

VIRGINIA:

A FY 2017 Budget Work Session of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Members Present: William R. Lee, Chair
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair
F. W. Jenkins, Jr., Board Member
Jason D. Bellows, Board Member
B. Wally Beauchamp, Board Member

Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

Mr. Lee called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Emergency Medical Services

Chief Terry McGregor stated that, by and large, the discretionary categories in his budget have remained unchanged. He stated that there is a new line item for EMS software because there have been challenges with the state provided software that has created issues with revenue recovery. He stated that he believed that once the new software is in place, there will be a better return on their investment and increased revenue recovery. He referred to the paid rescue services cost center and stated that he is asking for increased funding and part of that expense is going towards an additional full-time position's salary and benefits in an effort to decrease overtime costs. He stated that overtime costs continue to be a challenge.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the expected reduction in overtime costs will cover the cost of an additional employee.

Chief McGregor replied that he expected the reduction to cover the benefits. He stated that the cost of the employee is neutral because they would have been paying someone anyway.

Mr. Jenkins asked again if the reductions that Chief McGregor anticipates in the current part-time and overtime accounts cover the expense of a new full-time employee.

Chief McGregor replied yes.

Mr. Jenkins asked if it was reflected in the budget.

Chief McGregor replied yes.

Chief McGregor stated that there was a new cost center this year to capture all of the costs for the new radio system including maintenance and repairs.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Patrick McCranie referred to line item 1200-Overtime and stated that he was asking for \$55,000 because that would be more in line with what is actually being spent in that category. He referred to line item 1300-Part-time and stated that he was asking for a \$1500 increase. He stated that they will be going over due to Steve Sorensen going to the academy on the part-time budget. He stated that Mr. Sorensen is now a full-time detective.

Sheriff McCranie stated that the County will be having a full time judge, John Martin, and would like for the Board to think about having a full-time deputy at the front desk of the courthouse in the future.

Sheriff McCranie referred to line item 5540 and stated that he is asking for \$2,000 more this year because it will provide his deputies with training opportunities. He referred to line item 5699 and stated that he is asking for \$16,000 to bring that category in line with the actual cost of academy dues.

Sheriff McCranie referred to line item 6011-Uniforms and stated that his department will be getting new uniforms and they will be cheaper than the current ones. He stated that the new uniforms will look very professional and everyone will be wearing the same colors.

Sheriff McCranie referred to line item 8205-Motor vehicles and stated that \$37,500 was appropriated last year and the former sheriff asked for \$58,000. He stated that this year, he is asking to purchase two cars and to lease two cars. He stated that one of their vehicles, a 2008 unmarked car, has serious damage and a local body shop will not repair it because of the severity. He stated that they have spoken to Sheehy Ford about purchasing the Sheriff's Office Ford pick-up, which will help with expenses.

Sheriff McCranie referred to the jail account (33100) and stated that overtime expenses will probably be the same as last year, so he is asking for between \$8,000 and \$10,000 for that category. He referred to line item 3110-Medical and dental services and stated that category is up, because it is unknown what services inmates are going to need. He referred to line item 3310-Repairs and maintenance and stated that they are over budget in this category because of several expensive repairs within the last year, including the replacement of the original water heater.

Sheriff McCranie stated that he would like headsets for his dispatchers at a cost of approximately \$1812. He stated that new dispatchers start out earning around \$5,000 less than dispatchers in Northumberland County and he would like to see their pay increased over time.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he knew Sheriff McCranie had an interest in doing a study of the benefits and costs of maintaining our own jail versus joining one of the regional jails and wanted to know if he still intended to look into that.

Sheriff McCranie replied yes and stated that the Northern Neck Regional Jail has increased costs quite a bit to the surrounding counties.

Mr. Pleva stated that there are options of either renting or buying space in the regional jails, which could mean differences in costs to the localities.

Mr. Jenkins stated that it had been a long time since a cost analysis has been done and he thought the taxpayers deserve to know if the County is on the right course.

Lancaster County Community Library

Ms. Lindsay Gardner of the Community Library stated that Tom Richardson, President of the Community Library Board, was in attendance with her. She stated that she had a poster of the floor plan of the new library building and they plan to start moving in next week. She stated that they will have their critical services up by mid-May and have a grand opening in June. She described the areas of the building which will include a café, retail area, teen area, wireless area, study rooms, storytime corner and activity center as well as a large community room that will seat 200 people.

