

At a (FY 2008) 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 21, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)  
Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Franklin)  
Walter D. Brown, III (Newsoms)  
Anita T. Felts (Jerusalem)  
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)  
Moses Wyche (Capron)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

Ronald M. West (Berlin-Ivor)

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 2008 annual budget and annual tax levies. The public hearings were scheduled to begin at 7:30 PM following a brief presentation. Mr. Johnson presented a PowerPoint presentation illustrating a synopsis of the proposed FY 2008 annual budget and a general overview of the proposed revenues and expenditures and tax rates.

Chairman Jones opened the public hearings at 7:30 PM.



**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, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southampton County Office Center, 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia 23837.

**FY 2008 REVENUE ESTIMATES**

<b>REVENUE FROM COUNTY SOURCES</b>		<b>BUILDING FUND REVENUE</b>	
General Property Taxes	\$ 15,677,259	Utility Tax - Electricity	\$ 464,000
Other Local Taxes	1,427,313	Transfer - Utility Reserve	1,261,661
Permits, Fees, Licenses	115,850	Rental of Property	60,556
Fines & Forfeitures	504,536	Interest Income/Note Proceeds	540,077
Use of Money & Property	185,000	<b>TOTAL REVENUE/BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>\$ 2,326,294</b>
Charges for Service	374,434	<b>REVENUE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH</b>	
Miscellaneous Revenue	735,398	Non-Categorical Aid	\$ 218,626
<b>TOTAL REVENUE/COUNTY SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 19,019,780</b>	Categorical Aid	3,717,353
<b>OTHER COUNTY SOURCES</b>		Other Categorical Aid	566,035
Transfer/General Reserve	\$ 788,873	School Aid	14,966,205
School Funds (School Food)	527,680	School Aid/Cafeteria	14,500
School Funds (School Operating)	2,000	School Aid/Sales Tax	3,320,130
<b>TOTAL REVENUE/OTHER COUNTY SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 1,318,553</b>	Public Assistance	1,940,369
<b>ENTERPRISE REVENUE</b>		<b>TOTAL REVENUE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH</b>	<b>\$ 24,743,228</b>
Water Service Fees	\$ 270,840	<b>REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES</b>	
Sewer Service Fees	760,800	School Aid/School Operating Fund	\$ 11,500
Other Fees/Connections	87,384	School Aid/Federal Programs	1,951,323
<b>TOTAL REVENUE/ENTERPRISE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 1,119,024</b>	School Aid/School Food	511,820
		<b>TOTAL REVENUE/FEDERAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,474,643</b>
		<b>TOTAL REVENUE/ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 51,001,522</b>

