

Public Hearing of the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, held in Room 307 of 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, thereof on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: MARY HYNES, Chair
J. WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman
JAY FISETTE, Member
CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member

ALSO PRESENT: BARBARA M. DONNELLAN, County Manager
HOPE L. HALLECK, Clerk

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PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2012 TAX RATES.

The Board held a duly advertised public hearing from 7:01 p.m. to 8:01 p.m. at which 11 persons spoke on the proposed CY 2012 assessment increase and fees which includes:

- Calendar Year 2012 real estate tax rate (advertised at \$0.965),
- Calendar Year 2012 sanitary district tax for stormwater management (advertised at \$0.013),
- Calendar Year 2012 commercial real estate tax for transportation initiatives (advertised at \$0.125),
- Calendar Year 2012 personal property tax rate (advertised at \$5.00), allocation method of the State's vehicle tax relief, and the personal property tax rate of public service corporation properties and manufactured homes (\$0.965).
- 2nd Road North Service District tax rate and Rosslyn and Crystal City and Ballston Business Improvement Districts tax rates.
- Household Solid Waste rate, water and sewer rates, and Parks & Recreation programs & services fees.

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TWO MINUTE SPEAKERS:

Nina Janopaul, President of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) stated her support for increasing the tax rate to the maximum level allowed, especially in light of increasing home values.

Eric Wenberg of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) stated that AHS has submitted a letter with its review of the Manager's recommendations. He stated AHS's support for the one half of one cent increase proposed by the Manager and up to an additional one and one half cent increase as necessary for housing programs.

Richard Pollack asked that the Board not raise taxes and cut funding. He stated that home ownership in Arlington is too expensive.

Judith Deane of the Community Services Board (CSB) stated that low income families are struggling with housing costs.

Angie Roberts of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance spoke of a memo from homeless support organizations requesting additional services and asked the Board to adopt a tax rate to provide for the services.

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THREE MINUTE SPEAKERS:

Robert Atkins spoke about maintaining the current tax rate and asked the Board to reduce spending.

Jim Hurysz stated that he opposes an increase in the real estate tax rate and asked the Board to instead increase the commercial property tax rate.

Keith Whyte of the Community Services Board stated that every dollar spent on CSB services saves four dollars in healthcare costs and seven dollars in public safety costs. He stated his support for an increase in the tax rate.

Matthew White asked the Board not to raise taxes, especially not to pay for affordable housing. He stated that he does not feel that this is the role of government.

Stephen Chambers expressed his concern about the method of assessments and stated that they place a "tremendous burden" on taxpayers. He asked the Board not to raise taxes and stated that he sees no justification to raise the tax rate.

Jared Handler asked the Board not to raise taxes and stated that spending should be delayed because many residents can barely afford to keep their homes due to difficult economic times.

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At the request of the Chairman at 7:30 p.m., the Board recessed until additional speakers arrived or until 8:00 p.m., whichever came first.

A motion was made by MARY HUGHES HYNES, Chairman, seconded by J. WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman to conclude the public hearings on the proposed tax rate and fees for the FY 2013 Budget and the carry over action on these issues to the April 21, 2012 Regular County Board meeting. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, the voting recorded as follows: MARY HYNES, Chair - Aye, J. WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman - Aye, JAY FISETTE, Member - Aye, CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member – Aye.

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ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

MARY HUGHES HYNES, Chairman

ATTEST:

HOPE L. HALLECK, Clerk
Approved: May 19, 2012