

DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Supervisors
PEGGY KISER, CHAIRWOMAN
Ervinton District

JOSH EVANS, VICE-CHAIRMAN
Willis District

RON PETERS
Sandlick District

RHONDA SLUSS
Clintwood District

SHELBIE WILLIS
Kenady District

County Administrator
LARRY BARTON

County Attorney
WILLIAM J. STURGILL

Of Counsel/Economic Development Advisor to the Board
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818 Happy Valley Drive, Clintwood, VA

AGENDA
PUBLIC HEARING
FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 GENERAL COUNTY
FUND, COAL AND GAS ROAD IMPROVEMENT
FUND AND E-911 BUDGETS
JUNE 7, 2022
5:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Silent Prayer
3. Public Comment
4. Adjourn

June 7, 2022

At a public hearing of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors held on June 7, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. in the second floor conference room at the Dickenson Center for Education and Research in Clintwood, Virginia:

PRESENT: Peggy Kiser, Chairwoman
Josh Evans, Vice-chairman
Rhonda Sluss, Member
Shelbie Willis, Member
Ron Peters, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Barton, County Administrator
Teresa Lyall, County Clerk
Adam Mullins, IT

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IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Kiser called the meeting to order.

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IN RE: SILENT PRAYER

Larry Barton led the meeting in prayer and Ron Peters led in the pledge of allegiance.

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IN RE: PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To receive public comment on the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 General Fund Budget, the Coal and Gas Road Improvement Fund Budget and the E-911 Budget. **See attached copy.

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IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Administrator Barton stated this is a required portion of our budgeting process to give the public an opportunity to speak. We had this advertised in the Dickenson Star for the past two weeks as well as on our website. This budget will have to be amended after the first of July as the General Assembly approved a budget last week. Our biggest change will be in the Sheriff's office where they made starting salaries at \$42,000 and \$100 per year wage compression. A few changes in the Clerk's office and some other offices. On the Revenue side we still don't have our estimates from the Comp Board. Anticipate getting them sometime next week. I did receive some sales tax estimates from the State today. At our meeting on the 28th we will formally adopt our budget and in July we will come back and make some minor modifications.

Ron Peters asked if they made changes to sales tax?

Administrator Barton stated they did make changes. With the grocery tax they eliminated the state portion but we are still retaining our 1% local portion. It would have been significant to the County if we had lost that. The Governor has not signed it at this time.

Chairwoman Kiser asked if they were able to increase the insurance for fire and rescue?

Administrator Barton stated it was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for maximum medical expense for active volunteers. Two years ago it was \$25,000 and last year we increased it to \$50,000 and this year to \$100,000.

Roy Harris, Chief, Sandy Ridge Fire Department approached the Board and stated their concern was they don't have a Town or City they can go to and present their case as far as the needs that they have. We have to go to each County. The County has set a certain amount of money aside for the fire departments and rescue squads. Each Town in addition to what you give each department, each Town also gives them money. That puts us on the low end of the collection plate.

Josh Evans asked Mr. Harris how much money do they get from the County?

Mr. Harris stated about \$25,000 per year.

Josh Evans stated so we give each department \$25,000, right?

Mr. Harris stated yes.

Josh Evans asked him how much did Wise County give them?

Mr. Harris stated \$28,000 a year.

Josh Evans asked how much did the Town of Clintwood give Clintwood?

Mr. Harris stated he did not know. I know the Town of Haysi gave Haysi Fire Department \$63,000 a year.

Josh Evans asked what was the percentage of calls they answer in Dickenson County verses Wise County?

Mr. Harris stated he did not have that prepared.

Josh Evans asked do you answer more calls in Dickenson County or Wise County?

Mr. Harris stated Dickenson County by far.

Josh Evans asked if he was going to ask Wise County for more money?

Mr. Harris stated yes.

Mr. Evans asked how much ARPA money did Dickenson County give them?

Mr. Harris stated \$25,000 on the CARES Act.