**FY 2008 EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>ENTERPRISE FUND</b>	
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION</b>		Water Service	\$ 522,438
Board of Supervisors	\$ 160,724	Sewer Service	921,641
County Administration	320,389	<b>TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND</b>	<b>\$ 1,444,079</b>
Commissioner of the Revenue	266,074	<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	
Board of Assessors	8,100	Capital Projects/Debt Service	\$ 3,604,418
Treasurer	247,961	Transfer to School Fund	(130,332)
Delinquent Tax Collection	25,000	<b>TOTAL BUILDING FUND</b>	<b>\$ 3,474,086</b>
Accounting	221,803	<b>SCHOOL FUND</b>	
Data Processing	228,280	Instruction	\$ 18,381,423
Insurance/County Code	128,930	Administration, Attendance & Health	1,294,409
Registrar	147,191	Other Direction & Management - Transportation	2,600,323
<b>JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION</b>		Operation & Maintenance Services	2,870,883
Circuit Court	71,616	School Food Service & Non Operating Costs	109,340
Combined District Court	22,823	Facilities	204,026
Special Magistrates	1,438	Debt Service	1,839,450
Clerk of Circuit Court	438,078	Rental Textbook	204,758
Sheriff-Bailiff	358,047	Technology	206,000
Courthouse Security	67,550	At Risk 4 Year Olds	129,503
Commonwealths Attorney	418,269	Early Reading Intervention	44,274
Victim Witness Assistance Program	64,882	<b>FEDERAL SCHOOL FUNDS</b>	
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		Chapter I	542,777
Sheriff	1,564,014	Title VI-B Flow-Through	638,018
Enhanced 911	157,853	Title VI Innovative Education Program	7,312
PSAP Wireless E-911	45,924	Substance & Drug Prevention	12,542
School Resource Officer	45,584	Vocation Special Education	50,912
Volunteer Fire Departments	292,344	Preschool Incentive	13,590
Volunteer Rescue Squads	520,679	Title II-A Training and Recruitment	148,880
State Forestry Service	13,257	Title IID Ed. Tech	5,883
Detention	2,585,818	Reading First Grant	195,559
Probation	63,196	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning	135,870
Building Inspections	140,964	Opportunity, Inc.	200,000
Animal Control	101,830	<b>TOTAL SCHOOL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 29,835,692</b>
Medical Examiner	500	<b>SCHOOL FOOD</b>	
Emergency Service/Civil Defense	68,400	School Food	\$ 1,054,000
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>VIRGINIA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND</b>	
Street Lights	44,000	Eligibility Administration	\$ 678,757
Assign-a-Highway Program	52,355	Service Administration	401,364
Refuse Collection	677,555	Joint Administration	387,805
Refuse Disposal	1,152,860	Benefit Programs	719,350
Buildings & Grounds	469,952	Energy Administration	21,550
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</b>		VIEW Administration	106,143
Local Health Department	310,398	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$ 2,312,969</b>
Mental Health Services	79,056	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES ALL FUNDS</b>	
State/Local Hospitalization	3,597		<b>\$ 51,001,522</b>
Transportation Program - Elderly	14,350	Unappropriated General Fund Reserve	
Comprehensive Services Act	67,865		\$ 3,227,682
STOP Organization	1,706		
<b>PARKS, RECREATION &amp; CULTURAL</b>			
Community Concert Series	6,000		
Rawls Museum Arts	15,000		
Historical Society	30,000		
Walter C. Rawls Library	239,910		
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Planning/Zoning	232,980		
Economic Development	150,000		
Soil & Water Conservation District	10,280		
Cooperative Extension Service	55,114		
<b>NON DEPARTMENTAL</b>			
Non-Departmental Operating	70,000		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 12,880,696</b>		

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, VA during normal business hours. All citizens of Southampton County are invited to attend this public hearing and state their views thereon.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY   
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

**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 21, 2007 at 7:30 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 2007 (fiscal year 2008). All levies will be due on or before December 5, 2007:

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>PROPOSED FY 2008</u>
REAL ESTATE		
General	\$0.64/\$100	\$0.68/\$100
Public Service Corporations	\$0.64/\$100	\$0.68/\$100
PERSONAL PROPERTY		
General	\$4.00/\$100	\$4.00/\$100
Machinery & Tools	\$2.40/\$100	\$2.40/\$100
Mobile Homes	\$0.64/\$100	\$0.68/\$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

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

Mr. Charles Turner, School Superintendent, spoke. He apologized for the Board not receiving invitations to attend Governor Tim Kaine's touring of Southampton High School. He did not know what happened, but he intended for them to receive invitations. He advised that Governor Kaine was very impressed with Southampton High School – so much so that he talked about Southampton County on the helicopter back to Richmond. He had never seen a program such as our child care program anywhere, and had never seen a cosmetology program in a high school. Mr. Turner stated that when he started his journey as Superintendent, Standards of Learning (SOL) scores were very low – some even in the 5-11 percentiles. The SOL scores were now running in the 90s and upper 80s. He noted that as they had increased teacher salaries, the SOL scores had improved. In order to continue this process, the Board of Supervisors had to support the schools. They appreciated what they had done regarding facilities. However, they also needed to keep and attract quality personnel. The amount of funds they would receive from state sales tax revenue was projected to be substantially lower than what they received last year. They were asking the Board of Supervisors for a \$1.1 million increase over what they received from the Board last year, but with that request, they were still not asking for some of the things they needed. He noted that fuel costs were up. In addition, they planned to provide raises to their teachers, instructional assistants, and bus drivers, who earned and deserved the increase they wanted to provide to them.

