

**TOWN OF WEST POINT
CALLED MEETING
APRIL 3RD 2013
Minutes**

I Call to Order

The Honorable James H. Hudson, III called the meeting to order on April 3rd, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor, Jim Hudson; Vice Mayor, Deborah Ball; Tina Gulley; Wayne Healy; Jack Lawson; Bub Shreaves and Chris Vincent.

Members Absent: Paul Kelley.

Also Present: John Edwards, Town Manager; Andrea Erard, Town Attorney; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Interim Chief of Police, Bobby Mawyer; TC Moore, Town Treasurer; Walt Feurer, Director of Public Works; Holly McGowan, Director of Community Development; Tom Redd, King William Board of Supervisors and other interested persons.

Mayor Hudson advised the reason for a Called Meeting of Town Council is because during the past 48 hours Town Council has learned of the proposed tax increase by King William County on West Point Residents. Tommy Redd, the West Point representative on the King William Board of Supervisors is present to address the proposal.

Tommy Redd, 690 River Road, Representative for King William Board of Supervisors advised that King William County has advertised for a public hearing on the FY 2013-14 Budget that includes increases to King William for West Point residents from 27¢ to 81¢ per \$100. King William County residents tax will be reduced from 81¢ to 79¢ per \$100.

Tina Gulley asked Tom Redd to state the increase to the people of the Town?

Tom Redd stated in a combination Town residents are now paying 27¢ to the County, 64¢ to the Town for a total of 91¢. Personal Property Tax to the County currently is 50¢, \$3.52 to the Town for a total of \$4.02, the proposed amount by the County will increase to \$3.65. Machinery and Tools, 95¢ to King William, \$2.40 to the Town for a total of \$3.35, the proposed increase will be \$2.45 to the County.

Mr. Hudson opened the floor for citizens to address council on this issue.

Tom Redd advised the public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 15th at 7:00 PM.

1. Arthur Damers, 3440 King William Avenue, West Point, Virginia stated he feels this will affect the Town as a whole, employee's, schools and residents, it will make it hard to pay the taxes especially for the people who are living on a fixed income.

2. Ronald Kirkland, 286 Ogden Street, West Point, Virginia stated that he objects to the proposed tax increases by King William and asked if Town Council would change their meeting date, because it is the same as King William. Mr. Kirkland would like to attend the King William Board of Supervisors meeting and the West Point Town Council meetings, but it is hard when they are on the same day.
3. Maria Robins, 3050 King William Avenue, West Point, Virginia stated she objects to the tax increase and supports any action Town Council might take.
4. Ben Sanders, 2004 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia asked if West Point residents taxes go up will the Town lower their taxes.

Mr. Hudson advised in the proposal by King William there will be a budget short fall of \$800,000 in the school budget. Town Council will review the issue and options in a closed session.

5. Zack Hodges, 423 4th Street, West Point, Virginia stated that he lives in the house that his great, great grandfather built around 1893 and the tax increase would be a big burden on his family. Mr. Hodges is also concerned about the economic impact this would have on the area.
6. Gillard Guaderrana, 670 East Magnolia Avenue, West Point, Virginia stated that he has never understood how real estate owners pay different rates in King William and West Point, the rates should be the same.
7. Bernard Lee, 284 Ogden Street, West Point, Virginia stated that the people in King William should be held accountable for the issues created over the past few years.

Mrs. Ball advised that the Town will pay for the mistakes created by King William. Since 1998 funds for the PPTRA went to the General Fund when it should have gone into the school fund.

8. Paul Diggs, 429 1st Street, West Point, Virginia, member of the West Point School Board, stated that the tax proposal and the way King William want to handle those funds would leave the schools with a budget short fall of at least \$800,000 for FY 2013-14 and that the proposal would be a tremendous burden to the Town.
9. Garland Jenkins, 3470 Southern Avenue, West Point, Virginia stated that if the Town had something in writing, the Town would not be in the predicament they are in now and supports any action Town Council takes.

Mr. Hudson asked if anyone else would like to comment on the proposed King William tax increase.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Shreaves made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice on the proposed tax increase within the Town of West Point by King William County. Seconded by Mrs. Ball, upon roll call Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Gulley, Mr. Healy, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shreaves and Mr. Vincent all voted "Aye"

RECONVENE

Mrs. Gulley made a motion to reconvene into open meeting, seconded by Mr. Shreaves. Upon roll call Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Gulley, Mr. Healy, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shreaves and Mr. Vincent all voted "Aye"

CERTIFICATION

Mr. Lawson made a motion to certify that in Closed Session just concluded that public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by Town Council. Seconded by Mrs. Ball, upon roll call Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Gulley, Mr. Healy, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Shreaves and Mr. Vincent all voted "Aye"

There being no further business, Mayor Hudson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk

