

At a special called meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held in the Administration Building of said county on April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Garland H. Hamlett, Jr. Chairman
Gary D. Walker, Vice Chairman
Robert L. Shook, Jr.
Kay M. Pierantoni
Tony Reeves
Donna Fore
Will Garnett

Absent:

Chairman Hamlett called the meeting to order.

Tony Reeves gave the invocation.

Motion by Gary D. Walker, seconded by Robert L. Shook, Jr. and carried with all other members present and voting yes to amend the agenda to include a discussion on Solar.

After due notice was give the Charlotte County Board of Supervisor held a Public Hearing to receive public comment on the FY2020/2021 Consolidated Budget.

Chairman Hamlett called the Public Hearing to order.

Public Comment Period:

Walt Bailey, Phenix Volunteer Fire Department addressed the Board. Mr. Bailey had previously sent out an email to all Board members requesting an addition one-time funding increase of \$5,000 to all departments. Mr. Bailey stated Spring fund raising has been cancelled and could result in a loss of between \$3,000 - \$7,000 per department.

Chairman Hamlett read comments provided by Kathy Liston. Ms. Liston commended the Board and staff on making meetings accessible during the pandemic. Ms. Liston has concerns of the possibility of raising taxes and supports a County sales tax to help with the School projects. Ms. Liston believes although County offices need additional employees, this is not the time to be hiring.

Chairman Hamlett read comments provided by Terry Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey requested the Board reconsider including the Capital Fund \$7.3 million for PPEA Phase II Schools in the FY 2021 proposed budget. Mr. Ramsey stated although buildings are in need of repairs and upgrades, he feels with the declining elementary school enrollment it would not be justified to spend the money.

Being no further comment the public comment period was closed.

Chairman Hamlett adjourned the public hearing.

Chairman Hamlett called the Special Called meeting back to order.

Patricia Berkeley, Treasurer addressed the Board. Mrs. Berkeley stated she is continuing to collect tax revenue even though her office is closed to the public. Mrs. Berkeley recommends extending the tax penalty and interest deadline for the June 5th billing cycle but no later than June 30, 2020.

Motion was made by Donna Fore, seconded by Kay M. Pierantoni and carried with all other members present and voting yes to extend the tax penalty and interest deadline to June 30, 2020.

Brett Arbogast, Charlotte County Schools addressed the Board. Mr. Arbogast provided the Board with information on hot spot internet options and will be installing equipment at all school locations and the Administration office to provide free WIFI.

Solar Discussion

By consensus of the Board, the Planning Commission is requested to consider and review the town limit and density restrictions for any utility scale solar project.

Board Member Other Comments

Gary D. Walker – Supervisor Walker thinks it may be wise to rescind the sales tax referendum from this November until next November.

Kay M. Pierantoni – Supervisor Pierantoni stated some of the decline in numbers at Bacon Elementary school was due to head start being moved. Supervisor Pierantoni stated the school project should not be delayed and the sales tax referendum should be on the ballot for this year. Supervisor Pierantoni stated a hiring freeze should be implemented locally and each department needs to cut back where possible.

Chairman Hamlett – Chairman Hamlett stated the sales tax referendum should be included on the ballot for this year.

Daniel Witt addressed the Board and stated Scott Simpson, County Administrator for Halifax, had set up a meeting for next week with County Administrator's from Counties who had been approved for the sales tax, but it has been postponed. Mr. Simpson will provide and share the strategy that was done by Halifax County to obtain approval for the sales tax in Halifax County.

Being no further discussion or comments, the meeting was adjourned.