

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** Pledge of Allegiance (formal start)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (March 6, 2007)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Announcements (upcoming meetings)
6. **7:40 – 9:00 pm – Budget Package Report** (See Page 1 and 2)
 - Special Rule – (See Page 1)
 - Schools Committee Budget Report
 - Revenue and Expenditure Committee Combined Report
 - Discussion
7. **9:00 – 9:35 – Old Business – Wilson School Resolution**
 - ACCF MSSC Representatives Report (10 min)
 - Parks and Recreation Committee Resolution (5 min)
 - Schools Committee Position (5 min)
 - Discussion (15 min)
8. **9:35 – 9:40 pm** New Business & Announcements
9. Adjournment

We continue to be short (the Newsletter)!

Based on the overwhelming response (or lack of any criticism) we plan to continue the "short" version. The primary benefit, reduced printing cost, could allow deferral of increased membership dues. Thank you for your acceptance. We encourage you to use our wonderful Website for additional material that would have been in a longer version. Comments always welcomed!

Budget Package Special Rule

The Revenues & Expenditures Committee and the Schools Committee will present their budget reports and recommendations for consideration of the Delegates at the April 3 meeting. The General Budget and the Schools Budget are considered separately by the two committees, and then 'harmonized' in separate reports and recommendations presented as a single resolution for consideration of the Delegates. As in prior years, because of the length and detail of the recommendations, a Special Rule will be offered for the Budget Package debate. The proposed Special Rule is as follows:

Special Rule - The Budget Package will be considered in two parts - the main, or basic part, and any "Additional Items".

If the Special Rule is adopted by the membership, there will be a single vote to accept or reject the basic package. If the "vote to accept" fails, we will consider each section separately. The Committees may also propose "Additional Items" for consideration by the Delegates. "Additional Items" may involve issues where there is substantial disagreement among the committee members, or previous resolutions passed by the Delegates that affect the budget report and recommendations. After discussion and debate, "Additional Items" will be voted on separately. If they are approved by Delegates, they will be incorporated into the overall package.

Tidbits

This section will bring you up to date on status of some "old" items. Also highlighted are new activities or actions considered or approved by the Executive Committee since the March meeting. In all cases, unless specifically noted, material has been posted to our Web site. Please refer to that resource for further details where noted:

- **Appointments** – None this period
- **Questions to the County Revisited** – In January we posed a number of questions for the Arlington County Board program. The "unanswered" questions relating to the budget were again sent to the Board. This was in order to incorporate their response into the ACCF Budget Package deliberations. See the ACCF Web site for details.

(Tidbits - continued on Page 2)



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Arlington County Civic Federation
C/o Lawrence R. Mayer
3108 Fourth Street North
Arlington, VA 22201-1614

May Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2007

The Major Topic: State Delegation Program

April News deadline: April 13, 2007

Tidbits - Continued

- **Schools Committee Testimony** – The Schools Committee testified at the March 15, 2007 Arlington School Board budget hearing. Because of timing, the Excom reviewed the proposed material. See the ACCF Website for details.
- **Transportation Committee on Master Transportation Plan (MTP) issues** – The Transportation Committee prepared material for issues the County wanted to address at a March 19, 2007 MTP forum (the only public “forum”). The Chair extracted relevant material from the extensive County MTP proposal to help- any desiring to attend. See the ACCF Website for details.

Help Wanted – Open Invitation

There are always positions that can open at any time. If you have any particular interest – keep us (Committee Chairs advised) - (*See Web site for Contact Information*).

Committee Calendar

Please look on the ACCF Web page calendar for latest postings of committee meetings. Please note, that other events “of interest” are also posted to this Calendar. Many thanks to our Webmasters!

Budget Basics for FY 2008

By Revenue and Expenditures Committee

The Manager’s proposed budget for FY 2008 does NOT include a recommended increase in the real property tax rate of \$0.818 per \$100 of assessed value, in accordance with the guidance previously provided by the County Board. For the average homeowner, this rate, if adopted, would result in a decrease in real property taxes of \$35. However, because of large increases in the assessed value of commercial property and other taxes, the County will realize an increase in revenues of approximately \$43.1 million. This translates to:

- A 5.0% increase over FY 2007 Revised Budget. FY 2008 total is \$873.6 million.
 - A 4.5% increase in County operations
 - A 5.9% increase over the FY 2007 Revised Budget if the County Board adopts all proposed Policy Priorities & Strategic Options
 - A 5.9% increase in transfer to Arlington Public Schools (\$329.7 million). Share 47.8% of revenue, up from 47.7%.

Lest we become complacent with static assessments and real property tax rates, the Manager is proposing a new residential utility tax to complement increases in water and sewer rates, solid waste rate, fees for right-of-way permits and related services, parking meter rates, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' Fees, Engineering Review and Inspection Service, Plat Application, Plat Review, Bond Administration, and Erosion and Sediment Control Fees, and for those who drive polluting behemoths, an increase in the personal property tax rate.

As of the date of this newsletter, both the Schools and Revenues and Expenditures Committees continue to analyze the budget. Their reports will be published on the ACCF website prior to the April meeting.