

**VIRGINIA:**

A FY 2016 Budget Work Session of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Monday, May 11, 2015.

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

Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator  
Don G. Gill, Planning/Land Use Director  
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

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

**BUDGET CONSIDERATION**

**Boat Tax**

Mr. Sonny Thomas, Commissioner of Revenue, stated that based on what he had heard, the Board will very likely do something concerning the boat tax and he had some thoughts on the matter.

Mr. Thomas stated that, according to the Code of Virginia, the tax cannot be completely eliminated and thus a rate will have to be set. He stated that Gloucester County set their rate with fourteen zeros and a one. He stated that Lancaster's computer system would not accept that many digits. He stated that Poquoson recently went to a zero boat tax and their computer system is similar to Lancaster's. He stated that items would still show on a tax bill. He stated that he was not sure what it would cost for a software upgrade, but he would find out from Bright. He stated that moving to a different tax rate would not create any less work for his department.

Mr. Thomas stated that there is a late filing penalty for the personal property forms and the code states that the penalty will be ten dollars or ten percent of the tax owed and that would have to be modified as well.

Mr. Thomas stated that he would need some guidance from the Board as soon as possible so the necessary changes can be made. He stated that his staff is already inputting personal property data for this year's tax bills. He stated that he would also like to have some guidance on what the Board wants to do about boat trailers and outboard motors.

Mr. Beauchamp asked what the bill would be on the most expensive vessels.

Mr. Thomas replied that the system would be multiplying zeros against the value of the boat, so the bill would be zero.

Mr. Jenkins asked if there was a way around the declaration of personal property form.

Mr. Thomas replied that the County could stop requiring that the form be completed. He stated that would also deny the County approximately eighty to ninety thousand dollars a year in late penalty fees. He further stated that to separate the boats as a separate class would require more software changes, if the Board wanted to go that route. He stated that he would ask Poquoson if Lancaster could "piggyback" on their software.

### **FY 2016 Budget Work Session**

Mr. Pleva stated that the revenue side of the budget shows the deletion of the boat tax. He stated that, as requested, major changes to the budget had been highlighted and they have included a year-to-date column to show what has already been spent.

Mr. Pleva referred to the sales and use taxes column and stated that figure is down and the County Treasurer stated that sales tax figures usually pick up in the spring and summer.

Mr. Pleva referred to the taxes on recordations and stated that number was down.

Mr. Pleva referred to page four and stated that the County was receiving some money from the Department of Forestry.

Mr. Pleva continued to go over the budget, category by category. He stated that a new category had been added for interest earned on bond proceeds with a balance of \$20,523 to date.

Mr. Pleva referred to the figure of \$488,600 for the revenue from local sources and stated that number would change and that will be reflected by the next work session.

Mr. Pleva referred to page twelve of the budget and stated that most of the increases shown in the County departments would be for salaries and fringe benefits. He stated that there was a twelve percent increase in the health insurance rates.

Mr. Bellows asked for clarification on the twelve percent increase.

Mr. Pleva replied that the County pays eighty percent of the individual employee policy to participate in the health plan and the rest is picked up by the individual.

Mr. Bellows stated that employees are already hurting from the insurance increases from last year. He stated that it doesn't make much sense to give the employees a 1.5 percent raise and then take it away with increased insurance premiums.

Mr. Pleva stated that if the Board wanted to change it, they would have to change the percentage that they pay.

Mr. Pleva stated that the minimum percentage that the Board can pay is eighty percent and that is what they are paying now and that is the group minimum requirement. He stated that an option could be to pay one hundred percent.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would like to have more information on the employee's health plan for the next work session.

Mr. Pleva referred to the mileage line item on page twelve for the Board of Supervisors and suggested increasing the proposed amount because of the past years' trends.

Mr. Pleva referred to page thirteen and the County Attorney line item and stated that was a subjective figure and it really depended upon how much litigation and contract work was going on.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would like to see a five-year trend on that line item.

Mr. Pleva made a few comments on the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer's department budgets.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Information Technology Services budget on page fifteen and stated that there were no significant changes.

Mr. Beauchamp asked if that budget contained any money for modernizing the County's website.

Mr. Pleva replied no, but that it could be added. He stated that the figure would depend on the extent of the work and whether or not the website would be "tweaked" or completely redone.

Mr. Bellows stated that the County's website is antiquated and, in his opinion, should be completely redone. He stated that he was certain there was a template that could be used that was exclusively for county governments. He stated that the website

should “sell” the County. He stated that people go to the website before they travel and the website should be inviting and make people want to come to the County.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would get a cost estimate for that work.

Mr. Pleva went over the Electoral Board, Registrar’s Office and the Courts’ budgets. He stated that he was going to get some more details on those budgets.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s budget and stated that the Board may want to have Robert Cunningham come before them to explain a proposed salary increase for the Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Mr. Bellows referred to page twenty and the Sheriff’s Office budget and stated that the dues and memberships line item was way off from what was budgeted and what was spent.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would find out about those figures and also the motor vehicle expense in the Sheriff’s budget.

Mr. Pleva referred to page twenty-one and the volunteer fire departments. He stated that the first figure represented the County’s donation to the three local departments and the second figure is the fire program money, which is state money that is channeled through the County for the departments.

Mr. Pleva referred to the volunteer rescue services and the mileage reimbursement figure on page twenty-one. He stated that figure is in and out money because the County charges mileage for the use of their vehicles when they are responding to EMS calls.

Mr. Jenkins referred to unpaid rescue bills and asked if the County still reimburses the mileage.

Mr. Pleva replied yes.

Mr. Beauchamp asked about the request for Med-Flight 1.

Mr. Pleva replied that everyone who made a request of the County was included in the budget, but the Board can decide which requests will be granted.

Mr. Pleva referred to the contributions to rescue squads line item and stated that showed an increase because the Kilmarnock Volunteer Rescue Squad had made a request this year since they have a building addition plan and want to do more training for their members to increase their response time.

Mr. Pleva referred to page twenty-two and the paid rescue services budget and suggested that Chief McGregor come before the Board to explain some items. He stated that he thought his budget was up around \$100,000.

Mr. Pleva went over the budget items for the jail, juvenile probation and detention, building inspections, animal control, refuse disposal and general properties.

Mr. Pleva referred to page twenty-eight and stated that the figure shown of \$209,647 was the local contribution to the state health department. He stated that an increase in salaries and retirement contributions is what is driving that increase.

Mr. Pleva referred to page twenty-eight and stated that the free health clinic has asked for more money this year. The consensus was that the contribution would remain at level funding.

Mr. Pleva reviewed other organizations that were asking for level funding, such as Bay Aging, Rappahannock Legal Services, The Haven Crisis Shelter and Virginia Quality Life.

Mr. Pleva referred to three organizations in bold print on page thirty and stated that those organizations were new this year and they were the Northern Neck Food Bank, The Healing Place of Hampton Roads and Versability. The consensus was that those contributions would be zero.

Mr. Pleva referred to page thirty-one and the Rappahannock Community College's request of \$13,700 and stated that they have lumped together an operational request with a portion for a capital request this year and that is why the figure has increased. He stated that he has heard mixed responses about the capital request from other localities.

Mr. Jenkins stated that they are trying to build their capital improvement fund.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that Lancaster County is fortunate to have the satellite location in Kilmarnock and many students from Lancaster County attend the community college.

Mr. Palin stated that he was in favor of approving the increase in funding to Rappahannock Community College this year.

Mr. Lee stated that he was not sure about a figure, but that he would like to see an increase over last year's funding to Rappahannock Community College.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Pleva to find out what other counties are planning on doing for Rappahannock Community College.

Mr. Pleva stated that Mr. Lee had asked him to find out what other localities do in the way of parks and recreation. He stated that he found out that the results are varied. He stated that his questions to other localities were, 1) did they have a parks and recreation department, 2) how much did they contribute to the YMCA, 3) how much did

they contribute to the Boys and Girls Club and 4) how much did they contribute to ball parks and other sports venues. He stated that the only county that he spoke with that has a parks and recreation department is Middlesex County and their budget is approximately \$52,000. He stated that no other county that he spoke with has a Boys and Girls Club organization besides Lancaster County. He stated that in reference to a YMCA contribution, every county he spoke with contributes some amount. He stated that those amounts were, Northumberland-\$50,000, Westmoreland-\$95,000, Middlesex-\$47,500 and Richmond County-\$25,000.

Mr. Pleva stated that Westmoreland County gives a \$6,000 contribution to the Little League and helps maintain those fields. He stated that Richmond County gives a \$15,000 contribution to the Little League annually. He stated that Middlesex County gives the sports complex a \$21,000 contribution each year and Northumberland County gives a \$1000 contribution to the Little League.

There was discussion about giving Dreamfields a \$10,000 contribution this year.

Mr. Pleva explained the information again on the lease revenue bonds and how the debt service was broken out between Chesapeake Bank and Bank of Lancaster.

Mr. Gill explained the Capital Improvement Budget. He stated that the Board of Supervisors approved the Capital Improvement Budget for FY15 in November of last year. He referred to page forty-one and stated that was the list for the schools' items. He referred to the \$735,000 amount to purchase and renovate the library, approved for FY 15 and stated that amount is embedded in the proposed FY 16 amount of \$1,100,000 because the Planning Commission thought that the purchase of the library would not be completed in the current fiscal year. He stated that the school bus replacement schedule is on a one bus, one year, two buses the next year rotation. He stated that the \$50,000 for the HVAC system at the middle school is the last phase of that project. He explained the rest of the projects for the schools.

Mr. Gill referred to page forty-two and stated that the \$85,000 in the approved FY 15 column for dispatch radio consoles has not been done and will be part of and included in the proposed emergency radio system replacement. He referred to the Sheriff's Office roof replacement and stated that is currently out to bid. He referred to the Administration Building renovations and stated that the \$15,000 in the proposed FY 16 column is for window replacement in the Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer's Office wing as well as the upstairs Extension Offices' windows. He stated that all of the supporting documentation is included in the budget books.

Mr. Gill referred to the \$59,150 amount for the Sheriff's Office server and stated that figure has been decreased from almost \$75,000, after further evaluation of all equipment.

Mr. Gill stated that approximately \$500,000 has already been allocated for public access sites and other recreational or cultural sites. He stated those expenses included the

purchase of the property across from the VDOT headquarters at Brookvale and the expense of the boat ramp at Windmill Point. He stated that some money will be reimbursed for the boat ramp from the DGIF grant.

Mr. Gill mentioned the Greentown/Gaskins Sewer Project, Emergency Radio System Replacement, Solid Waste Trailer, Maintenance Vehicle and the proposed EMS Building and the proposed figures associated with them.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would have more information at the next work session.

There was discussion that the Board would try to have another budget work session following the post retreat work session on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting to Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

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