LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSION STATE OF TENNESSEE COUNTY OF LOUDON

June 30, 2011

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

(1)Openingof Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Commissioners of Loudon County convened in a Special Called Session in Loudon, Tennessee on the 30th day of June, 2011. The **Honorable Roy Bledsoe** called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Meers opened the County Commission Meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and gave the invocation.

(2) Roll Call Present were the following Commissioners: **Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver,**

Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon **Chairman Bledsoe** announced the presence of a quorum.

Present was the **Honorable Mayor Estelle Herron**.

(3) Agenda Adopted As Amended

Chairman Bledsoe requested that the June 30, 2011 Special Called Meeting Agenda be adopted.

Mayor Herron requested that the order of consideration for Items 7 and 8 in **Budget Director Blair's** presentation be reversed to comply with the Regulation that requires approval of the Appropriations Resolution before approving the Tax Levy Resolution.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner**Harvelson to adopt the Agonda as amonded

Harrelson to adopt the Agenda as amended. Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

(4) Comments: Agenda Item **Chairman Bledsoe** asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items on the agenda come forward and he stated the rules that would be followed in calling audience members to speak including time limitations. There were 24 people who requested to speak and each was allotted two minutes. **Mayor Herron** called audience members to the podium.

Purchasing Director Leo Bradshaw spoke on the County Employees Health Care changes and costs involved and described the process the County had gone through with the **Insurance Broker**, **Chris Wampler**, to arrive at this proposal. He stated that records show that the County Employees health insurance claims have exceeded their contributions over the past year and this would make it difficult and costly to change carriers because of the risk involved to a new carrier. This resulted in the decision to stay with the current carrier and try to find the best option that they offered. He stated that the "Plus Plan" in the proposed package was the best option because it was somewhere in the middle.

Loudon County Sheriff, Tim Guider, introduced Lt. Dan Raper, Vice President of the Tennessee Fraternal Order of Police and a retired Police Officer, to speak about the Public Safety Officer Retirement Package that allows Public Safety Officers to retire at an earlier age than currently allowed. He described the toll that the age factor takes on people in these dangerous jobs citing injuries, disabilities, and worker's compensation issues. He stated that the officer's affected would be those in the highest paying positions and their early retirement would, therefore, save some money on salaries. He also stated that the current system causes a "bridge" problem for retiring officers due to the time gap between the retirement age and the age when

they would be eligible for Social Security and this proposal would also fix that problem and put Loudon County more in-line with what surrounding counties offer their retiring officers.

Commissioner Duff asked the **Chairman** if the Commissioners would be allowed to ask the Lieutenant questions when this resolution came up for vote and the **Chairman** responded affirmatively.

Linda Manhart came forward to say that, in her experience, better schools and teachers don't result in smarter students and urged the Commission to refrain from raising taxes to pay for schools.

Dan Manhart described some of the issues that could require County funding in the near future and urged no tax increase for schools.

Katie King, a senior at Greenback School, thanked the County for her education and stated that she planned to return to the County after college and raise her family here and that she would be happy to pay her share of a tax increase when she became a property owner.

Wayne Schnell said that cuts are taking place at all government levels and that there are many other issues that the County will have to find money for in the near future. He stated that higher taxes will discourage new people and new businesses from moving into the County and hurt existing businesses. He stated that this is not the time to raise taxes.

Ron Sabo encouraged the Commissioners to "finish the race" started over five years ago and many hours have gone into a good plan that addresses the schools needs for the entire County. He urged them to not stop now.

Richard Truitt believes that a 15 cent tax increase would be sufficient to do the School Building Program and that pay raises and benefits for County Employees have been the past priority for funding and not the schools.

Penny Glasgow, a twenty year employee of the County, believes that the County Employees are serving the County well and that the Employees Health Benefits package should have been bid out to other providers to try to get a better, less costly proposal. She stated that employee contribution costs could double for some employees and she urged the Commission to delay voting on this issue tonight and force the Broker to bid this out.

Kristina Gibbs, a nine year employee of the County, described the services that County Employees provide and urged the Commission to postpone voting on the health benefits package and try to find a better proposal.

Jim O'Brien spoke about current economic conditions in the County and stated that he doesn't believe that raising taxes now is a good idea.

Jeremy Lorenz spoke in favor of the School Building Program invoking a quote from the movie "The Patriot"- "If we can win the war, we can change the world" stating "build new schools and find a way to change the world".

Stephanie Viars said that her daughter had recently competed in a National History Day Competition and had done very well and she credited the County schools for her achievement. She would like to see more kids get this opportunity and urged the Commission to invest in the County's children. She stated that the School Staffs are great!

Nancy Paule, a resident of Tellico Village, supported the School Building Program urging the Commission to fully fund this initiative. She spoke about conditions at Greenback School, sending high school students to other County high schools and the bussing problems this would create, the 300-student-least-number-you-can-have-in-a-school requirement and said that the requirement states that if the students are already there, they can stay, and asbestos problems that would arise in trying to renovate old buildings.

