

**At a Recessed Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Held in the General District Courtroom on
Thursday, May 24, 2016 at 6 pm**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith C. Blowe
C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Alfred G. Futrell
Susan B. Seward
John A. Stringfield
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Deborah A. Davis, County Administrator
Vandy V. Jones, III, Deputy County Administrator
Marycarol White, Financial Consultant
John Paul Woodley, County Attorney
Kathy Beale, Sheriff's Office
Ellen G. Boone, Commissioner of Revenue
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/Deputy Clerk to the Board
Susan Chappell, Sherriff's Office
Deste J. Cox, Deputy Treasurer
Brenda H. Drew, Housing Coordinator
Chequila H. Fields, Director of Social Services
Ernest Giles, Captain
Montaque Gilliam, Building & Grounds Supervisor
Andre M. Greene, Director of Community Development

1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum

The May 24, 2016 Sussex County Board of Supervisors Recessed meeting was called to order by Chairman Blowe.

2. Invocation

The Invocation was offered by Supervisor Futrell.

3. Agenda Amendments

Chairman Blowe requested to add the General Reassessment to agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVIOSR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried: RESOLVED that the Regular Agenda of the May 24, 2016 meeting of the Sussex

County Board of Supervisors hereby approved inclusive of the addition of the General Reassessment.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Futrell, Seward, Stringfield

Voting nay: none

Absent during vote: Supervisor Tyler

5. General Reassessment

This item was tabled from the April 21, 2016 Board meeting. Ms. Ellen G. Boone, Commissioner of the Revenue, was present to answer any questions. Ms. Boone had given a presentation at a previous meeting. She advised that the County is currently on a six-year reassessment cycle in which the general reassessment process is scheduled for the latter part of July 2016. Upon questioning, Ms. Boone advised that she preferred the four-year reassessment cycle.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts recommendation to move from the current six year general reassessment cycle to the four year general reassessment cycle.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Futrell, Seward, Stringfield

Voting nay: Supervisor Fly

Absent during vote: Supervisor Tyler

Supervisor Tyler entered at 6:10 p.m.

6. Budget Work Session - Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

County Administrator Davis reviewed recommendations submitted by Vice Chair Seward for reduction.

Some of the recommendations included the following:

Staff has been instructed to develop a system to keep track of mileage and gas usage. County Administrator advised that staff has already initiated the development of a form.

There was discussion regarding the line item in the budget for the Planning Commission. There was also discussion regarding the number of members on the Planning Commission. Mr. Andre Greene, Director of Community Development, advised that a previous Board instructed staff to increase members to allow for equal representation of each district along with representation from the Sussex Service Authority. The line item for the Planning Commission has been adjusted to \$9,000.00.

Staff was instructed to communicate with the Planning Commission for their preference in the number of members and report to the Board at the July 21, 2016 Regular Board meeting. Staff has also been instructed to see how many members neighboring Planning Commissions have.

There was discussion regarding the radio communication system software and towers. Staff has been instructed to set up a meeting with Mr. Vick and radio consultant firm for presentation to the Board.

It has been suggested to reduce funding for the Miles B. Carpenter Museum. County Administrator Davis advised that Miles B. Carpenter Museum is partially grant funded. The Museum has to be funded \$5,000.00. After discussion, the Miles B. Carpenter Museum line item has been adjusted to \$5,000.00. Staff has been instructed to have the Miles B. Carpenter Museum submit a detailed report just as the Wakefield Foundation.

County Administrator Davis also reviewed recommendations submitted by Supervisor Fly.

Some of the recommendations included:

County Administrator Davis advised there would be a vacancy in the Housing Department. She stated that Supervisor Fly has recommended that the vacant position not be filled which will create a savings of approximately \$38,171.00.

Ms. Brenda H. Drew, Housing Coordinator, stated that the Housing Department needed the vacant position filled. She also said that the Housing Department is not self-sufficient. The Housing Department brings in approximately \$87,000.00. Ms. Drew discussed various functions of the Housing Department.

