

VIRGINIA:

A FY 14 Budget Work Session of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Thursday, May 23, 2013.

- Members Present: F. W. Jenkins, Jr., Chair
Jason D. Bellows, Vice Chair
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Board Member
William R. Lee, Board Member
B. Wally Beauchamp, Board Member
- Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

Mr. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Mr. Pleva stated that the public hearing for the proposed school budget is scheduled for later in the evening at 7:00 p.m. He stated that, by statute, the Board will have to wait seven days to adopt the budget. He stated that, typically, most counties wait to appropriate at the June meeting.

Mr. Pleva stated that in the Board members' mail, they should find some information from the Department of Education. He stated that information discusses a two percent increase for teachers and support personnel.

Mr. Lee asked what was the definition of support personnel.

Mr. Pleva replied that based on the information he had received, support personnel could mean anything from bus drivers to custodians to teachers' aides.

Mr. Pleva asked the Board members to look at the chart that is titled "Compensation Supplement" and stated that the chart discusses the fact that the two percent raise can be effective anytime between July 1, but no later than January 1. He stated that the Department of Education would need to know the information by June 15.

Mr. Pleva stated that at the last session the Board asked if the County has to come up with new money to match the raise. He stated that the answer is no.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he had been advised that Northumberland County has granted their school employees a three percent salary increase.

Mr. Pleva stated that there was also a salary increase in Richmond County.

Mr. Lee asked if that was across the board.

Mr. Beauchamp replied that it was his understanding that it was across the board. He further stated that if they do not do something, when it comes to starting salaries, the County will be even further behind.

Mr. Lee stated that retention of teachers is another big issue. He stated that he had a family member that made a decision to leave the Lancaster School System for Northumberland because of pay.

Mr. Jenkins stated that as a long term member of the Board, he has seen the County chase other counties' salaries before.

The Board decided to go through the budget summary sheet.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the increase on the Board of Supervisors line item.

Mr. Pleva replied that shows a proposed \$25 increase towards the health insurance contribution.

Mr. Jenkins referred to an \$800 increase in machinery and equipment on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations line item.

Mr. Pleva stated that he thought it may be a service contract, but will check into it.

Mr. Jenkins stated that they would remove the figure until they know what it is.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the \$2000 increase on the Court Appointed Special Advocates line item.

Mr. Bellows stated that it was his understanding that Lancaster County's percentage of use of the services had increased.

Mr. Pleva stated that he had found the memorandum concerning the Juvenile and Domestic Court's request for \$800. He stated that it was a request for purchase of a shredder to bring them up to code for destroying confidential information.

Mr. Jenkins asked if there was a difference between the Circuit Court's shredder and the request from the Juvenile and Domestic Court. He stated that he did not think there was a need for two of the same shredder in the building.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would check on that.

Mr. Lee stated that he had found the document from CASA that stated that Lancaster's use was above the surrounding counties, with forty-one percent of the services for Lancaster children.

Mr. Palin stated that it sounded justifiable to him and the rest of the Board agreed.

Mr. Beauchamp referred to the telephone expense request from the Commonwealth's Attorney's office and asked if the County had a contract for cell phone service that those employees could use.

Mr. Bellows asked would it be cheaper to pay fifty percent of their personal bill or to add other phones to an existing plan.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would check into that.

Mr. Beauchamp and Mr. Lee stated that they also had a problem with the other request from the Commonwealth's Attorney for a \$5000 raise at one time for an employee.

It was determined to take everything out of the Commonwealth's Attorney's line until more information was gathered.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he had spoken to the Sheriff after he had presented his request to the Board and he stated that he had overlooked a \$50,000 grant for which he has made application.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that Sheriff Crockett will know about the grant status by the second week in June.

Mr. Jenkins stated that, in light of recent happenings, he would tend to support a school resource officer. He stated that he didn't think he would favor both funding a school resource officer and maintaining the position of dean of students.

Mr. Palin stated that the positions are two different things. He stated that the law enforcement could not really handle the day to day discipline of students.

Mr. Lee stated that he saw it as two distinctly different things. He stated that he saw the dean of students as a prevention and a school resource officer as an after-the-fact measure.

Mr. Lee stated that he could not find supporting documentation for the Sheriff's Office's requests.

Mr. Pleva stated that there was a separate memo for the three requested positions.

Mr. Bellows found the supporting documentation that stated the request was for two dispatchers at a salary of \$25, 723 each with uniform costs and a total of \$112,946.

Mr. Jenkins asked if two dispatcher positions were needed at one time.

Mr. Beauchamp suggested one dispatcher now and if the Sheriff needed another one, he could come back next year.

Everyone agreed by consensus with one dispatcher.

Mr. Beauchamp asked how they wanted to handle the possibility of a grant for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Lee suggested that they move ahead as if there were to be no grant.

Everyone on the Board agreed.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Pleva to find out about the uniform expense of \$3000 and asked that it be taken off until they have an answer.

Mr. Jenkins asked how much had the volunteer fire departments requested.

Mr. Beauchamp replied \$38,000.

Mr. Beauchamp asked about the possibility of the state eventually changing their support to include fire departments that are not located in incorporated towns as in the case of the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Pleva stated that it would probably take some legislative language change, but that the county administrators meet with Delegate Ransone periodically and he would mention it.

Mr. Bellows stated that he supported the fire department's requests and that they do a great job for the community.

Mr. Palin asked what was done last year for the fire departments.

Mr. Bellows replied that according to the documentation, the fire departments have not had an increase in contributions in six years.

Mr. Palin stated that they are asking for a \$10,000 increase for the Kilmarnock and White Stone Departments and an \$18,000 increase for Upper Lancaster.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he would be more supportive of a \$5000 to \$8000 increase with all departments getting the same amount.

There was some discussion concerning a cost of living increase for the local fire departments each year.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he would be in support of a cost of living increase for the fire departments.

It was discussed that there would be an \$8000 increase for all three fire departments this year and a 2 percent cost of living increase starting next year.

Mr. Jenkins suggested level funding for the Juvenile Probation and Detention line item and the Electronic Monitoring line item until more information has been gathered. He stated that in the case of the Juvenile Probation and Detention item, there may be a reduction once the figures have been explained.

On the matter of the Free Health Clinic's request, Mr. Beauchamp stated that they make every effort to base their request on the usage of the county's citizens.

Mr. Palin stated that because of the state of the economy, there has been increased usage and he would be inclined to grant the Health Clinic's request for an increase.

Mr. Jenkins suggested that the increased contribution be \$4000 to the Free Health Clinic.

Everyone on the Board agreed.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he had someone ask him what was the Virginia Quality of Life organization and why was the County still funding it. He stated that he knew that they were instrumental in getting the Free Health Clinic in the area.

Mr. Pleva stated that he was not sure.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that the organization helped to raise funding for the health clinic and that Mr. Doug Monroe was a major asset in that venture.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he would like to know how the money is being used.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that Mr. Tom Richardson had asked if he should come to the budget request meeting and was told that if he was not asking for an increase in funding that he did not need to attend.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he would ask Mr. Richardson to write a letter on behalf of Virginia Quality of Life and submit it to the Board.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he thought the Boys and Girls Club did an outstanding job, but would like to know where the additional funds would be going. He stated that he had asked Mr. Mumford to bring documentation with him and was not satisfied with his responses. He further stated that it is taxpayer's money and the Board should hear more of a response than just that they want to expand their program.

It was decided on level funding for the Boys and Girls Club at that time.

Mr. Jenkins referred to the Rappahannock Community College's request for funding for their capital improvement projects. He stated that it is important to support the community college, especially for those who could not afford to take the next step after high school.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that the college's Kilmarnock facility has been a success.

Mr. Palin and Mr. Lee stated that they would support the college's request.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he was in support, but to keep in mind that they may have to go back and reconsider requests at the end of the budget process.

The next request was from the community library.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that every year, he was more and more impressed by what the library is doing for the community. He stated that he has seen citizens lined up to use the computers, because many people have no other access. He stated that many people are using the computers to fill out job applications.

The next item was the soil and water conservation district's request and it was decided to keep it at level funding.

Mr. Bellows asked about the Honeywell energy contract for the school.

Mr. Pleva replied that there should be a report from Honeywell in July.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he would like to suggest an increase to the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce to show that the County is behind their efforts for economic development. He stated that they might take it out later, if need be, and it was decided by the Board to increase their contribution to \$500.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the Board would need to know where they stand on a potential surplus at year-end. He stated that would help in the Board's budget decisions.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would get that information to the Board.

Mr. Bellows asked for an updated budget summary.

Mr. Jenkins requested that he would like to have information on what a taxpayer would have to pay for a potential salary increase.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would get that information as well.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Pleva asked the Board if they had reviewed the request from the Electoral Board.

Mr. Bellows asked if that was for the electronic voting machines at each precinct.

Mr. Pleva replied yes and they were getting a special deal on seven voting machines with a remaining balance of approximately \$1355 after reimbursement.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the electoral board had done their research on the machines.

Mr. Pleva stated that the standards for voting equipment have changed quite a bit in recent years.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to authorize the approval of the purchase of the voting machines.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he would like to nominate two citizens to the Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership. He stated that they were Mr. Jimmie Carter and Mr. Paul Sciacchitano.

