

Membership Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2013

Approved April 18, 2013

The March meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall.

Due to other the budget-related aspects of this meeting—there were no reports from committees and district councils and only three non-budget announcements. First, Tania welcomed Daniela Cockayne as co-chair of the Public Safety Committee. Second, articles for The Bulletin (newsletter) are due March 30. Third, 133 reservations have been received to date for the Citizen of the Year banquet.

2014 Fairfax County Advertised Budget by County Executive Ed Long

Second Vice President Linda Boone introduced the next portion of the meeting. We were fortunate to have County Executive Ed Long join us to outline the 2014 advertised budget that he has proposed and to join in discussion to answer our questions and hear our comments. Joe Mondero of the Office of Management and Budget participated with Mr. Long. Following Mr. Long's presentation and the question and answer period, Linda thanked Ed and Joe for spending time with us and informing us on the budget situation; presented Mr. Long a Federation mug; and promised also to deliver a mug to Mr. Mondero.

Federation Budget Resolution

After a short break, Linda chaired this portion of the meeting. The board on March 21 had approved submitting the proposed Federation budget resolution to the membership at this meeting. On March 21 the board had not seen and therefore had not approved submitting the Transportation section. Also on March 21 the board had referred the Public Safety section back to the committee for additional development and had referred the Pension section to several board members for resolution of several items. During the past week the Budget Committee published the board approved budget resolution.

Key points of the budget resolution review are summarized here. *(The recording secretary warns that these remarks are his interpretation of outcomes; the final resolution as published by the Budget Committee will be the official record.)*

- The transportation resolution was submitted and approved with some modifications.
- Those members who were to have resolved Pension section differences post-board meeting had made progress in resolving issues. The membership brought the resolution to a final position. It was agreed this area needs a comprehensive review this year and a recommendation on a long range policy.
- The membership supports competitive compensation for county employees with the Board of Supervisors and County Executive to identify offsets to enable the increased compensation within the overall budget limit.
- The membership discussed and rejected a proposal by the Environmental Committee to add a stormwater resolution to the budget resolution. The proposed stormwater resolution called for considering/employing revenue bonds to finance stormwater projects. Currently, projects must be fully funded before they can be begun; the use of bonds would enable earlier remediation of stormwater problems and would allow paying for these infrastructure projects over their lifetime. The membership agreed the concept is worth pursuing, but as a separate, standalone resolution, rather than as part of the 2014 budget resolution.
- The greatest amount of discussion time was devoted to the Education section. The Education Committee contended that the Budget Committee had misinterpreted the outcome of the board meeting regarding the education section. Consequently the Education Committee moved a substitute Education section which was accepted for further revision. The substitute document

was the resolution approved by the board with two additions to address two of the new items presented in the budget committee's document. Points dealing with the FCPS operating budget presented in slide 27 of Ed Long's handout were accepted as friendly amendments. The motion to strike the resolved clause requesting an increase of \$34M in the County's transfer to FCPS was passed. After much discussion and some modification a recommendation for an independent auditor was approved. Several other motions for revisions died for lack of a second. The final resolution did not include a recommendation on the amount of the transfer to FCPS.

- In a close vote (a margin of two votes) the membership voted to recommend a real estate tax rate of \$1.095, the same rate recommended by the County Executive and advertised by the Board of Supervisors. This was a reversal of the board's March 21 position, which was to recommend a continuation of the current real estate tax rate of \$1.075.
- The membership voted to delete the entire Concluding Resolution which was predicated on the \$1.075 rate recommendation and was, therefore, no longer relevant.

Finally, the membership voted to approve the entire budget resolution.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Next Meetings

Citizen of the Year Banquet: April 7 at the Tysons Corner Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Membership meeting—Report from Richmond: April 18, 7:30 p.m., at Mason Governmental Center.

Board meeting: April 25, 7:30 p.m., at the FCPS Dunn Loring Administration Center (Entrance 2, Conference Room 111).

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary