

**At a Special Meeting (Budget Work Session) of the  
Sussex County Board of Supervisors  
Held in the General District Courtroom on  
Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 5 pm**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Vandy V. Jones, III, County Administrator  
Millard P. Stith, Independent Consultant  
Danielle Powell, Interim County Attorney  
Ellen G. Boone, Commissioner of the Revenue  
Deste J. Cox, Chief Deputy Treasurer  
Ernest Giles, Sheriff  
John Ogburn, Investigator  
James Shanko, Lids Technician  
Onnie L. Woodruff, Treasurer  
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

**Item 1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum (5:10 p.m.)**

The June 21, 2018 Special Meeting (Budget Work Session) of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Seward.

**Item 2. The Invocation**

The Invocation was offered by Vice Chairman Blowe.

**Item 3. The Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Item 4. Agenda Amendments**

Supervisor Fly requested to add as Item 6.5, Board Members' Comments.

**Item5. Approval of Agenda**

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR BLOWE, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the June 21, 2018 Special Meeting (Budget Work Session) agenda inclusive of adding as Item 6.5, Board Members' Comments.

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

Voting nay: none

### **Item 6. FY2019 Budget Work Session**

Chairman Seward opened the FY2019 Budget Work Session.

Vice Chairman Blowe made the motion that the Board accepts the recommendation of the FY2019 Budget made by the County Administrator with the amendments that have been noted to increase the Sheriff's Department budget. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Stringfield. Supervisor Stringfield stated that he seconded the motion because he wanted the men and women of the Sheriff's Department to know that they were valued and wanted as part of the staff at the County.

Supervisor Futrell inquired as to whether the motion was regarding just the Sheriff's Department's budget or the entire budget. Vice Chairman Blowe clarified that the motion was to accept the budget, not to approve the budget until the regular meeting, to move the issue forward.

During discussion, Supervisor Fly stated that no changes had been adopted for the budget nor was an amount approved for the Sheriff's budget or other items. With no final action taken by the Board, the Sheriff's request for funding to adjust salaries (raises), other departments, fire trucks, and any other items, the adoption of the motion would not include the items in the budget because no amounts have been finalized.

Supervisor Fly offered a substitute motion to enter into budget discussions.

Vice Chairman Blowe asked Chairman Seward to allow County Administrator Jones to address statements made by Supervisor.

Supervisor Fly called point of order and wanted clarification in regards to whether the County Administrator could enter into Board discussion as a Board member, an elected official, on a motion on the floor.

Vice Chairman Blowe stated that County Administrator Jones was asked to clarify a point and would address the issue/statement made by Supervisor Fly that the items mentioned were not brought before the Board. Vice Chairman Blowe stated that the County Administrator Jones brought before the Board at its last meeting, and presented the amount of approximately \$102,000.00 regarding the Sheriff's request for an increase.

Chairman Seward asked the interim county attorney whether the county administrator could legally enter into discussion on a motion as a Board member.

Interim County Attorney Powell stated that Vice Chairman Blowe made a motion to move forward with the budget. Supervisor Fly offered a substitute motion. Procedurally, according to the

bylaws, if a substitute motion is made, there is a vote on the substitute motion. If the substitute motion passes, it's the end of the discussion of the motion. If the substitute motion fails, the original motion of Vice Chairman Blowe would be back on the floor for a vote.

At the request of Chairman Seward, Supervisor Fly restated the motion.

During discussion, just for clarification, Supervisor Tyler stated that the Board had gone on record to state that the Board would support the Sheriff's Department and provide adequate funding.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby enters into budget discussions.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Futrell, Seward

Voting nay: Supervisors Blowe, Stringfield, Tyler

The vote on the motion tied with Supervisors Fly, Futrell, and Seward voting "aye"; Supervisors Blowe, Stringfield, and Tyler voting "nay".

Mr. Steve White, the Tie Breaker, was asked for his vote.

Mr. White voted "aye". The motion carried.

County Administration had presented options for funding the \$51,000.00 for the Sheriff's salary adjustments for the original amount provided. Chairman Seward inquired of options for the additional funding.

County Administrator Jones stated that at the last meeting, June 11, 2018 Special Meeting (Budget Work Session), the \$50,900.00 (\$51,000.00) was determined by information received from the Sheriff's Office wherein raises would total \$44,000.00 with making an addition for social security, the total was determined to be approximately \$51,000.00. Additional discussion at the last Board meeting revealed that the \$51,000.00 was not ample for the desired accomplishment regarding the Sheriff's budget. County Administrator Jones stated that the \$102,000.00 basically came from the doubling of the \$51,000.00. The \$102,000.00 or less would create a raise amount plus the subsequent additions that would be needed for social security, etc.

County Administrator Jones stated that Administration came into the last meeting with a proposed solution to the increasing of the budget by \$51,000.00. At the last meeting, the County had received from KME—the company that will be building the fire engine for Sussex County—the timeline of how the payment of the fire engine would be accomplished. The payment for the fire engine would be due after July 1, 2019. With the payment being due in FY2020, it was proposed to use the funding for the fire engine in the FY2019 proposed budget for the adjustments that had been discussed up to that point. Those adjustments would be the \$102,000.00 for the Sheriff's Department, as well as the total needed for the funding of the Tie Breaker position, and the funding for the Sheriff's Carousel. The others such as Intrinsic would be taken care of with the Capital Improvements Plan with funds that were in the plan that didn't need to be used this year but would be encumbered for next year to care of the remaining funding.

County Administrator Jones stated that the proposal, without having any cuts or moving funding around, just using the fire engine situation, would fund all of the adjustments for the raises in salaries and other items mentioned.—recognizing that the fire engine would be paid for in FY20. The Unassigned Fund Balance will increase to almost double.

County Administrator Jones stated that there was a mechanism for approving the budget with the adjustments being made.

ON THE MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves and allocates an additional \$102,000.00 in the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget for salaries in the Sheriff's Department budget.

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

Voting nay: none

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby allocates an additional \$10,000.00 in the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget for salaries in the Commissioner of the Revenue's office.

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

Voting nay: none

Supervisor Fly made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Futrell that all Outside Agencies not receive any increase in funding in the FY2018/2019 Budget—level funding; and that the Outside Agencies budget to remain the same as they were in FY2017/2018. Any agency not funded in the FY2017/2018 budget, is not be funded in the FY2018/2019 Budget.

*Supervisor Tyler made his disclosure: "I am an employee of the Improvement Association and I do receive salary in excess of \$10,000.00 annually. The address of the Improvement Association is 1750 East Atlantic Avenue, Emporia, Virginia even though they just built my office in Waverly. I'm a member of a group three (3) or employees of the Association. I have a personal interest in the Board of Supervisors action relating to funding the Improvement Association. I feel as I'm able to act fairly and impartial in the best interest of the public in the funding the Improvement Association and the other Outside Agencies.*

There were discussions regarding not funding outside agencies, 81100 to 81800, that provide direct services to the community including education.

There were discussions regarding the Improvement Association request for an increase. The Improvement Association's request was in an effort to bring their teachers' salaries up to standard. There was discussion as to what the other localities were contributing to Improvement Association's request for an increase. There was also discussion of provisional certification and starting salaries.

Supervisor Fly amended his motion to include all items under Outside Agencies to be level funded to include: Confinement of Inmates and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Supervisor Stringfield offered a substitute motion to approve the increase for the Improvement Association. After brief discuss, Supervisor Stringfield withdrew his motion.

The Board returned to the original motion on the floor.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves level funding for all Outside Agencies to include Confinement of Inmates and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.  
Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Futrell, Seward  
Voting nay: Supervisor Blowe, Stringfield, Tyler

The motion tied. Mr. Steve White, the Tie Breaker, was asked to vote. Mr. White voted “aye”.  
The motion carried.

Supervisor Fly made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Futrell to decrease funding for the South Centre Corridor to \$0. However, the motion wasn’t needed due to the vote to level fund all Outside Agencies.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves reducing the Faith Based Coalition funding, line item 825, from \$5,000.00 to \$0 in the FY2019 Budget.  
Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Futrell, Seward  
Voting nay: Supervisors Blowe, Stringfield, Tyler

The motion tied. Mr. Steve White, the Tie Breaker, was asked to vote. Mr. White voted “aye”.  
The motion carried.

*Supervisor Fly asked staff to check on the Chowan Basin Project.*

Supervisor Fly made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Futrell to reduce funding for the Virginia Gateway Region to \$10,000.00.

There was discussion of searching for another entity that could service the County.

After discussion, Chairman Seward offered a substitute motion.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR SEWARD, seconded by SUPERVISOR FLY and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby agrees to reduce the Virginia Gateway Region by half, \$21,025.00.  
Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Futrell, Seward, Stringfield  
Voting nay: Supervisors Blowe, Tyler

There was discussion regarding the Blackwater Regional Library request for an increase in budget. County Administrator Jones stated that the request for increase was for adjustment in certain position salaries. There was also discussion of the formula for funding.

Supervisor Blowe made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Stringfield to request the Board to consider adjusting the amount of the request for the Improvement Association to \$30,000.00 instead of \$47,000.00 to help defray the costs for the teachers.

There were inquiries as to whether this motion could be done. Interim County Attorney Powell stated that the bylaws do discuss “motion to reconsider”. The purpose of a motion to reconsider is to revisit an issue that has already been voted on. Interim County Attorney Powell stated that in this particular instance, there was an initial motion to have all outside agencies level funded, which would have included the Improvement Association. It was Interim County Attorney Powell’s opinion that to make a motion to then change the amount would be considered a motion to reconsider that particular line item. Under the bylaws, motions to reconsider can only be made by those individuals on the prevailing side.

However, after further review of her notes, Interim County Attorney Powell stated that the initial motion for level funding was affirmative due to the Tie Breaker vote. The bylaws state that in the event of a tie vote, any Board of Supervisors member may introduce the motion to reconsider.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR BLOWE, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby agrees to reconsider the line item for the funding of the Improvement Association.

Voting aye: Supervisor Blowe, Fly, Stringfield, Tyler

Voting nay: Supervisor Futrell, Seward

Vice Chairman Blowe made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Stringfield to fund the Improvement Association request for the additional funding of \$47,000.00. During roll call, Supervisor Fly made a substitute motion, later seconded by Supervisor Tyler to table the item to the Board’s regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Interim County Attorney Powell stated that typically when there is a motion and it is seconded, and the discussion and roll call has started, the roll call should be finished. However, if there’s a motion to substitute to lay the original discussion on the table and the Board is okay with it, then it’s fine. The original process is to continue with the motion.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby tables this item until the Board’s regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Voting nay: Supervisor Blowe

### **Item 6.5 Board Comments**

There were no Board comments due to time restraints.

### **Item 7. Citizens’ Comments**

Citizens’ Comments were heard from:

Kevin Bracy (Courthouse District) – Faith Based Coalition; Assisting resident with moving; taxpayers’ money; considered comments from Board members to be negative.

Chester Carter (Stony Creek District) – Improvement Association; harmony; sheriff; personally bring back business to County; comments made regarding as a dump.

**Item 8. Adjournment**

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR BLOWE seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the June 21, 2018 Special Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors is hereby adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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

Voting nay: none