

MEETING #57 – December 20

At a Public Hearing of the Madison County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Madison County Center Auditorium located at 414 N. Main Street: on:

PRESENT: J. Dave Allen, Chairman
Doris G. Lackey, Vice-Chair
Jerry J. Butler, Member
Pete J. Elliott, Member
Jonathon Weakley, Member
V. R. Shackelford, III, County Attorney
Ernie Hoch, County Administrator
Jacqueline S. Frye, Clerk of the Board

ABSENT: Teresa Miller, Finance Director

1. Call to Order/Determine Presence of a Quorum

Chairman Allen called the public hearing to order and noted that all members are present and a quorum was established.

2. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

The Board of Supervisors commenced the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Allen advised that tonight’s session will involve two (2) public hearings: a) to finalize funding of the capital improvement fund; and b) to amend the County’s budget as a result of the funding.

Chairman Allen also asked that “Item 4-a” be added to discuss the procedures for replacing the Finance Director. In closing, he called for further additions, corrections or deletions to the Agenda.

On motion of Supervisor Weakley, seconded by Supervisor Lackey, the Agenda is adopted as amended, with the following vote recorded:

J. Dave Allen	Aye
Doris G. Lackey	Aye
Jerry J. Butler	Aye
Pete J. Elliott	Aye
Jonathon Weakley	Aye



Chairman Allen advised that the County Attorney will be conducted tonight's two (2) public hearing sessions, with the first involving loan financing for the CIP and the second of the proposed budget amendment.

Chairman Allen advised the County has been involved with discussions with the public and the school system for the past three (3) years; tonight's meeting will hopefully allow the County to move forward and accomplish some of the things that are needed to be done in the County. In closing, tonight's process will allow the Board to hear the opinions of the citizens and their thoughts regarding the proposed loan, and isn't a 'question/answer' session; if there are questions that anyone needs the Board members to answer, they are encouraged to contact any member by email or telephone with any concerns.

4. Public Hearing on CIP

Chairman Allen opened the floor for comment and asked that all comments be limited to three (3) minutes to allow all citizens the opportunity to speak.

1. Herbert Putz was present and read a letter (attached to the minutes) pertaining research he did on the 61.4% of local citizens who are against revenue bonds; many real estate taxes in the County are still unpaid and there are no concerns for putting the citizens in debt; also, he feels the school board lacks the expertise in dealing with contracts and projects – they have bought expensive laptops when cheaper ones would have sufficed. In closing, he doesn't feel the Memorandum of Understanding that is in place between the County and school system allows the County any control over the construction projects. In closing, he feels the citizens will be forced to bear the burden with no information as to why.
2. Pat [Eveland](#) was present and verbalized support of the proposed loan as the improvements are needed, as the toilets in the schools are beyond repair.
3. Jim Smith was present and provided input on the proposed borrowing and the need for this action to be assessed to determine the actual cost; he feels the loan will create \$835,000.00 in new taxes each year for fifteen (15) years for the citizens. Although he doesn't object to preventative maintenance, he does suggest there be some control over what the school system is doing. Furthermore, many citizens are already living in poverty based on the increase in SNAP benefits and he isn't in favor of buying things that aren't going to be maintained.
4. Ron Stanley was present and stated the schools haven't been taken care of since 1989; children are going to a place where black mold is growing; they sit on the floor to eat lunch because there isn't enough space in the cafeteria – the building is despicable and the kids deserve better.
5. Kim Smith was present and feels the children can be educated as long as there is adequate funding and expectations; she questioned why the issue of black mold



hasn't been addressed and feels that we all should be cognizant of reality, as there are issues that need to be addressed and no answers are being provided. In closing, she advised there is no scope of work on the school projects or plans being provided.

6. Barbara Beach was present and feels the facilities should've been tended to much sooner and there needs to be accountability. Furthermore, she feels there has been a lack of communication and irresponsibility concerning the essential needs that must be taken care of and not postponed.
7. Russell James was present and advised that maintenance has been done in the past; however, there are things when things simply wear out, as the building was built in the 1950's. Furthermore, students need things to help them fulfill their dreams in a setting the community will be proud of.
8. Cathy O'Connor was present and verbalized support of the CIP funding, as this is a necessity and not an option; things do wear out and need to be replaced. In closing, she feels it's unfair to the students and the community to leave the building in disrepair.
9. Torrie Knighting was present and advised that some have expressed an interest to move forward; there has also been discussion about debt service. In any case, the repairs are long overdue, but she stressed the importance of a 'need versus wants.
10. Jim Nelson was present and advised that Madison has always financed improvements over time; he spoke of the improvements done at the Waverly Yowell Elementary School and the addition to the middle and high schools in the past. In his opinion, the County has managed debt very well over the years and rates are lower now than ever; therefore, he feels it's appropriate to do the financing for the CIP now; the buildings and wiring are very old, and if long-term funding can be borrowed at 2.1%, this will be an asset that will be a wise management of funds.
11. Jeff Early was present and advised that he is a school board member and a lifelong resident of the County; the improvements at the Waverly Yowell Elementary School were very successful; he also advised the bleachers at the stadium have been in existence since the 1970's and based on their current condition, the County would be sued if something were to happen to anyone using them at events. Furthermore, many items denoted on the CIP have simply worn out. Although there are many things listed in the CIP, he feels the kids deserve our support. In closing, he thanked the County for its support.

With no further comments brought forth, Chairman Allen closed the first public hearing.

Supervisor Lackey thanked the citizens for the thoughtful comments, and advised the Board has discussed many of tonight's issues with the school board as well. Furthermore, the kids deserve a safe, healthy environment; therefore, the Board tried to find the money to fund the CIP which will call for fifteen (15)



years and will not increase the existing debt service. In closing, she advised the County is in a good place to sustain the proposed debt.

Chairman Allen clarified that the borrowing rate is 2.15% and the amendment to the County's budget will be about \$365,000.00.

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget Amendment

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Chairman Allen opened the public hearing for comments on the proposed budget amendment, and there were none; therefore, the session was closed.

Supervisor Weakley thanked the citizens for coming and expressing concerns.

Chairman Allen advised that \$10,700,000.00 is a lot of money; however, the Board hopes to meet the needs of the children, as they need a safe environment in which to learn.

After discussion, Chairman Allen advised the Board will schedule a vote on tonight's issue at the January 2013 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Early advised the school board will continue to work with the County on this issue.

Item 4-a. Replacement of Finance Director

The County Administrator advised there is nothing denoted in the personnel policy to assist with the replacement of a department head; therefore, he would like to secure a candidate to bring before the Board.

Supervisor Butler suggested the Board consider if the Treasurer's Office can be combined with the Finance Department. Furthermore, he feels personnel regulations need to be addressed as the Board should determine whether or not a department is replaced. In closing, he doesn't feel the County Administrator should determine whether a position should be continued.

Supervisor Lackey advised the Board generally selects a County Administrator, but the County Administrator is generally charged with searching and interviewing candidates for department heads. Furthermore, it was indicated the Board can elect to approve or disapprove, but shouldn't be involved with the day-to-day operations. In closing, she suggested a decision not be made this evening as a competent person will be needed to provide information needed to complete the budget; therefore, she questioned whether a consultant can be attained through VACo or the auditors.



Supervisor Weakley advised that the position has been advertised and he has no difficulties with the County Administrator being allowed to make a selection.

Supervisor Butler questioned whether the position could be eliminated if it has been advertised without the consent of the Board.

Supervisor Elliott advised that he would like to see at least two (2) to three (3) candidates brought before the Board. In closing, he clarified the Board runs the County and not the County Administrator.

The County Administrator advised that restructuring is usually done in the budget process; typically, the position of Finance Director is second to the County Administrator and is a critical position and is a need.

Supervisor Butler motioned that the Board assess whether to fill the position of Finance Director and make a decision after discussion and reflection.

Motion died for the lack of a second

Supervisor Lackey advised the structure may be reviewed; however, in the interim, she feels a Finance Director is needed, as this isn't something the Treasure has been doing. In closing, she feels if no one is found within the next six weeks, perhaps a management assistant should be sought.

The County Administrator advised that VML/VACo has interim personnel that are available; he is also looking at other alternatives, as he is going to need some assistance. In closing, he advised that he would research options and report to the Board at the January meeting.

Chairman Allen advised the Board will need to provide the County Administrator with an understanding of what the Board desires to be done.

The County Administrator asked if the Board was in favor of hiring a temporary employee in the interim.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to authorize hiring a temporary employee.

5. Adjournment:

With no further action being required, on motion of Supervisor Lackey, seconded by Supervisor Weakley, Chairman Allen adjourned the special meeting, with the following vote recorded:

J. Dave Allen	Aye
Doris G. Lackey	Aye
Jerry J. Butler	Aye
Pete J. Elliott	Aye
Jonathon Weakley	Aye



J. Dave Allen, Chairman
Madison County Board of Supervisors

Jacqueline S. Frye, Clerk of the Board

Adopted on: February 12, 2013

Copies: J. Dave Allen, Doris G. Lackey, Jerry J. Butler, Pete J. Elliott, Jonathon Weakley,
V. R. Shackelford, III & Constitutional Officers

