The teachers loved the County but they had to live. We needed to pay them for their hard work. He had a responsibility to the staff and students. He advised that since the budget had been presented, utility costs were projected to double – not to mention fuel. With Riverdale Elementary came additional costs. When they put the budget together, they studied it and made adjustments prior to presenting it to the Board of Supervisors. He clarified for Supervisor Brown that AYP was different than SOL accreditation. Capron had made it 3 of 3 – all of the other schools had made it 2 of 3. They needed the Board of Supervisors to help them do their job. He asked the Board to help them help the children.

Mr. David Edwards spoke. He stated that he was a graduate of Southampton County High School. They were putting him in a bind by raising taxes 4¢. He thought that taking money out of the Reserve for operating expenses was a bad idea, but it helped him by keeping the tax rate down.

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Fuel costs were unreal. His 20-year old daughter wanted to get out on her own, but he was afraid for her to do so. The Board needed to tighten the belt. He had never seen a budget go down. It was no telling what the budget would be in 2010.

Mr. Ash Cutchin spoke. He advised that he did not think Mr. Updike was against the school system. He was just trying to say that we passing debt down to our children and grandchildren. He too was concerned about the Reserve – they should not use it haphazardly. His grandchildren and other students had told him that SOLs were a joke. The teachers teach to the test. He noted that if a student could not use Microsoft Word and Excel proficiently, they could not find a good paying job in the business world any more.

Supervisor West stated that they needed to tow the line. At this point, he would not be in favor of any additional increase in the real estate tax rate, above the 4¢ increase that was proposed.

Supervisor Faison advised that he did feel for the teachers. However, they just did not have the money to provide any significant increase to the schools.

Supervisor Felts advised that she wished they could fully fund each request, but they could not. She was not crazy about using money in the Reserve, but if they did not, they would have to raise taxes that much more.

Supervisor Brown stated that they had limited sources of revenues. They needed to look at investing in entities that would reap revenues. He owned a farm, but if he had his way about it, he would take money out of land use and put it in the schools. The children were our future. Their whole purpose was to make things better for the children.

Supervisor West advised that \$300,000 in capital improvements for Riverdale Elementary was part of the budget and was a reality. We were all affected by rising fuel and utility costs.

It was consensus of the Board that an additional budget workshop was not needed, as they were satisfied with the proposed budget as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk