

Board of Supervisors - March 23, 2018 Recessed Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Recessed meeting on Friday, March 23, 2018 @ 9:00 AM in the County Administrator's Office conference room located in the Wise County Courthouse. The following members were present:

Honorable Dana G. Kilgore – Chair
Honorable Robert E. Robbins, Jr. – Vice Chair
Honorable J. H. Rivers
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Bobby Cassell
Honorable Steve Bates
Honorable Robert R. Adkins – members of said Board
David L. Cox – Interim County Administrator
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney
Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary

ABSENT

Honorable John Schoolcraft

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

IN RE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION

The Board discussed the qualifications and duties for the County Administrator position. It was agreed that the salary for the position would be negotiable, based on qualifications and experience. The County Administrator would serve as the chief administrative officer for the County and oversee the day-to-day operations of the County including building and zoning, economic development, solid waste operations, emergency management, facilities maintenance and financial administration, tourism and GIS.

It was noted that since the Triad has been dissolved, the Board would re-visit the contracts for the Finance Administrator and the County Attorney.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to advertise for the County Administrator position in the Kingsport Times New, Roanoke News Times, Richmond Times Dispatch, Coalfield Progress, VACo, NACO, and Tennessee / Kentucky Associations. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: TAX RATE DISCUSSION

Interim County Administrator Cox advised the Board that after reviewing the requests for the upcoming budget, there is a short fall of \$500,000 - \$600,000. Mr. Cox felt that this shortfall could be met with budget cuts.

The Board discussed the requests from the School Board, which included early retirement incentive packages for teachers, and more security for the schools. Needs for the County included an increase to fire & rescue, the upkeep of county buildings and infrastructure, public safety and the upcoming school construction debt payment for school consolidation.

There was some discussion on considering a small tax increase in connection with budget cuts to balance the budget and keep the County in good financial standing.

Supervisor Rivers stated that there may be funds forthcoming from PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) to meet the shortfall and he felt there would be no need to raise taxes at this time,

Some Board members felt that a small increase in taxes and with budget cuts, the County could balance its budget.

After further discussion, and with the anticipated shortfall in the budget, the need for more security for the schools, more funding for fire and rescue, and the upcoming school consolidation debt payment, a motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by Bob Adkins, to raise the real estate property tax 2 cents and the personal property tax 2 cents. The votes were as follows:

Aye -	Bobby Cassell	Nay-	J. H. Rivers
	Fred Luntsford		
	Stave Bates		
	Bob Adkins		
	Robby Robbins		
	Dana Kilgore		

Motion carried.

IN RE: TAX RATE INCREASE– PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Bob Adkins, to set a public hearing for April 12, 2018 @ 6:00 PM in the School Board Education Center to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed tax rate increase of 2 cents on personal property and 2 cents on real estate property. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bob Adkins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David L. Cox, Interim Clerk

Dana G. Kilgore, Chair