Ms. Gardner stated that the library is asking for a modest increase to help with telecommunications costs as well as a one-time gift.

Mr. Beauchamp asked how the volunteers would be helping with the library's move.

Ms. Gardner replied that they are renting some carts, but also using some carts made by an Eagle Scout and the volunteers will be transferring the books from one building to another using the carts.

Ms. Gardner stated that the library's storymobile visits homes and commercial day cares every week. She stated that they also have arrangements with the primary school for weekly book readings.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that Ms. Gardner contact the curator of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library because they have a significant outreach program as well and they might be able to mesh their efforts in the community.

Mr. Lee referred to the community room and asked if that room would be available to the public and if there were fees involved.

Ms. Gardner replied that the meeting room would be available to non-profit groups at no cost and they are currently working on a fee structure for businesses or private individuals.

Lancaster County Circuit Court

Mrs. Diane Mumford, Clerk of the Circuit Court, stated that last year she had asked for an increase in her budget to allow for training of two individuals, since she was losing two employees to retirement and she was appreciative of those funds. She stated that she did not change her budget figures for this year, but is instead asking to move funds from part-time salaries to the convention and education category. She stated that the Virginia Court Clerks' Association has implemented a training program with certifications for clerks and deputies. She stated that her deputies cannot afford the cost of the training and she would like to provide them with funds for the training.

Mr. Palin asked what the part-time amount was last year.

Mrs. Mumford replied the amount was \$4,000.

Rappahannock Community College

Mr. Bill Doyle, Vice President of Finance, stated that he was new to the college this year. He stated that 262 Lancaster County residents are currently enrolled in credit classes and there are 108 dual-enrollment students. He spoke about the workforce development program at the community college. He stated that the annual financial and economic impact of RCC on Lancaster County for fiscal year 2014-15 was approximately \$1.6 million.

Mr. Doyle stated that by statute Virginia's community colleges rely on local funds for a variety of important budget needs including construction, maintenance and repairs. He stated that the five-foot rule states that local funds are required for all grounds related expenditures beyond five feet of the main building. He stated that the college is asking for \$13,900, which is a slight increase over last year's request. He stated that Lancaster County is one of five counties that contributes to the capital budget and they are very appreciative.

Three Rivers Health District

Dr. Ted Tweel, District Director of the Three Rivers Health District, stated that in dealing with public health, there is always something going on and prevention and

knowledge is very important. He spoke about what his organization does for the County. He spoke about how the County can leverage their money with state funding.

Mr. Palin stated that it looked as if Dr. Tweel's budget request was \$14,000 more than last year's request.

Dr. Tweel stated that state employees received a raise after the Board had approved last year's budget, so the increased request reflects that change. He stated that they are also receiving another raise in November.

Mr. Jenkins stated to Dr. Tweel that the General Assembly passes a raise for his employees, but he is expecting the taxpayers of Lancaster County to cover the expense. He further stated that the state should fund the raises it gives its employees. He also stated that it would be helpful if Dr. Tweel would pronounce the word "Lancaster" correctly.

Mr. Palin asked if the state employee's raises were a "flow-through" or a "local match".

Dr. Tweel replied it was a local match.

Mr. Jenkins stated that this body did not make the decision for the pay increases, but yet are supposed to make up the difference.

Rappahannock Legal Services

Ms. Ann Kloeckner, Executive Director of Rappahannock Legal Services, stated that her organization has been serving Lancaster County since 1979. She stated that she appreciated the past support and is asking for level funding. She stated that the number of clients that need their services has increased and their one attorney office in Tappahannock covers seven counties. She stated her organization represents low income people who need an attorney in civil legal matters, such as domestic issues, unemployment benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, disability claims and other matters. She stated that her organization is the only agency providing this type of service in the area. She stated that in the last fiscal year, seventy-seven citizens from Lancaster County were assisted by Rappahannock Legal Services.

Mr. Jenkins asked Ms. Kloeckner if her organization enters into civil suits against jurisdictions that provide financial support to them.

Ms. Kloeckner replied that her organization will sometimes go against the Department of Social Services, but no county offices are being sued to her knowledge.

The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.