Christy Carroll, a teacher and mother of students, spoke about the portable classrooms and how deplorable they were but stated that classrooms inside the buildings were also deplorable being overcrowded and in very bad condition. She described trying to teach a class with surrounding room's activities noises being very interruptive to her students. She said that the students are doing the best they can under the current conditions.

Patsi Llumbet, a long-time County teacher (30-40 years) having taught three generations of kids, thanked the Commission for their support. She stated that this is the right time for the School Building Program saying that teachers and children have waited so long. She said that her son had pleaded with her to transfer him to Steekee School because they have a gym even though he would only have 1 hour a week to use that gym.

Pandora Vreeland suggested that the funding provided for rubberizing a new track recently might have been better used to replace the ceiling in a classroom that the teacher said had none. She spoke of possible future tax revenue losses from industry, the amount of square footage per student in the School Building Program, the cost of out-of-county students to the County, and a flat enrollment rate as reasons for not approving the present program.

Ken Wahl said that he's old and doesn't really want to pay more taxes but he spent fifty years in education and he was appalled when he visited Greenback School. He said that the kids there are great and he applauded a quote from **Commissioner Miller** that "Every kid has a right to be in a safe environment." He stated that he's very willing to pay more taxes to help the County's kids and thinks the Commission is doing a great job.

Jeannie Pilgrim said that she has two sons in the Navy and that she would never have let them attend the schools in Loudon County right now. She believes that education and national defense are the two most important things to support at this time. She urged the Commission to support the schools. She commented that while she's lived in Tellico Village her Village assessments have doubled but her County taxes have only gone up by \$100.

Pat Hunter offered some suggestions to the Commission on how to allocate County funds to address the School Building Program. She said that the portable classrooms are not at risk of becoming a problem. She stated that there are currently no firm numbers for exactly what the Greenback School will cost to build and that the Commission should wait for firm numbers before approving the program. She said that a tax increase at this time poses a big problem for people struggling with low incomes. James Vreeland said that the Commission has a big burden and big decision tonight. He said that his group had brought many petitions to the Commission from people against raising taxes. He thinks the School Building Program is greatly inflated and wasteful. He suggested that the Commission "force" the School Board to be more frugal and vote against a tax increase. No wasteful spending. Make a good decision. Kelly Littleton, a County school teacher for 20 years, thanked the Commission for their support and pleaded with them to pass the School Building Program for the kids in the County.

Jason Vance, Loudon County Director of Schools, thanked the Commission, parents, teachers, staffers, etc. for everything they've done. He said he wanted to be the voice of the students of Loudon County. He believes the children deserve better facilities and greater opportunities. He urged the Commission to not lose focus and do what's right for the kids - vote "yes" for the kids!

(5)
Litter Grant
Application/
Acceptance
For FY2011-2012
Approved

- **5. Loudon County Budget Director, Tracy Blair,** requested consideration and possible action on the following items:
 - A. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Authorizing Application and Acceptance of a FY 2011-2012 Litter Grant; No Matching Funds.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Franke** to approve this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (10, 0, 0)**

(6)
FY2011 Special
Assessment for
Eaton Forest
Approved

B. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Levying 2011 Special Assessment on Buildable Parcels for Sewer Improvements in Eaton Forest Special Sewer District.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Passed: (10, 0, 0)

(7)
Transfer Funds
From Fund 101
to Fund 115
For Cash Flow
Approved

C. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from County General Fund (101) to Public Libraries (115) to Provide Cash Flow.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to approve this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Passed: (10, 0, 0)

(8)
Homeland
Security Grant
Application
Approved

D. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a \$30,783.00 HLS Grant Application; No Matching Funds.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Maples** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve this Grant Application.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Shaver: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted \mathbf{Nay} : (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(9)
FY2011/2012
Career Center
Budget
Approved

 E. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve the FY2011-2012 Career Center Budget.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve this Budget.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Franke: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(10) County General Fund 101 Approved

- F. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget Amendments by Fund.
 - 1. County General Fund 101

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this Recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, and Bledsoe: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(11) Public 2. Public Libraries Fund 115

Libraries Fund 115

Approved

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Jenkins** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to approve this Recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(12)

3. Recycling Center Fund 116

Recycling Center A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve this Recommendation.

Fund 116 Approved Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, and Yarbrough: (10)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(13)

4. County Drug Fund 122

County Drug Fund 122 Approved A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve this Recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(14) Highway Department