Ron Peters stated we need to remember that CARES Act and Recovery Act we cannot count on the money forever. We know that is going away eventually.

Do you have other sources of revenue?

Mr. Harris stated they do fund raising and applying for grants.

Ron Peters stated you guys are going to face what we all are going to face. Everything is going up.

Josh Evans stated we had our budget meetings which is really where this conversation was more appropriate.

Chairwoman Kiser asked if they had submitted a request for ARPA funds?

Administrator Barton stated they did have a request from Sandy Ridge for the truck. I think there is one other request from them.

Harry Dean Childress stated his son use to work at Sandy Ridge Fire Department and Rescue a long time ago. What Mrs. Willis said about your surplus at the school board running out, you've got a plan for that down the road. You all have to plan for many years beyond you if you are going to ever survive and prosper in Dickenson County. We use to have a county tag. I propose you could look at doing the county tag again. You just saved personal property tax people how many millions? I consider maybe putting in a fee per vehicle and dedicate that fee and lock it in to capital expenditure projects for fire and rescue. I know you don't really want to do it and know you don't want to raise taxes. If you propose that to the public and commit to that and stay within that. Everybody won't get all they want every year but they could apply for projects. Keep your money that you do for their operating expenses in the budget. Commit this money to capital improvement projects for the fire and rescue. I think you can sell that. I think citizens in this County would accept that. I know you don't want to hear it again but you are looking at funds down the road. You've heard me talk about this again and again a solid waste fee. Something you need to think about. I know you don't want to put one in but sometimes you have to do things you don't want to for the survival and what's best for Dickenson County. You're right, COVID funds is going to end and that end is coming probably quicker than we think it is coming. We have depended on that and it has bailed us out for two years like coal severance tax has bailed this County out for how many years. I think you need to look at those things and what is best for Dickenson County and sometimes you have to do the unpopular thing to do whats best for the citizens of the County. Thank you.

Ron Peters stated I love what you said Harry, you're right. I look back at the records for my house I have in Williamsburg, the local water department in Newport News that covers various county's. Right on their website if you lived in this district you

pay a certain amount extra for their fire department. It varies between the different districts. You have to let the public know upfront what you're buying.

Shelbie Willis thanked Administrator Barton for working on the budget.

Rhonda Sluss stated I am thankful for what Mike Yates and his staff did so our people wouldn't have to pay more personal property taxes. That was a great help to our citizens and save them money. Thankful for this Board how we have tried to live within our means and I do agree Harry has a wonderful thought and idea.

Josh Evans stated why don't you and Ron put it out for a vote then? If you want to raise a fee on people.

Rhonda Sluss stated I think a county sticker has been tried, is that right Shelbie?

Shelbie Willis stated this room would not hold the people.

Josh Evans stated so you and Ron are going to put that out for a vote?

Ron Peters stated you want to put you head in the sand and wait for a disaster.

Josh Evans stated no I'm just not going to raise taxes on people, especially when gas is \$5.00 a gallon. You and Rhonda sounded like it was a good idea.

Rhonda Sluss stated no one here wants to raise taxes. This is our third budget cycle and we made a statement in our budget not to raise taxes and I am proud of that. We don't want to put a burden on our people.

Josh Evans stated you just said it was a good idea.

Rhonda Sluss stated that is not the same as saying I want to raise taxes.

Ron Peters stated right now with the current situation anything we do would just aggravate the current problem our citizens have with inflation.

Josh Evans stated no kidding. That is why it's not a good idea.

Rhonda Sluss stated there are good ideas that don't come to fruition because people have their own agenda and also want to kick the can down the road. There are some good ideas out there and I'm going to be the first to say I'm not the smartest person in this room but I am open to peoples suggestions. I did not say I was going to raise

taxes. I have never voted for raising taxes but at the same time I'm open to listen to peoples ideas.

Josh Evans stated I am not supporting a vehicle fee.

Rhonda Sluss stated that's your problem Josh not mine.

Josh Evans stated you just said you're supporting a vehicle fee.

