



Organization: Mercy Seat Baptist Church, Ministers Coalition

Meeting Date: April 13, 2013

in Attendance: 30

Answers to questions are noted in italics.

- How much is the cost for the animal shelter and why is that a new cost? *SPCA wants to be a no-kill shelter. They are not willing to take Hampton's stray animals. Hampton has to take out debt service and collaborate with other localities to build a new animal shelter.*
- What economic benefit does Hampton receive from Langley Air Force Base?
- How does York County economically benefit from Langley Air Force base, particularly the military housing in York County?
- What about the school system, can they support the school children from Langley Air Force Base? *We offer special academies for military kids since they frequently move. For example, if they move from Texas they have been studying the history of Texas. When school age children move here, they are required to take the SOL's just like other Hampton students. The special academies are used to assist military children in learning Virginia history, so that they prepared for the SOL.*
- In order to balance the budget, some of the schools were closed. Why are those schools still open and operating? *The school system is not operating it but the buildings are being leased. Lee School and the Downtown Child Development Center are being leased. Wythe Elementary is closed and vacant. The schools are owned by the Hampton School System and not by the City of Hampton. If the School Board decides to, they could turn the vacant school properties over to the City of Hampton if they are not able to lease them.*
- How do you justify building a new court house if we are having these budget constraints? *Legally, we have to build a new court house because of the major safety issues for the jurors. The hallways are extremely wide and pose a safety hazard for witnesses and jurors. We explored the idea of renovating the courthouse but it is not feasible due to the width of the building. The General Assembly mandated the renovation or new construction of the courthouse, thus making it a legal requirement. The stair case in the court house is extremely steep and there is one handicap elevator. Due to the age of the building, the elevator frequently breaks. If the elevator is out of order, some guests must be lifted to the next floor by staff.*

- Funding to Outside Agencies - Is this a portion of the \$422,720 or a total of the \$422,720 being proposed to be eliminated? I understand that the cuts are grouped together but I have nothing to compare it to. When it says eliminating certain contributions, where are these contributions going? How can I respond if I don't know what is in each category? So, I don't understand how I could say it's acceptable to cut. I need more information.
- I am unsure/undecided until I can see the full list of proposed cuts. Can you go through all of the proposed cuts one time?
- Some of the cuts I am familiar with, but others I am not. By placing them in one category it is hard to clearly indicate what I would want to cut. I don't have enough information to go by.
- Why is the city giving money to Christopher Newport University? Hampton University (HU) is here in this city and I feel that it makes more sense economically to continue to contribute financially to HU and not Christopher Newport University. If I vote now the way it is on the screen, it won't represent this view? *If you select unsure/undecided and the recorder will indicate that you want to keep Hampton University funding but suspend funding to Christopher Newport University.*
- Does our usage correspond with our contribution for the Community Services Board (CSB)? Could you change the contract? *No, the usage does not correspond to the contribution, but the city could save money. It's not a contract, it's just a contribution. Basically, if Hampton cuts \$250,000 from Community Services Board, less Hampton residents are able to benefit from this service. Right now, Hampton contributes a higher percentage than Newport News does.*
- Is the proposal to not eliminate the contribution to the CSB completely, just to decrease the percentage of Hampton's contribution? *Yes, that's correct.*
- Would you close the building where the Visitor Center is located? *No, just eliminate the staffing support.*
- Residents can get the same information from 311, so why do we need the Visitor's Center? *Residents may know about 311, the city's non-emergency, information line, but our visitors will not.*
- You said you were capitalizing on your cost of the History Museum by having staff operate it, does the cost of the History Museum decrease for the city? *Yes, because the staff serves a dual purpose, maintaining the museum and assisting visitors.*
- Can we cut the operational time of the Visitor Center instead of cutting it completely?

- Do you keep track of the utilization of the community centers, Visitor Center, and museums? *Yes – but I do not have the numbers with me.*
- Can the city scale back the amount of money and staff at the Tennis Center?
- Can you increase use costs/fees for customers at the Tennis Center to offset the cost of keeping it open? *As a result you would not have to close the Tennis Center.*
- Is the existing senior center the only dedicated senior center in Hampton?
- What is offered there that is different from the other community centers? *The senior center is geared to a senior clientele and the other community centers have some senior programs with mainly youth/young adult activities.*
- Why not reduce the Senior Center hours and keep it open?
- If the Old Hampton Community Center was closed, do you have the means to get the youth back and forth to Fort Monroe? *Yes, there will be a shuttle going back and forth to Fort Monroe.*
- Is the Old Hampton Community Center the least utilized community center in Hampton? *I do not have those numbers at this time.*
- Where is the History Museum located? Is it next to the parking garage? *The Hampton History Museum is also enjoyed by visitors.*
- Can we use the police officers who have light duty to staff the volunteer firefighter company?
- Is \$25,000 the actual cost to film and broadcast the Holly Days parade? *Yes*
- There is a possibility that someone in the community will be out there filming the Holly Days parade anyways.
- Are the Citizen's Unity Commission's programs free?
- How are the youth planners selected?
- Is the Teen Center located at Magruder Blvd and Butler Farm Road? *Yes*
- Is the Teen Center leased or owned by the City of Hampton? *The City owns the Teen Center, but as part of the sale agreement between the city and Sentara Hospital, the teen center must be used for youth only. This would ensure no competition between Sentara's wellness programs. We are working to get this changed, so we explore expanding the use of the center.*

- Are the parent education classes full service and open for eight hours? Can we reduce the amount of classes offered to cut costs and not cut the program in its entirety?
- How are the parent education classes marketed? *You can call 311 to find more information, publicize through the schools system to promote it and use the internet as another marketing tool.*
- Are the parent education classes a hand shake with social services, because I see that the children are not being properly taken care of. Kids are falling through the cracks. *This program is not through the Social Services Department but it is through the Health Department. The Head Start staff are specially trained for the Head Start Program. If you or anyone else sees a child in danger in any way please notify authorities. The city never wants any child to be falling through the cracks.*
- Will the poll and budget results be made available on the internet?
- Can everything on the poll list sheet for the city/school budget be protected through the 13 or 24 percent tax increase?
- Can a copy of the presentation be posted on-line?