Fund 131

Approved

5. Highway Department Fund 131

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Yarbrough** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to approve this Recommendation.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(15)6. General Purpose School Fund 141 A motion was made by Commissioner Miller with a second by Commissioner General **Purpose Duff** to approve this Recommendation. School Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver, **Fund 141** Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10) The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) 7. School Federal Projects Fund 142 (16)School A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner Franke **Federal** to approve this Recommendation. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples, **Projects Fund 142** Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10) **Approved** The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) **(17)** 8. **Education Debt Services Fund 156 Education** A motion was made by Commissioner Shaver with a second by Commissioner **Debt Services Meers** to approve this Recommendation. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver, **Fund 156** Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10) **Approved** The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0) The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (18)General Capital Projects Fund 171 General A motion was made by Commissioner Shaver with a second by Commissioner **Franke** to approve this Recommendation. Capital Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Maples, Shaver, Franke, **Projects** Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (10) **Fund 171 Approved** The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0) The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (19)**Education Capital Projects Fund 177** A motion was made by Commissioner Meers with a second by Commissioner **Education Jenkins** to approve this Recommendation. Capital Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, **Projects Fund 177** Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (10)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0) **Approved**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(20)11. Career Center Maintenance Fund 357

Career A motion was made by Commissioner Miller with a second by Commissioner

Maples to approve this Recommendation. Center

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, **Maintenance**

Fund 357 Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Shaver: (10)

Approved The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(21)
Consider
Appropriations
Funding
Separately
Approved

(22)
Motion to
Include
TCRS Benefit
Made and
Withdrawn

G. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Making Appropriations for the Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices, and Agencies of Loudon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011.

Chairman Bledsoe asked the Commission what their preference was regarding voting on the various appropriations. Commissioner Miller responded that he would prefer

Chairman Bledsoe asked the Commission what their preference was regarding voting on the various appropriations. **Commissioner Miller** responded that he would prefer to vote on each fund separately as they have done in the past. **Commissioner Duff** agreed. **Chairman Bledsoe** asked **Budget Director Blair** to proceed.

1. County General Fund 101

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Commissioner Jenkins asked if this was the appropriate time to make a **motion** to include the TCRS Benefit Package funding in this Appropriation. Following discussion he **withdrew his motion**.

Commissioner Duff proposed an **Amendment to the motion** to reinstate the \$3,000. Appropriation for the Little Tennessee Valley Educational Cooperative. He stated that this was a program for children birth-age 3 with special education needs who were high risks for being left behind and this program helped them to get a good start.

Commissioner Shaver suggested that this amendment should be proposed when the Non-Profit Organizations were voted on later in the agenda but, following clarification from **Ms. Blair,** he stood corrected, offering apologies.

Commissioner Maples seconded the **Amendment to the motion**.

Commissioner Shaver stated that there are problems in supporting these types of expenditures when the Commission is having to raise taxes and he, therefore, opposes this amendment. **Commissioner Yarbrough** stated that the Budget Committee chose not to fund many expenditures in the Non-Profits to try to save money. She said that this was a very difficult area to make cuts from.

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on Amendment#1 to the motion.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Duff, Harrelson, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Bledsoe: (6)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: Yarbrough, Miller, Shaver, and Franke: (4)
The following Commissioners were Absent: (0)

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (6, 4, 0)**

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a vote on the original motion with one amendment.

Commissioner Harrelson asked again for clarification for when to request insertion of funding for the TCRS (Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System) Benefit Package.

Upon response from Ms. Blair, Commissioner Jenkins restated his previous motion to amend the original motion to include the TCRS Benefit Package funding in this Appropriation. Commissioner Harrelson seconded Amendment Number 2 to the motion.

Commissioner Franke commented that he had originally been against this proposal but has since changed his mind and will support this amendment.

Commissioner Maples asked if the Commissioners could ask questions of **Lieutenant Raper** and general discussion followed included **Commissioner Maples** asking how this proposal differed from what Knox County was doing to which he responded that Knox County did not participate in the TCRS program. **Commissioner Shaver** asked **Ms. Blair** how much more it would cost the County if this were approved and she responded that the net effect would be about \$37,000. or up to \$60,000.

Commissioner Yarbrough asked how many other counties participate in this program and **Lt. Raper** responded that he didn't know. How many employees will this effect?

(23)
Amendment #1
Reinstate
Appropriation
For Little
Tennessee
Valley Co-Op

Approved

Sheriff Guider responded with two this year who would be eligible. **Commissioner Yarbrough** stated that she wanted to go on record as supporting the Sheriff's Department but she will have to vote against this amendment saying that if she has to cut funding from Non-Profits then she couldn't vote to fund this proposal. However, she agrees with this concept and it's a hard vote for her since she has a son who's a police officer in another area. She can't support it this year.

Commissioner Harrelson asked a clarification question regarding who is included in this program. It's not just Police Officers but also includes Public Safety Officers as well and the response was that this is correct – it includes both Fire and Police Officers.

Commissioner Miller commented that this group deserves this program given the strength and capabilities required and the toll on one's body over time. He stated that he voted against this in the Budget Committee due to financial constraints and he feels that this is not the right time to approve it but to address later.

Commissioner Duff stated that he recently attended classes at the Police Academy and after that experience he has decided to support this proposal.

Commissioner Harrelson read a **Conflict of Interest Statement** because he is an employee of Lenoir City.

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on Amendment #2 to the motion. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Harrelson, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (7)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: Yarbrough, Miller, and Shaver: (3)

The following Commissioners were **Absent**: **(0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (7, 3, 0)**

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a vote on the Appropriation to County General Fund 101 with two Amendments if there were no more Amendments.