Rhonda Sluss stated I did not say that. You put words in my mouth. I did not say that. I said it was a good idea.

Josh Evans stated that what I said you said. So there is a difference in what you support and what is a good idea.

Ron Peters, here's the thing.

Rhonda Sluss stated if you knew your history you would know, I've been watching the History Channel here lately, if you knew your history Teddy Roosevelt put forth ideas that were not good but they broke up the monopolies in this country so this country could thrive. He got criticized for that. You can criticize me for that all you want too. Sometimes we have to think out of the box.

Chairwoman Kiser stated it may be a good idea but it is not an idea coming before a vote.

Ron Peters, here's the thing. He presented
Mumbling sound.

Josh Evans asked do what Rhonda?

Ron Peters stated I'm talking.

Josh Evans stated she is mumbling something. What did you say?

Rhonda Sluss stated sometimes you want to project that.....no, I'm not going to say anything else Josh. I'm not mad.

Josh Evans stated you have talked for 40 minutes so go ahead.

Rhonda Sluss stated there you go exaggeration again. I did not talk for 40 minutes. Did I talk for 40 minutes?

Chairwoman Kiser stated Ron has asked for his speaking time. Let's move on to Ron.

Ron Peters stated he presented that some day we are going to have to be looking at this. We're just barely funding these fire departments and making ends meet. Probably really falling behind. Harry is right. In the future you have to look at whether we can do it right now I'm not saying. This goes along with some of the other things that Josh you've been complaining about on our economic development. We sat there for 2 years knowing we needed to fix our IDA Board and wouldn't make a move on it. Now we've got it and you think we're going to get what Buchanan and Wise County gets? Those guys have been putting stepping stones along the path for 20 years and that is what it is picking up pace and accelerating for them. We haven't. We almost missed the opportunity to do Red Onion on this sewer and it almost got bypassed. We have to be planning for the future.

Josh Evans well I'm not going to raise fees.

Rhonda Sluss stated Buchanan County has been working on Popular Gap, I was up there when there was nothing there. That was 25, 30 years ago. As Ron just said and Harry, we've got to look down the future when we are going.

Josh Evans asked what are you going to do to look at the future, raise fees?

Rhonda Sluss stated no, that's not one of the things I said. You put words in my mouth.

Josh Evans stated no, you said it was a good idea. I was just looking for clarity. Madame Chair for clarity for the record please Dickenson gave Sandy Ridge Fire \$25,000, Wise gives them \$28,000, We give Clintwood \$25,000 and the Town of Clintwood gives them \$16,000. There is no discrepancy there, you're getting \$14,000 more than what the Town of Clintwood gives between the 2 localities.

Mr. Harris stated as a whole this Board does care about their people and the

County. You all have done everything that you possibly could to help your people and your areas. I appreciate that and everyone of you are here trying to figure out how make things work for this County and to improve the County. That is why I am here, the same thing. You've got our back and I got your back. We are trying to help this County.

Rhonda Sluss stated we appreciate that.

Mr. Harris stated that Mr. Barton, he stays in contact with me about things and I do appreciate that. I know there is support there for the fire departments and rescue squads. Nobody needs one until their house catches on fire. Nobody needs the rescue squad until they get shot. Or until they come down with COVID and have to go on a ventilator. There is no great thing about a fire hydrant until you house catches on fire and you need one and it's a mile and a half of 2 miles down the road. Go to Bad Ridge. You have to come 2 half miles down Bad Ridge to get to a hydrant.

Josh Evans stated so you take a request that has been submitted as an ARPA application, is that right?

Mr. Harris stated yes sir.

Josh Evans stated we have not had a meeting since he submitted that application. Whenever we have that my suggestion would be to let him know when our next ARPA meeting is going to be.

Administrator Barton stated when we get through this budget we will schedule a meeting.

Josh Evans stated that would be a much better forum for this conversation.

Mr. Harris stated I appreciate your time, I didn't mean to cut into your time.