Mr. Turner advised that with the development that was taking place throughout the County, homes would come, and children in those homes would attend County schools. He stated that Mr. Johnson mentioned in his PowerPoint that per pupil expenditures for Southampton County in FY 2006 were \$8,991 per student, which was about midway of such expenditures of our neighboring localities, and just below the state average of \$9,766. He noted, however, that there were factors in which they had no control which affected Southampton County's per pupil expenditure figure. He noted that they also needed to consider that our County was 600 square miles.

Chairman Jones stated that they were proud of our school system and they would do the very best they could in terms of funding.

Mr. Turner noted that they would not have carryover funds this time.

Vice-Chairman Young commended the SOL scores. He asked if they were losing teachers – he heard they were losing quite a few from the middle school? Mr. Turner replied that there was a tremendous shortage of teachers. They were having to recruit teachers from Pennsylvania and other localities. When those teachers started working at Southampton, they did not yet know that they could go to Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and earn more money, but they soon found out.

Ms. Susan Spivey spoke. She advised that she was a teacher's assistant at Hunterdale Elementary. A study was done in the County a few years ago, and as a result of that study, salary increases for County employees were phased in to get them up to par. Schools were not included in that study and it was time to consider the salaries of our educators. The starting annual salary elsewhere for a teacher's assistant was \$12,000 – it was \$9,000 in Southampton. The starting salary for a new teacher in Southampton County was \$5,000/year less than that of our neighboring localities. With salaries so low, morale was compromised. The future of our teachers and students was at stake.

Reverend Charles Worth spoke. He advised that he had never been more pleased with the education his children were receiving in Southampton County Public Schools. He did not know why the 5.9% increase the school board was requesting was such a big deal. Bus drivers and teacher's assistants qualified for federal food stamps. He personally would be in favor of a tax increase in order to give more money to the schools. Mr. Johnson had mentioned in his PowerPoint that the Board of Supervisors provided the money and the School Board decided what to do with it, but that was not a true statement. He noted that the only place in the budget that the School Board could cut was salaries. He advised that he and his wife made a conscious decision for their children to attend Southampton County Schools. As Hampton Roads continued to move west, they were not going to be the small rural community they used to be. How they funded the schools was going to have a direct impact on quality of life.

Chairman Jones closed the public hearings.

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Jones asked if they were ok with the proposed FY 2008 budget? Supervisors Brown and Faison advised that they would like to work on it and try and give more funding to the schools if possible. Supervisor Wyche agreed.

Supervisor Felts advised that she had reviewed the proposed budget and if we gave more funding to the schools, we would have to take funding away from somewhere else.

Supervisor Brown mentioned the bid on the new Riverdale Elementary School that came in \$3 million under budget and asked what the excess funds could be used for. Mr. Johnson advised that the funds had to be used for physical improvements to Riverdale Elementary School. They had discussed possibly using the funds for a pump station to serve the school.

Vice-Chairman Young commented that he thought it was more important to help the schools than some other things we were doing right now such as the Turner Tract.

After discussion, it was consensus of the Board to take \$100,000 out of the General Fund Reserve and provide it to the schools and earmark it to the instruction category. *(Note: They would consider this when voting on the proposed budget at the next regular session of May 29, 2007.)*

Supervisor Felts was in agreement but did not know what an additional \$100,000 would do for the schools. Supervisor Faison stated that it would let them know that we heard their concerns.

Chairman Jones stated that he had heard all of this from the schools before. When we fully funded them in the past, they did not increase the salaries of teachers. Supervisor Faison noted, however, that he would think that they gave the teachers what they had allocated in the budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

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Michael W. Johnson, Clerk