Commissioner Harrelson asked if this was the proper time to address employee health insurance and wage increases and **Ms. Blair** responded that it was.

Commissioner Harrelson asked if the Commission approved the Appropriation as is, what would be included? Ms. Blair responded that employees would incur increases in their portion of the Health Insurance premium to achieve a 70/30 percent cost split with the County and the County would pay the 70% as a flat rate of the premium cost for FY2010-2011. Therefore, any increases in premium cost would be absorbed by the employees. The proposed plan has two options to choose from but the County contribution would remain the same no matter which plan the employee chooses. This 70/30 split would be gradually phased in over the next several years. The wages for Clerical employees would be revised as shown in the highlight document. The proposal also includes a 1.6% one-time supplemental pay out to employees not included in the Clerical Pay Scale adjustments.

Commissioner Duff asked why the benefits package and pay adjustments were being considered as a "package deal". Commissioner Miller explained the Budget Committee's approach saying that in the past the County has been absorbing increased costs in health insurance premiums until the ratio of the split is currently roughly 90/10 and this is becoming unsustainable. The Health Benefits premium increases would phase in gradually and the salary adjustments would help employees on the lower end of the pay scale with absorbing the increases. Currently the remaining workforce would get a one-time 1.6% supplemental pay out. The Budget Committee felt that a "package" approach helped to make necessary increases in health insurance premiums easier for employees to absorb.

(24)

Amendment #2
Include TCRS
Retirement
Benefit Package
Appropriation
Approved

Lengthy debate followed with **Commissioner Maples** focusing on inequities in the salary adjustments with many employees getting large increases and others almost nothing. She stated that it was unbalanced and that the increases in insurance premiums were large and much harder on the lower paid employees. She said that employees had to have health insurance. She also stated that the first time the entire Commission had seen these proposals and been made aware of these changes was when they received their packets for this meeting three days ago.

Commissioner Shaver stated that the salary scale proposal was not a perfect solution but was the best compromise that the Budget Committee could achieve. He agreed that the increases would hurt the lowest paid employees most but pointed out that County taxpayers are also struggling and questions how much they should be asked to pay.

Commissioner Franke stated that he felt that the health insurance premium increases were not that bad and that years of service was included in the considerations for the pay adjustment scale.

Commissioner Maples said that the pay scale adjustments only helped about 50 people and asked what about the other 150? Discussions continued.

Chairman Bledsoe asked if these two items – the Health Insurance and Clerical Salaries Adjustments - could be separated from the County General Fund 101 voting and, if so, would the Commission choose to do this?

Mayor Herron said that the current employees' Health Insurance Plan expires on June 30th but the County has been able to get a one month extension which ends on July 31st. During further discussion, in response to a question regarding what effect removing these two items from Fund 101 voting would have on the dollar figures, **Purchasing Director Bradshaw** said that it would depend on which plans the

Purchasing Director Bradshaw said that it would depend on which plans the Commission ultimately chose and couldn't be determined at this time.

Commissioner Harrelson said that he had heard from several Department Heads who indicated that they would like to have been included in the discussions of these two issues and, therefore, he would like to propose Amendment #3 to the Motion for the Mayor to get with the Department Heads and discuss these issues a little bit more and try to come up with some better options and to delay voting on these issues tonight.

Chairman Bledsoe asked if he was asking for both the Clerical Salary Adjustments and the Health Benefits Package to be put off. Commissioner Harrelson responded "correct". Chairman Bledsoe restated the amendment. Commissioner Maples seconded the Amendment.

Chairman Bledsoe pointed out that there was no Commission Meeting scheduled for the month of July and asked if the Commission was willing to come back for a Special Called Meeting to resolve these issues. **Commissioner Harrelson** responded "yes". **Purchasing Director Bradshaw** pointed out that this would be a tight schedule. **Chairman Bledsoe** asked **Ms. Blair** if the Commission could really vote on Fund 101 Appropriations without these two items being included.

Budget Director Blair asked the **Chairman** what the County employees' payment for health insurance would be if this vote is delayed and what about the salary increases? **Chairman Bledsoe** asked **County Attorney Bowman** for an opinion. **Mr. Bowman** said that he had issues with not passing the Appropriations Resolution before passing the Tax Levy Resolution.