Ms. Sarah Weakley, Director of Development for The Haven, explained her organization and stated that The Haven offers free services to anyone who experiences violence in the Northern Neck and Essex County. She stated that they provide a 24-hour crisis hotline and they are the only emergency shelter in five counties. She stated that they also provide shelter for the homeless, regardless of whether they are violence victims.

Ms. Weakley stated that they provide advocacy services, which include court and hospital accompaniment, obtaining restraining orders, accessing legal remedies and other services. She stated that they also provide education for prevention of sexual assaults and work with other agencies such as the Sheriff's Department in this effort.

Ms. Weakley stated that grants make up sixty six percent of their costs, but they are still left to raise the money for the rest.

Mr. Lee asked if they were looking for an increase of \$2,000 over last year.

Ms. Weakley replied yes and that was based on the anticipated increase of clients in the coming fiscal year.

Commonwealth's Attorney

Mr. Jan Smith, Commonwealth Attorney for Lancaster County, stated that he had considered asking for \$14,000 for a case management system because other localities had moved in that direction after the state abandoned the one that had been made available to all Commonwealth Attorney's offices. He stated that he had since decided that his resources are better spent on people rather than a computer system. He stated that his administrative assistant, Lynn Moubray, has not had an increase in her salary in over four years. He stated that Ms. Moubray is a valuable resource to the office. He stated that she is at the lower end of the comp board's scale of wages and it is his intention to move her into the higher end of that scale. He stated that in the interim period he is asking that they supplement her salary by \$11,613.

Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board

Mr. Charles Walsh, Jr., Executive Director of the Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board, stated that also in attendance with him was Mrs. Alice Coates, representative to the Board from Lancaster County. He thanked the Board for their past support. He stated that his organization has been in existence for forty-two years and there has been a lot of growth in that time.

Mr. Walsh stated that out of their 25 million dollar budget, they receive 4.6 million from the state and the rest comes from Medicaid reimbursement. He stated that some of the challenges his organization continues to face are Medicaid restrictions, Medicaid eligibility and increased credentials needed for their workforce, as well as a workforce shortage.

Mr. Walsh spoke about the new Crisis In Training drop off center in Kilmarnock and anticipates that once the center is fully operational, it will reduce the time that the Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement personnel currently spend on these issues.

Mr. Walsh stated that his organization is asking for level funding this year.

Mr. Palin thanked Mr. Walsh and his organization for the job they do.

Mrs. Coates thanked the Board for allowing her to serve on the Community Services Board.

Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck

Mr. Ulysses Turner of the Boys and Girls Club stated that they were requesting continued support from the Board of Supervisors and asking for \$60,000 this year, which is a slight increase over last year's request. He stated that as their program continues to grow, so do their needs. He stated that their enrollment is up twenty percent this year and their average daily attendance has increased as well. He stated that their programs are successful and have found that truancy is down, loitering in the downtown area is down, youth employment and student grades are up. He spoke of studies that show that youth who attend the Boys and Girls Clubs are more successful overall.

Social Services

Mrs. Edna Davenport, Director of Social Services, stated that her organization was a state supervised and locally administered department. She stated that her department works jointly with numerous community partners to assist those who are in need in our community. She stated that her department also provides assistance with shelters during times of crisis. She stated that the programs that her department administers are mandated and include SNAP, Medicaid, energy assistance, adoption services, foster care and many other services. She stated that over 1400 Lancaster County citizens live in poverty, which represents fourteen percent of the community. She stated, in total, over seventeen million dollars was spent on social services in Lancaster County last year.

Mrs. Davenport stated that the budget she has submitted also includes a request for funds for a new phase of an automation project that the state has implemented. She stated that it will require additional training for her staff.

Mrs. Davenport stated that her budget request for local funds is \$505,696 and at this time her department has had no guidance as to state funding.

Mr. Lee asked about personnel turnover.

Mrs. Davenport replied that there is quite a bit of turnover.

Mr. Palin asked about the request for additional funds.

Mrs. Davenport replied that it is the total for staff and operations expense, including salary increases. She stated that she anticipates some people retiring this year and benefits will have to be paid out to them. She stated that she is also factoring in overtime costs for such things as manning the shelter.

Northern Neck Middlesex Free Health Clinic

Ms. Jeanne Nelson, Executive Director, stated what her organization does and how they partner with other organizations in the community to serve the citizens. She stated that she wanted everyone to know that the clinic does request a small donation from their patients to help with costs. She discussed the importance of their volunteer staff in helping to run the clinic.

