

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors
Held in General District Courtroom on
Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas W. Baicy, III
C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Alfred G. Futrell
Wayne O. Jones
Phyllis T. Tolliver
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.
Steve D. White

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Douglas, County Administrator
Deste J. Cox, Treasurer
John Broderick, Director of Finance &
Business Operations
Jeffrey Gary, Public Works Director
Ernest Giles, Sheriff
Julius Hamlin, Division Superintendent
Almetia F. Hardman, Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney (Virtual)
Michael Kessinger, Captain
Kelly W. Moore, Finance Director
Nick Sheffield, Emergency Services Chief
Beverly Walkup, Planning Director
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/
Clerk to the Board

Item 1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum

The May 23, 2024 Special meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Jones.

Item 2. Invocation

The Invocation was offered by Supervisor Tolliver.

Item 3. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Item 4. Agenda Amendments

There were no agenda amendments.

Item 5. Approval of the Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the May 23, 2024 Special meeting agenda. All Board members present voted aye.

Item 6. Public Hearing

Administrator Douglas stated that a public hearing was scheduled to receive comments from the public on the Proposed FY25 Operating Budget.

Administrator Douglas noted that the Schools requested an additional \$500,000

He discussed the difference in the \$750,000+ a year for EMS. It was noted that CSA/SSA increased approximately \$500,000. Administrator Douglas noted that he adding one new position.

Administrator Douglas proposed a ten cent (10¢) real estate tax increase.

Other general budget discussions

A. Proposed FY25 Operating Budget

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR BAICY and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby open the public hearing for the Proposed FY25 Operating Budget. All Board members present voted aye.

1. Public comments were heard from Attorney Lawrence Diehl; Deste Cox, Kevin Bracy, Captain Kessinger, William Ricks

2. Board comments were heard from Supervisors Futrell, Baicy.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby closed the public hearing for the Proposed FY25 Operating Budget. All Board members present voted aye.

C

B. CY24 Tax Rate Resolution

Administrator Douglas noted that a ten cent (10¢) increase in real estate taxes would yield approximately \$1.2 million.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby open the public hearing for the CY24 Tax Rate Resolution. All Board members present voted aye.

1. Public comments were heard from Dr. Julius Hamlin and, Richard Johnson
2. Board comments were heard from Supervisors Baicy, Tyler, White, and Jones.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR WHITE, seconded by SUPERVISOR FLY and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby closed the public hearing for the CY24 Tax Rate Resolution. All Board members present voted aye.

Citizens' comments were heard from:

- Kevin Bracy (Yale District) – Solar; Support Sheriff's Department
- Buck Ricks (SCYARA/Waverly) - Request full funding; Support Sheriff's Department
- Frances Chambers (Town of Wakefield) – Provided letter to Board for Support of Sheriff's Department.
- Sergeant Mark (Sheriff's Office) – Holiday hours payout.
- Robert Hamlin (Henry District) – Fund Request for Community Coalition; Support Sheriff's Department.
- Ernest Giles (Sheriff/Waverly District) – Holiday pay for staff; provided Petition from Sheriff's Department staff for Holiday hours payout

Notices for the Public Hearings were properly advertised.

Item 7. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR WHITE, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors May 23, 2024 Special meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.