(25)
Amendment #3
To Postpone
Vote on
Employee's
Salary and
Health Benefits
Package for
Further
Consideration

Proposed

Commissioner Franke said that he feared not passing these proposals tonight would "be throwing the employees under the bus" on their health insurance and proposed leaving both issues as they currently are for now and have the Mayor get with the Department Heads and revisit the Health Insurance Benefits Package and the Salary Scales. The County could still have new employees coming in at the 90/10 insurance cost split rate. **Commissioner Yarbrough** said that her understanding of the phasing in of the insurance premium cost split increase was that it would be 90/10 this year, 80/20 next year, and 70/30 the third year. Therefore, there wouldn't be any change in their insurance premium contribution this year anyway. **Commissioner Shaver** stated that he would like to clarify the Budget Committee's recommendation as he understood it. New employees coming in this year would come in at the 70/30 split. Existing employees would be at the 90/10 split but would absorb all future premium increases until they reached the 70/30 split – that may be reached in two years or it may take five years. He also addressed Commissioner Harrelson's concerns saying that if the Commission voted to approve the current insurance proposal there would be no significant impact on the employees' health insurance premium this year but it would affect future years. This additional year would give everyone the opportunity to look at other, possibly better, options and to try to come up with better proposals before additional costs would be passed on to the employees. Commissioner Yarbrough agreed and stated that this additional year would also provide the opportunity to look at a fair job classification scale that doesn't exist now. Job descriptions could be written, employee evaluations could be put into place and this could be a professional, organizational approach to employee management. This delay would buy some time to address all these needed changes.

Discussions continued between **Commissioner Maples** and **Commissioner Miller** regarding the fairness of the pay increases and the gap between the lower paid and higher paid employees. Commissioner Shaver asked Ms. Blair who, beyond other Department employees such as Sheriff's, Jail, Highway Department and Elected Officials, would be left receiving only the one-time 1.6% supplement. She replied Maintenance, Planning, Librarians, Animal Shelter and Recycling employees – several groups. **Chairman Bledsoe** asked to step out of the Chair for a moment and ask for clarification. He asked "Do I understand correctly that with this proposal there would be no change to employees' Health Insurance costs this year except for the new employees?" **Commissioner Yarbrough** responded that this was correct except that the County is currently paying 92% of the premium for the employees' health insurance and, under the new proposal, they would only pay 90% with employees paying 10%. Budget Director Blair spoke to clarify what was being discussed regarding the percentages. She said that what appeared to be being discussed was that the County would pay 90% of next year's total health insurance premium but, what the Budget Committee discussed is that the County would pay 90% of the current (FY2010-2011) year's total premium amount - a flat rate - and employees would pay the difference. If insurance premiums increase this ratio would adjust accordingly and employees would absorb all the increases. Employees would also absorb all increases in Life Insurance and Dental Insurance costs.

Chairman Bledsoe said that the Attorney thinks that the Commission should not consider the Appropriations Resolution tonight without these issues resolved and asked how the Commission proposed to proceed.

(26)
Previous
Amendment #3
Withdrawn

(27)
Amendment #3
To Postpone
Vote On
Employee's
Salary and
Health Benefits
Package for
Further
Consideration
Re-Proposed

Commissioner Miller stated that the proposed delay would give the Commission and Officials more time to work on these two issues to achieve a more acceptable proposal. He suggested keeping the same status for employees' health insurance benefits and salary scales as the current FY2010-2011 rates and, during the next month or two or three revisit both issues and try to get a satisfactory solution.

Commissioner Harrelson asked Attorney Bowman if his previous Amendment would be automatically tabled if the Commission delayed voting on these two issues. Attorney Bowman responded that since the motion had not been restated by the Chairman, the Commissioner had the right to withdraw it. Commissioner Harrelson stated that, on this recommendation, he was withdrawing his Amendment to the Motion. Chairman Bledsoe announced that Commissioner Harrelson had withdrawn his Amendment.

Commissioner Miller asked to clarify his previous statement. He said that the contentious issue was the current employee health insurance cost with the split

increase proposed and that he did not intend for his previous suggestions to affect the phasing in ratio of County/Employee split. That would remain in effect for new employees. Mayor Herron responded that this was Basic Coverage. Commissioner Duff asked the Chairman if this Basic Coverage was what the employees have had this year. Commissioner Miller responded "yes". Commissioner Duff asked Commissioner Miller if he had put his proposal in the form of a motion. Chairman Bledsoe stated that there was still a motion on the floor. Commissioner Duff stated that the Commission finds itself in this situation all too often with being forced to vote on things with the clock running out and they should do better than this. Commissioner Miller restated his position that he doesn't believe the Commission has to make a decision tonight on the salary increases and on the split between the County and the employees on the health insurance premiums. He doesn't think there's a

Commissioner Yarbrough said that the point was that the Budget Committee had 13 meetings with great collaboration and had brought their recommendations to the Commission earlier in the week and no one raised any issues. Now, tonight, at the last minute, there are issues. She stated that she didn't think this was right.

deadline on these issues. He believes there is a deadline on accepting the Health

Insurance Basic and Plus Plans to maintain coverage for employees.

Commissioner Maples addressed the Chairman stating that if Commissioner Miller would make his recommendation a motion she would be glad to second it. And, in response to previous comments she stated that if the Commissioners can't change their minds after learning new information on a subject that they didn't previously have that takes away what their freedom is all about and they need to be able to do what they think is best and so be it if they change their minds.

Commissioner Duff stated that it's possible that there needs to more communication concerning what the Budget Committee is recommending ahead of time. This was applauded by listeners.

Commissioner Miller stated that he still supported what the Budget Committee had recommended and believed the Commission had plenty of opportunity to learn what they were doing. He said it was unfortunate that these issues had come up at the last minute so he was reluctantly making a motion just to move things along. He moved that the Commission amend Fund 101 in the Appropriations Resolution so that the Health Insurance cost split between the County and Employees remains the same as the FY2010/2011 Budget and also move that the Commission do nothing about salary increases tonight and that both of these issues be revisited by the Mayor and Department Heads and Commissioners as quickly as possible and for the next month or two if possible.

General discussion followed between **Commissioner Miller, Purchasing Director Bradshaw,** and **Mayor Herron,** with **Commissioner Harrelson** asking a clarification question, considering the impact of approval of this motion with the ultimate conclusion that this could be done. **Budget Director Blair** asked for clarification: "Are you saying that the Appropriations Resolution reflect no wage increases for County employees and that the amount the employee contributes to health insurance would remain the same as it is and that the County would pay the balance?"

Commissioner Miller responded "yes" with the idea that this is strictly temporary and would be resolved in the next few weeks to allow more time to think about it and to study and learn.

Chairman Bledsoe asked **Commissioner Miller** to restate his motion. He replied that he wasn't sure he could. The **Clerk** asked **Commissioner Miller** if he would like her to read what she had to see if it was correct and he replied affirmatively.

"You made a motion to amend the Fund 101 Appropriation so that the health insurance cost split between the County and employees would remain the same as the 2010/11 split and that the salary increases for employees would be delayed for reconsideration at the same time you revisit the health insurance issue. Is that correct?" Commissioner Miller responded "yes".

Chairman Bledsoe stated that **Commissioner Maples** had **seconded the motion**. **Commissioner Shaver** asked **Commissioner Miller** if he was including, in taking the salary issue off the table, the clerical scale and the 1.6% increase both off the table – 0 across the board? **Commissioner Miller** responded "yes" – he felt everything should be revisited as a package. **Commissioner Harrelson** said that hopefully this was very temporary to allow time to come up with something very soon – no promises – but they would try.

Commissioner Franke asked to provide an alternate to Commissioner Miller's motion. He would alter the motion to add the new hires would be coming in at the 70/30 cost split – the motion would remain the same but add this to the end. Chairman Bledsoe asked Commissioner Franke if he would be satisfied if Commissioner Miller included this in his motion and Commissioner Franke said that this was fine. The Clerk restated the end of the motion: "salary increases for employees would be delayed for reconsideration at the same time as they revisit the health insurance issue with new employees hiring at the 70/30 County/employee cost split".

Commissioner Maples stated that she was happy to second this also.

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on Amendment #3 to the motion.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Harrelson, Miller,
Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff and Yarbrough: (10)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(29)
County General
Fund 101
Appropriation
With Three
Amendments
Approved

(28)

Amendment #3

Appropriation -

Premium Cost

Split Remains

Delayed for

Further

Unchanged and Salary Increases

Consideration of

New Employees Coming in at the

70/30 Health

Premium Cost

Insurance

Approved

Split

Both Issues - With

Current Employee Health Insurance

to Fund 101

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a **roll call vote on the Original Motion with 3 Amendments**.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller with a second by Commissioner Shaver to Approve the County General Fund 101 Appropriation with Amendments. Commissioner Duff read a Conflict of Interest Statement since he is a part-time employee of the Sheriff's Department.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (10)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(30)2. Law Library Fund 114 **Law Library** A motion was made by Commissioner Harrelson with a second by Commissioner **Franke** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. **Fund 114 Appropriation** Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples, **Approved** Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10) The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) 3. Public Library Fund 115 (31)**Public** A motion was made by Commissioner Yarbrough with a second by Commissioner Library **Jenkins** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver, **Fund 115** Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10) **Appropriation Approved** The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (32)4. Solid Waste Sanitization Fund 116 **Solid Waste** A motion was made by Commissioner Shaver with a second by Commissioner **Sanitization Miller** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples, **Fund 116 Appropriation** Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10) The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent:** (0) Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) Industrial Economic Development Fund 119 (33)**Industrial** A motion was made by Commissioner Meers with a second by Commissioner **Jenkins** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. **Economic** Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver, **Development** Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10) **Fund 119 Appropriation** The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0) Approved** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (34)Drug Control Fund 122 A motion was made by Commissioner Yarbrough with a second by Commissioner Drug Control **Maples** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Maples, Shaver, Franke, **Fund 122 Appropriation** Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (10) The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0) **Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (35)7. Other Special Revenue Fund 128 Other A motion was made by Commissioner Maples with a second by Commissioner **Franke** to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe,

Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (10)

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent**: **(0)**

Special

Revenue

Fund 128

Approved

Appropriation

(36)8. Highway/Public Works Fund 131 A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner Highway/ **Public Works Harrelson** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. **Fund 131** Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, **Appropriation** Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Shaver: (10) The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) 9. General Purpose School Fund 141 (37)General A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner **Purpose Maples** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, School **Fund 141** Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Franke: (10) **Appropriation** The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0) Approved** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (38)10. School Federal Projects Fund 142 School A motion was made by Commissioner Franke with a second by Commissioner **Federal Shaver** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, **Projects Fund 142** Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, and Bledsoe: (10) The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Appropriation Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent:** (0) Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0) (39)School Food Services Fund 143 11. School A motion was made by Commissioner Jenkins with a second by Commissioner **Duff** to approve the Appropriation to this fund. **Food Services** Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson, **Fund 143** Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (10) **Appropriation Approved** The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0) The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)** Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(40) 12. General Debt Services Fund 151
General A motion was made by Commissioner Miller with a

A motion was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner**Shaver to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Debt Services Shaver to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Fund 151 Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Harrelson, Miller,
Appropriation Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, and Yarbrough: (10)
Approved The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(41) 13. Education Debt Services Fund 156

Education A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner Debt Services** Franke to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Fund 156 Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Shaver,

Appropriation Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (8)

Approved The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Meers, and Maples: (2)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(42) 14. General Capital Projects Fund 171

General A motion was made by Commissioner Franke with a second by Commissioner

Capital Duff to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Projects Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples,**

Fund 171 Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10)

Appropriation The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(43) 15. Highway Capital Projects Fund 176

Highway A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner

Capital Yarbrough to approve the Appropriation to this fund.

Projects Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver,**

Fund 176 Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10)

Appropriation The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(44) 16. Education Capital Projects Fund 177

Education A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Shaver** with a second by **Commissioner**

Capital Miller to approve that there are no Appropriations in this fund.

Projects Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples,**

Fund 177 Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (10)

Appropriation The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0) Approved** The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a **roll call vote** on the **entire Appropriations Resolution**

as Amended.

(45) A motion was made by Commissioner Miller with a second by Commissioner Shaver

Appropriations to approve the Appropriations Resolution with Amendments.

Resolution Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Shaver,**

As Amended Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (10)

Approved The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

H. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy in Loudon County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011.

Budget Director Blair presented the Budget Committee's proposal for the Tax Levy for

FY2011-2012.

(46)

Consider

Tax Levy Commissioner Shaver made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Duff** to

Items consider each item in the Tax Levy separately.

Separately Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on this motion.

Approved Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Maples, Shaver, Franke,**

Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (10)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(47)

1. County General Fund 101

County

A motion was made by Commissioner Franke with a second by Commissioner

General Harrelson to approve the tax levy of 0.4223 for this fund.

Fund 101

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe,

Tax Levy Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (10)

Approved

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Passed: (10, 0, 0)

(48)

2. Public Library Fund 115

Public Library A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner

Library Jenkins to approve the tax levy of 0.0150 for this fund.

Fund 115

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Franke, Bledsoe, Duff,

Tax Levy Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Shaver: (10)
Approved The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed**: (10, 0, 0)

(49)

3. Highway/Public Works Fund 131

Highway/ Public Works A motion was made by Commissioner Shaver with a second by Commissioner

Yarbrough to approve the tax levy of 0.0300 for this fund.

Fund 131

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Bledsoe, Duff,

Tax Levy Approved Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Franke: (10)

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(50)

4. General Purpose School Fund 141

General Purpose A motion was made by Commissioner Duff with a second by Commissioner Franke

to approve the tax levy of 0.8800 for this fund.

School Fund 141 Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Duff, Yarbrough,

Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, and Bledsoe: (10)

Tax Levy The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

Approved

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(51)

5. General Debt Services Fund 151

General
Debt Services

A motion was made by Commissioner Shaver with a second by Commissioner

Miller to approve the tax levy of 0.0650 for this fund.

Fund 151

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson,

Tax Levy

Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, and Duff: (10)

Approved

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (10, 0, 0)

(52)

6. General Capital Projects Fund 171

General Capital

Projects

A motion was made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner**

Jenkins to approve the tax levy of 0.0150 for this fund.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins,

Fund 171 Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, and Yarbrough: (10)

Tax Levy Approved

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

(53)

Highway

Capital

Projects

Fund 176

Tax Levy

Approved

(54)

Education Debt Services

Fund 156

Tax Levy -

Amendment

Proposed

7. Highway Capital Projects Fund 176

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Yarbrough** with a second by **Commissioner Shaver** to approve the tax levy of 0.0175 for this fund.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Meers,

Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (10)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: (0)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Passed: (10, 0, 0)

8. Education Debt Services Fund 156

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Franke** with a second by **Commissioner Yarbrough** to approve the tax levy of 0.3421 for this fund.

Commissioner Harrelson said that he would like to make an amendment to the motion that instead of a 20 cent tax increase for this fund he would like to put a 16 cent increase into Phase 1 and lock the other 4 cents into Phase 2 to start saving for Phase 2 now for the future.

Commissioner Duff seconded the motion.

Commissioner Yarbrough requested that **Commissioner Harrelson** withdraw his motion to amend so that the Commission would not be "caught tight" for Phase 1 and any remaining pennies after Phase 1 would be kept in this fund for school planning. **Commissioner Franke** stated that **Commissioner Miller** had put together a chart that showed there would be a Fund surplus in future years and this surplus funding could be kept in this Fund and put toward Phase 2.