The Board thanked Mr. Harris for attending.

Josh Evans stated to get you something done we would probably be more able to do it.

Shelbie Willis stated that is what I told Mr. Harris this morning.

Josh Evans asked if the Town of Clinchco funded their fire department at all?

Ron Peters stated I doubt it.

Administrator Barton stated their budget was really lean.

Josh Evans asked what about the Town of Haysi?

Shelbie Willis stated according to the newspaper they give them \$62,000.

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IN RE: ADJOURN

A motion was made by Shelbie Willis and seconded by Josh Evans to adjourn the public hearing.

Chairwoman Kiser asked for a roll call vote on the motion.

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Rhonda Sluss | -Aye |
| Shelbie Willis | -Aye |
| Ron Peters | -Aye |
| Josh Evans | -Aye |
| Peggy Kiser | -Aye |

Motion carried 5-0.



Peggy Kiser, Chairwoman

**Dickenson County Virginia
FY-23 Budget - General County Fund**

5/19/2022

Revenues

Department	Amount
General Property Taxes	\$12,075,000
Other Local Taxes	\$4,293,800
Fees, Permits & Licenses	\$226,800
Court Fines	\$48,000
Use of Money	\$25,000
Charges for Services	\$70,432
Miscellaneous	\$521,281
Recovered Costs	\$127,150
Non-Categorical Aid	\$1,232,487
Shared Expenses	\$2,192,369
State Grants & Categorical Aid	\$5,492,698
Federal Government	\$280,826
Non-Revenue Receipts	\$40,000
Non Departmental Revenue	\$10,000
Totals:	\$26,635,843

Expenditures

Department	Amount
Board of Supervisors	\$98,279
County Attorney	\$35,000
County Administrator	\$389,145
Auditing	\$80,500
IT Department	\$183,728
Commissioner of Revenue	\$368,476
Treasurer	\$388,980
Electoral Board	\$105,496
General Registrar	\$166,241
Circuit Court	\$72,272
General District Court	\$6,100
Magistrate	\$1,000
Juvenile Court Services	\$100,706
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$453,855
Office on Youth	\$65,714
Law Library	\$0
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$647,606
Victim Witness	\$70,000
Drug Court / Community Work Program	\$114,125
Sheriff's Department	\$2,416,378
E-911	\$615,881
Fire and Rescue	\$396,786
SWVA Regional Jail	\$1,229,845
Building Department	\$99,461
Animal Control	\$139,442
Litter Control	\$89,124
Emergency Management	\$20,309
Engineering Department	\$56,052

Solid Waste	\$1,702,245
Maintenance	\$526,416
Health Department	\$265,334
Department	Amount
Behavioral Health	\$262,000
Social Services	\$7,731,163
Senior Citizens	\$59,845
Rental Assistance	\$117,105
Education	\$5,221,723
Community Colleges	\$93,494
Tourism	\$60,957
Recreation	\$50,000
Swimming Pool	\$18,200
Lonesome Pine Library	\$332,553
Planning & Community Development	\$197,000
VPI Extension Service	\$74,540
IDA	\$469,082
Data Processing	\$94,000
Non Departmental	\$949,685
Totals:	\$26,635,843

Dickenson County Virginia
FY-23 Budget - Coal / Gas Road Fund

5/19/2022

Revenues

Department	Amount
Coal / Gas Road Tax	\$2,850,500
Totals:	\$2,850,500

Expenditures

Department	Amount
Road Improvements	\$1,603,100
Water Fund	\$534,375
CEDA	\$712,500
Held for Reserve	\$525
Totals:	\$2,850,500

Dickenson County Virginia
FY-23 Budget - Enhanced E-911 Fund

5/19/2022

Revenues

Department	Amount
Telephone Surcharges / Fees	\$195,000
State Funds	\$60,000
Transfer from General County Fund	\$615,881
Totals:	\$870,881

Expenditures

Department	Amount
Enhanced E-911 System	\$870,881
Totals:	\$870,881