There was discussion as to whether outside localities are willing to cover any expenses. Staff has been instructed to verify with VHDA, can Sussex County decide to stop servicing the outside localities—Emporia, Greensville and Surry.

Chairman Blowe suggested to freeze the position and refer the matter to the Personnel Committee so that the Committee can work with staff to resolve unanswered questions.

Ms. Carol White also stated that it should be considered that if a position is eliminated, it should be taken into consideration that unemployment may have to be paid and new laws have been made regarding overtime payout.

Supervisor Fly recommended eliminating the building inspector's position. County Administrator Davis advised that she had considered having the building inspector assist the Housing Department with their inspections.

Supervisor Fly also recommended eliminating two (2) Building & Grounds positions and cover the work with inmate workers. Supervisor Fly stated that the Sheriff said that he can provide the inmate workers.

There were discussions regarding the liabilities of using inmate workers. Captain Giles gave insight on using inmate workers.

Ms. Chequila H. Fields, Director of Social Services, addressed some budget concerns. Ms. Fields and Ms. White are to meet to discuss these concerns.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approved the referral of Supervisor Fly's recommendations to the Personnel Committee;

WHEREAS the Personnel Committee will work with the County staff and report their recommendation to the Board.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Futrell, Seward, Stringfield, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Supervisor Futrell departed at 8:46 p.m.

Chairman Blowe suggested the motion to advertise the proposed budget inclusive of the proposed four cents (4¢) real estate tax increase in which the Board will vote on the proposed budget and proposed four cents (4¢) real estate tax increase at a later date.

Supervisor Fly offered a substitute motion.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby amend the budget by utilizing landfill tipping fees by increasing in the amount of \$282,585.00; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED authorize County Administration to advertise the FY 2017 budget with the noted change in landfill tipping fees without the proposed four cents (4¢) real estate tax increase.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Seward, Stringfield

Voting nay: Supervisors Blowe, Tyler

Absent during vote: Supervisor Futrell

There was confusion of one of the Board members as to what motion was on the floor. County Attorney Woodley advised that the member could change the vote since the result was not announced by the Deputy Clerk.

Supervisor Fly called Point of Order in regards to the manner of the handling of the motion.

County Attorney Woodley advised that the Chairman could rule on the Point of Order. A motion would be made to sustain or to overrule the Chairman which would result in another motion. If the Point of Order is sustained, the Deputy Clerk would announce the result of the vote. At this point, any member that voted on the prevailing side could make a motion to reconsider. Then, the motion to reconsider would have to be addressed by the Board. If the Board moved to reconsider, then the matter would be brought to the table for reconsideration and can be subject to discussion.

The Deputy Clerk announced the vote – three (3) ayes-Supervisors Fly, Seward, Stringfield; two (2) nays-Supervisors Blowe, Tyler

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD, and seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried: RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby reconsider the motion on the floor.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Seward, Stringfield, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Absent during vote: Supervisor Futrell

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby amend the budget by utilizing landfill tipping fees by increasing in the amount of \$282,585.00; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED authorize County Administration to advertise the FY 2017 budget with the noted change in landfill tipping fees without the proposed four cents (4¢) real estate tax increase.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Seward

Voting nay: Supervisors Blowe, Stringfield, Tyler

Absent during vote: Supervisor Futrell

Motion failed.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, second by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the advertisement of the proposed fiscal year 2017 budget with the proposed four cent (4¢) real estate tax increase; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the County negotiates with Atlantic Waste Disposal to disposal to generate the additional revenue.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Stringfield, Tyler

Voting nay: Supervisors Fly, Seward

Absent during vote: Supervisor Futrell

7. Citizen's Comments (Limited to 2 minutes, Section 5-3A6)

Comments were heard from Mr. Bill Collins, Courthouse District.

8. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried: RESOLVED that the May 24, 2016 Recessed Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Voting aye: Supervisors Blowe, Fly, Seward, Stringfield, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Absent during vote: Supervisor Futrell

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the General District Courtroom.