

CITIZEN'S BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes – 05-18-2020  
Holbert Building – Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

**Members present:**

Kathryn Dennis, Chair, (Chancellor)  
Karen Adams, Vice Chair (Berkeley)  
Dawn Napper, Secretary, (Battlefield)  
Tim Bryner  
Scott Phelps (Alt. Courtland)  
Richard Thomas (Courtland)

**Call to order:** 6:31 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance** Richard Thomas

Moment of Silence

**Determination of Quorum:** Yes

**Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2019:**

**Meeting Minutes for September, 2019:**

Made a correction to minutes that city of Fredericksburg has a volunteer fire department.

Richard motioned to approve the minutes. Dawn seconded. Tim abstained. Minutes approved.

**Old Business:**

Discussion ensued about statements in the presentation made by CBRC members to the Board of Supervisors. Not all CBRC members were in agreement with statements made to the Board. Committee members agree that moving forward, the Committee members need to be in agreement on the topics before they are presented to the Board as Committee suggestions or positions.

**New Business:**

Bonnie presented the cuts that were made to the budget due to the supervisors setting a tax rate lower than county administrator's presented budget by almost \$0.07. Richard asked about dump fee. Instead want a sticker for cars to use cars. Richard brought up we are charged for sticker but never get it. Kathryn brought up the Sheriff using search and seizure money for expenses. Bonnie says that needs to be addressed by sheriff's office.

Kathryn asked how bad local economy is looking. Bonnie said hotel taxes and meals taxes are down compared to same timeframe last year. Sales tax is about the same and are helped by internet sales tax being implemented, but Bonnie expects sales tax to be down year over year for the last quarter of FY 2020.

Tim asked if the stabilization reserve is necessary to maintain the County's bond rating. Bonnie says that the various reserve funds the County has roll together to be an important contributing factor to maintaining the bond rating. The Fiscal Stability Reserve is the most significant and most important to our rating. The Budget Stabilization reserve is much smaller and its use is more flexible. We are using \$3.9M of the \$5.0M Budget Stabilization Reserve to balance the FY 2021 Budget. Kathryn noted that policy requires that any use of the Budget Stabilization Reserve be paid back over two years. Kathryn thinks county has been great savers in terms of reserves but thinks the Budget Stabilization Reserve should be perhaps double the current \$5.0M.

Kathryn asked for comments.

Dawn said our county has been put into a precarious position. 20 years ago tax rate was \$1.01 now down to \$.8094. What will we cut next? We can't keep not giving raises to people. We are putting our county in a bad position. Richard and Tim had no comment. Scott asked about unemployment rate.

Richard stated that King George and Orange can have higher tax rate because their houses cost less.

Kathryn brought up salaries of constitutional offices. She feels they are too high. She says can't pay Fairfax salaries and not pay Fairfax taxes. Kathryn is going to get comparison salaries.

Richard nominates Kathryn for chair. Karen seconded. Approved

Dawn nominates Karen for vice chair. Tim seconded. Approved

Dawn nominates Richard for secretary. He declines.

Karen nominates Tim for secretary. Richard seconds. Approved

Still need members for Berkeley and Salem.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Tim motioned to adjourn. Scott seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.