Commissioner Miller stated that he felt that this motion limited the Commission's flexibility and feels that they need to stay flexible because they don't yet know what Phase 2 will cost. In the meantime they may need money for a new jail before Phase 2 – they've seen nothing on this yet – and they need to refrain from designating funds in advance for specific purposes. It limits their flexibility. They don't really know what Phase 1 will cost yet.

Commissioner Harrelson stated that the Public says the Commission needs to plan and he was trying to represent his people all of whom know he's a big advocate for schools. He has to be a supporter of completing Phase 2 because it includes a school in the north end of the County which he represents.

Commissioner Yarbrough stated that she also believes in total school planning but she wants a different kind of practice. She said that they need to plan ahead for projects and when one is needed the funding for that project should be kept appropriately designated for that project and not be moved around from fund to fund. She believes that when the Commission tells the citizens they're designating funding for a specific project they should stick to that commitment – honor their commitment – and not move money into other purposes.

Commissioner Franke stated that the extra money in this Fund last year was used for employee pay raises and he wanted to fence this money into this Fund so that no one could touch it except for these school projects.

Commissioner Harrelson said that he was all for that!

Commissioner Miller believes it depends on what the future brings up and the County may be forced to build a new jail or other projects. He questions what if this happens 1 or 2 years from now and the Commission is unable to use funds as needed?

Commissioner Harrelson stated he wants to divide the money up 16 cents for Phase 1 and 4 cents for Phase 2 but, if the vote tonight is for the 20 cents, he won't even consider moving money designated for this program to another purpose in the future.

(55)**Amendment Failed**

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on the Amendment to put 16 cents into Phase 1 and 4 cents into Phase 2 of the School Building Program.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Duff, Harrelson: (2) The following Commissioners voted Nay: Meers, Maples, Shaver, Franke, Bledsoe, Yarbrough, Miller, and Jenkins (8)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Failed: (2, 8, 0)

Chairman Bledsoe asked for a roll call vote on the Education Debt Services Fund Tax Levy.

Comments were made by Commissioners as they cast their votes as follows:

Commissioner Shaver stated that he thought long and hard before casting his "no" vote tonight. He believes the County needs to go back to the drawing board. He fears how this money will be spent and he thanked the School Board for the budget constraint shown this year. He thinks everyone's now ready to start thinking about what they "have to have" versus "what they want".

Commissioner Franke explained his "yes" vote saying that the County has been working for 9 years on this issue and that it was time to move forward - if not now, when? - and he was happy to vote "yea".

Commissioner Duff had prepared comments regarding the value of education and the desire to give the County's children the best possible start in life. He stated that he was frustrated by the woefully sub-standard schools in some of the areas and feels that this is a very necessary purpose for the tax dollars.

Commissioner Yarbrough thanked all the citizens for their input and opinions and stated that she was voting for the kids of Loudon County.

Commissioner Harrelson stated that the asked for the Amendment to the proposal to represent the people of Lenoir City but that everyone knows that he's a big advocate for the schools.

Commissioner Miller said that he had a very divided constituency in his district and that his position of casting the deciding vote tonight was very similar to one he found himself in many years ago. He said this was a very defining vote and an important decision that had gone on for 6 years and that it was time to do something for the kids of the County.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Jenkins, Franke, Duff,

Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (6)

The following Commissioners voted Nay: Meers, Maples, Shaver, and Bledsoe: (4)

The following Commissioners were **Absent: (0)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed:** (6, 4, 0)

(56)**Education Debt Services Fund 156 Tax Levy** Approved

> I. Consideration of a Recommendation to Approve a Resolution Making Appropriations to Non-Profit Organizations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Franke with a second by Commissioner Duff to approve this Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Jenkins, Meers, Maples,

Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Harrelson, Yarbrough, and Miller: (9)

The following Commissioner voted Nay: Shaver: (1)

The following Commissioners were **Absent:** (0)

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (9, 1, 0)**

(57)**Appropriations**

To Non-Profit **Organizations**

Approved

(58) Optional Retirement Benefit Improvement Package For Public Safety Officers Approved	J. Consideration of Approval of a Resolution to Establish an Optional Retirement Benefit Improvement Package for Public Safety Officers. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenkins with a second by Commissioner Maples to approve this Resolution. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted Aye: Meers, Maples, Franke, Bledsoe, Duff, Harrelson, Yarbrough, Miller, and Jenkins: (9) The following Commissioner voted Nay: Shaver: (1) The following Commissioners were Absent: (0) Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion Passed: (9, 1, 0)
(59) Adjournment	Chairman Bledsoe asked if there were any further comments and, upon receiving none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.
	Commissioner Duff requested that the Commission recognize outgoing Director of Schools Wayne Honeycutt, in the audience, for his years of service.
	There being no further business, a motion being duly made and seconded, the June 30 2011 Special Called Meeting stood adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
	CHAIRMAN
	ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY MAYOR