Ms. Nelson stated that the Affordable Care Act did not take away the need for free health clinics and the eligibility issues continue to evolve.

Mr. Lee asked about the requested increase in funds.

Ms. Nelson replied that her organization did not get the total request that they asked for last year.

Mr. Jenkins stated that free health clinics across the Commonwealth came into existence out of necessity because the state was removing health services for the indigent. He stated that private money, private efforts and volunteers established a network of free health clinics. He further stated that the free health clinic system has taken a tremendous burden off of the state.

Northern Neck Food Bank

Ms. Julie Dudley, Executive Director, stated that the Northern Neck Food Bank provides distribution, logistics and storage to twenty-six pantries. She stated that they are serving 8,700 residents in six counties on a monthly basis. She explained the pantry system and stated that Mrs. Sue Donaldson, a pantry leader, was also in attendance.

Ms. Dudley stated that there are many school aged children that are on the free or reduced lunch program. She stated that she has been in touch with Steve Parker, Lancaster County Schools Superintendent and stated that there is a need for weekend feeding for many students in the County and she is asking for funds for the Backpack Buddy Program.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he was under the impression that Mr. Parker planned on making a separate presentation on this issue to the Board.

Ms. Dudley replied that she was not aware of that. She stated that she would be in touch with Mr. Parker.

Mr. Palin asked if some of the children were already covered by the food banks.

Ms. Dudley replied yes, but that the Backpack Buddy Program is run through the schools and they are selected according to need by the school system.

Mr. Palin asked Mrs. Donaldson about her experience with the backpack program.

Mrs. Donaldson replied that she was a volunteer with the program until they lost the funding. She stated that the food goes home with the students on Fridays and is supposed to cover breakfast and lunch on the weekends. She stated that the food is convenience food that the children can prepare themselves.

Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Brandon Dillistin, District Technical Manager, stated that his organization serves the four counties of the Northern Neck. He stated that they are asking for \$15,000 this year. He stated that within the package he handed out is their annual report and some other materials explaining what they do. He stated that their main project is the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program. He stated that they also assist with the bi-annual hazardous household waste collection in the County, perform educational programs for schools, perform water quality testing, answer erosion and sediment control questions, and many other things.

Mr. Palin asked what other localities gave to the organization.

Mr. Dillistin replied that Northumberland County gave \$15,000 and Richmond and Westmoreland Counties gave \$10,000 each last year.

Dreamfields Ball Park

Mr. Travis Pittman stated that last year was the first year that his organization had requested money from the Board. He stated that the regional championship for the high school was played at Dreamfields and they are maintaining their little league teams. He stated that they hosted a VCU camp and the Stars of Tomorrow Tournament as well. He stated that last year they renovated the bathrooms and renovated the Pony League field. He stated that many children use the ball park and it is very important to the community. He stated that they depend heavily on volunteers and their biggest challenges are the need for more restrooms and parking.

YMCA

Mr. Mark Favazza stated that he wanted to thank the Board for their continued support and he was asking for level funding for his organization.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Clay Holcomb, owner of the Chesapeake Boat Basin, stated that he wanted to give an update to the Board about the elimination of some of the boat tax. He stated that Custom Yachts said they had a nine percent increase in boat storage. He stated that Rappahannock Yachts reported fifty-one new boats to their yard this year and have added two full-time employees. He stated that Yankee Point Marina is also experiencing increases. He stated that he specializes in small boats, but has seen his first quarter slip rentals increase. He stated that he was pleasantly surprised to see the increases so fast.

Mr. George Bott, a District 1 citizen, referred to his hand-out and stated that he had listed the County assets, which were the school reversion and the 4 cent property tax increase. He stated that the 4 cent increase from last year was 2 cents too high. He referred to the listed liabilities and stated that the trial balance would be \$89,927. He stated that Lancaster has the money and Mr. Holcomb has shown that this kind of tax relief will increase jobs here as well as increase spending by boaters both directly and indirectly.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that Mr. Bott’s figure of \$188,897 for the school increase was not correct. He stated that he had been advised by Whitney Barrack, Director of Finance for Lancaster Public Schools that the figure was \$203,000.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to appoint Tom Richardson to serve on the Planning Commission.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

Mr. Lee stated that the Board needed to set a date for the next budget work session.

The consensus was that the next budget work session would be Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Palin to adjourn.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye