

VIRGINIA:

A FY 20 Budget Work Session of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

- Members Present: Jason D. Bellows, Chair
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair
Jack D. Larson, Board Member
William R. Lee, Board Member
Robert S. Westbrook, Board Member
- Staff Present: Don G. Gill, County Administrator
Crystal Whay, Clerk to the Board and
Building/Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Bellows led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Proposed FY 20 County Budget

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to start the discussion.

Mr. Gill stated that the proposed budget was built on the same tax revenues from last year, which translates to an equalized tax rate of 57 cents. He stated that, if taxes were raised, a penny would currently generate \$267,079. He stated that the current tax rate for real estate is 59 cents.

Mr. Gill referred to the current requests and stated that if every request was funded, they would be \$401,176 short of the seven percent fund balance requirement.

Mr. Gill referred to General Government-11010-Board of Supervisors and stated that he had recently suggested that the mileage and education/conference figures be increased, but had learned that some of the members are not going to be attending as many functions this coming fiscal year. He suggested they leave those figures as they are and if they needed to do a supplemental appropriation at a later date, then they would.

Mr. Palin stated that he thought they should leave the figures as they are.

Mr. Larson referred to the medical insurance expense and asked if that amount was for one person.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Bellows asked what was the percentage of increase for proposed raises.

Mr. Gill replied three percent. He stated that the state is giving all constitutional officers and their staff a three percent raise effective July 1st. He stated that he had told the Board earlier in the year that every office except for the Circuit Court Clerk had both state and county employees. He stated that the increase is shown for everyone except the County Administrator, who is governed by his contract.

Mr. Gill referred to the County Attorney-12210 account and stated that he had decreased that amount based on actual figures.

Mr. Lee asked if that account was still tracking that way.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Dr. Westbrook asked about the figures for the BAI software support that each department had.

Mr. Gill replied that was for the AS400 system that the Treasurer's office, the Commissioner of Revenue's office and the Building and Zoning Department use.

Mr. Lee stated that it seemed like a lot of money for the support of the Bright system.

Mr. Gill stated that the AS400 system has been used for many years and he believed that Glenn Rowe, the Information Technology Supervisor, was satisfied with the system.

Mr. Larson stated that when the County first purchased the Bright system software, there was not anything else like it and it was made for localities and their needs. He stated that it does cost quite a bit of money and perhaps it was time to look around for options.

Dr. Westbrook stated that his concern was for the thousands of dollars that are going to support.

Mr. Larson stated that the costs are for upgrades and modifications to the software.

Mr. Bellows stated that all of the computer systems have licensing fees.

Mr. Gill stated that he would ask Mr. Rowe to look into some of the other systems.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the Information Technology Services account and stated that they had talked about improving the County's website and he did not see any money allocated for that purpose. He stated that Mr. Rowe does a good job, but he thought that they might need some fresh eyes to improve the website and make it more attractive for someone who might want to visit, live here or start a business here. He stated that he would like to see something budgeted for website design.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would be in favor of that as well.

After some discussion, the majority of the Board decided to budget \$10,000 for website design for the County's website.

Mr. Larson referred to the Electoral Board-13100 and the compensation for election officials and stated that \$22,050 is being requested for FY 20 and the actual amount for FY 18 was \$12,628. He asked about a justification for the difference. He stated that the line item for election expenses was up as well.

Mr. Gill stated that the General Registrar, Mrs. Jett, has said that this fiscal cycle has the possibility of having four elections, so those numbers are based on more elections.

Mr. Larson stated that, in FY 18 the total for the Electoral Board account was \$46,504 and the requested amount for FY 20 is \$75,642. He stated that was a big jump and he was not sure if it was justified.

Mr. Lee stated that it was a big jump, but they were comparing it to a year where they did not have four elections.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he trusted the department, so therefore he trusted the figures.

Mr. Palin stated that he thought the General Registrar had done a good job and would do her best to keep costs down.

Mr. Larson asked if the majority of the Board felt that these figures were fine.

The majority of the Board said that they did.

Mr. Gill referred to the Registrar-13200 account and stated that the Electoral Board has asked for a \$15,000 increase for Mrs. Jett's salary. He stated that Mrs. Jett gave him additional documentation from the state Registrar's office that says Registrars will be receiving an additional three percent raise effective July 1st. He stated that would

mean a six percent increase for her salary. He stated that the General Assembly has commissioned a study to be done during the upcoming fiscal year to try to bring Registrars in line with other constitutional officers.

The majority of the Board agreed with having the Registrar's salary increased by the six percent and waiting to see what the General Assembly study had to say.

Mr. Gill referred to the Clerk of the Circuit Court account-21600 and stated that Dr. Westbrook had mentioned that some of those numbers have been carried over from year to year.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought there should be better descriptions of how the money is being used.

Mr. Gill stated that he believed that one of the items that Dr. Westbrook was referencing was a storage unit cost that was put under the furniture line item.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he did not doubt that the money was well spent, he would just like the items to be more accurately described.

Mr. Gill referred to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) account-21800 and stated that they were requesting \$5,000.

Mr. Larson stated that CASA was a non-governmental organization. He asked Dr. Westbrook if they were going to pursue his idea with respect to the NGOs.

Mr. Lee asked what was that idea.

Mr. Larson replied that the idea was to reduce the NGOs that have the ability to raise their own funds, by ten percent for five years.

Mr. Lee stated that he would not be on board with that idea.

Mr. Palin stated that he was not in favor of that idea either.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was not in favor either.

Dr. Westbrook stated that \$5,000 did not seem like a lot of money when they are talking about an organization that helps children. He stated that he had said what he said, but some specifics needed to be considered.

Mr. Larson stated that he was just asking, because Dr. Westbrook had raised the issue and he told Dr. Westbrook that he would support his idea.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he did not want to cut CASA funding. He stated that what he has tried to argue for is a general policy that the Board could follow for the

NGOs. He stated that the closest they have gotten to it was the strategic plan for what is important to the Board to fund. He stated that he would like to have open discussions with the public about how they want their money spent.

Mr. Lee stated that about three months ago at a meeting, he thought he was opening the door for discussion when he said, at the current level, they were only spending 1.3 percent of the County's budget on the NGOs. He stated that he thought some of the Board members thought he was saying that he wanted to give the NGOS an increase every year, but that was not what he was saying. He stated that he was suggesting a ceiling and nothing else.

Mr. Bellows suggested that they set aside a certain percentage after they have gone through the budget.

Mr. Lee stated that this would also not include the fire departments or volunteer rescue squads.

Mr. Larson stated that he wanted his fellow Board members to know that he was objecting to these kinds of things. He stated that the Executive Director of CASA is a friend of his and for many years, CASA did not submit a request to the County. He stated that, even though the director is a friend and a neighbor, he thinks they should be hardnosed about these things.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they want CASA to be successful and those children needed someone to stand up for them.

Mr. Larson stated that the people who help the children and get them their legal help are all volunteers. He stated that the money being requested was for administrative costs.

The majority of the Board was in favor of granting the CASA request.

Mr. Gill referred to the Commonwealth's Attorney account-22100 and stated that he was looking for the Board's input. He stated that the Commonwealth Attorney has requested a \$12,600 raise for one of his employees and asked how the Board wanted to handle the request.

Mr. Larson suggested that the request not be granted.

Mr. Lee asked if this employee would be receiving the three percent increase.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Bellows stated that he did not agree with the request because it would be setting a precedent.

The consensus of the Board was to deny that additional request.

Mr. Gill referred to the Public Safety section and the Sheriff's Department and stated that he had given the Board members a hand-out that discussed that the Sheriff has achieved all of the certifications that he is required to achieve under the Sheriff's Career Development Program. He stated that when this happens, the Compensation Board gives a 9.3 percent increase in salary to that constitutional officer. He stated that, however, the Compensation Board does not currently have the funding for the increase. He stated that Sheriff McCranie has asked if the Board would consider funding the 9.3 percent raise for FY 20. He stated that the Sheriff is confident that the Compensation Board will have funding in FY 21 due to attrition. He stated that this is not in the budget books and the additional amount would be \$7,422.60.

Mr. Larson stated that, in his opinion, it was an issue between the Sheriff and the Compensation Board.

Mr. Bellows agreed.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he did not agree. He stated that the Sheriff is doing an outstanding job and he does not like it any more than anyone else when the state tells them they should fund things. He stated that the Sheriff did all of the things necessary for the accreditation and he thought he should receive the increase.

Mr. Lee stated that the state is not telling the County to give this money, they are just saying they don't have it right now.

Mr. Larson stated that maybe they should ask the state why they don't have the money. He stated that the state is generating a significant surplus where the County is generating a deficit.

Mr. Bellows stated that the Sheriff is doing a great job, but he thought this issue was with the General Assembly and not the Board of Supervisors. He stated that Sheriff McCranie should take this issue to his state representatives, such as Delegate Margaret Ransone.

Dr. Westbrook stated that the Sheriff provides a service to this County and if this County won't compensate him to the level that he deserves, then that is on them. He stated that he hoped that the elected representatives such as Margaret Ransone would fight for him, but the fact of the matter is that Sheriff McCranie is doing an excellent job for Lancaster County and should be paid accordingly.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill if Sheriff McCranie's salary is paid by the state one hundred percent.

Mr. Gill replied no and stated that the County's portion is around \$15,000 and the Compensation Board funds the rest.

Mr. Palin stated that he thought Sheriff McCranie's salary increase would be included in the Compensation Board's next budget cycle.

Mr. Bellows stated that was what Sheriff McCranie thought.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they spend money on non-governmental organizations that can raise their own funds when the purpose of government is to provide services and functions to the people of the community and number one on that list is public safety.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought Sheriff McCranie should have the increase, but the issue is with the Compensation Board.

Mr. Palin agreed.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to see Sheriff McCranie receive the increase, but he agreed that the issue is with the Compensation Board.

Mr. Palin stated that Mr. Gill can let Sheriff McCranie know that the Board thinks he is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Bellows stated that the Board, on Sheriff McCranie's behalf, would be happy to do something such as a resolution to put pressure on the Compensation Board to help with the funding. The rest of the Board agreed.

Mr. Gill stated that he would pass that on to the Sheriff.

Mr. Gill referred to the Volunteer Fire Departments account-32200 and stated that he had sent their funding request letter to all of the Board members. He stated that, after the work session with the Board, the departments got together and came up with their funding request for the County. He stated that each department is requesting \$100,000, but additionally give the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department the extra state fire program payment because they do not have any incorporated towns in their jurisdiction. He stated that the total works out to be \$310,000 for the three departments.

It was the consensus of the Board to support the volunteer fire departments' request.

Mr. Gill referred to the Paid Rescue Services account-32301 and stated that Chief Smith had created a revised pay scale that was included in the Board's budget books. He stated that the pay scale is more than the proposed three percent increase and is based on years of service and experience. He stated that Chief Smith's crew is very receptive to the proposed new pay scale and enables Lancaster County to be competitive with salaries of other nearby localities. He stated that they still fall a little short with health insurance.

The consensus of the Board was to support Chief Smith's budget with the new pay scale.

Mr. Gill referred to the Refuse Disposal account-42400 and stated that Supervisor Brown spoke to the Board about his budget earlier in the year. He stated that when the economy is good, more trash is generated and that increases the expense with Waste Management. He stated that they had discussed the uniform rentals for the refuse site employees and there is an existing contract that they are looking into. He stated that, as the FY 20 budget is executed, they can get out of that contract and purchase uniforms for those employees at a cheaper price. He stated that, last year, they adjusted the part-time salaries for this department to reflect years of service and brought those figures in line.

Mr. Larson referred to the line item-Brush/Waste Wood Removal and asked if that was the annual contract.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Larson asked why was more money being put into the account than what was budgeted. He stated that the contract amount used to be \$144,000.

Mr. Gill replied that the contract amount is still \$144,000, but a caveat in that contract is that whenever there is a disaster, the wood yard gets paid more for extra tonnage. He stated that, during the storms Michael and Florence last fall, there was extra tree debris brought in. He stated that Chief Smith has submitted the documentation and FEMA has approved a seventy percent reimbursement for disaster costs.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the General Properties account-43200 and the line item for vehicle supplies and asked for clarification on the amounts.

Mr. Gill replied that the County bought a trailer to haul the tractor that was purchased through the Capital Improvement Budget last year and that \$9,000 expense is reflected in the \$10,500 figure for FY 19. He stated that the \$5,000 figure was for a truck cap for the Building Official's truck because he wants to equip the truck with tools. He stated that the Building Official is also the County's Maintenance Supervisor and needs to use specialized tools from time to time.

Mr. Gill referred to the Free Health Clinic and stated that they had asked for a \$35,809 increase in their funding for FY 20.

Mr. Larson moved that the increase not be considered and that the Board consider reducing their amount by ten percent. He stated that, according to their financial statements, the Free Health Clinic is doing very well. He stated that he had a problem when they say they provide a certain dollar value for services to 613 residents and it comes out to almost \$10,000 per person on average.

Mr. Palin stated that he was in favor of level funding for the Free Health Clinic.

Mr. Bellows and Mr. Lee agreed.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, just to be clear, before they get into the rest of the budget, he wanted to know if there was any support for cutting the non-governmental organizations' requests.

Mr. Larson stated that he supported cuts for the NGOs.

Dr. Westbrook stated that there was no other support for it.

The majority of the Board opted to level fund the Free Health Clinic.

Mr. Gill referred to Bay Aging and stated that they have requested a \$10,651 increase for FY 20.

Dr. Westbrook stated that Bay Aging's funding was cut last year.

Mr. Gill stated that the Board restored the funding for Bay Transit, but not Bay Aging last year.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they take people to Warsaw for dialysis, which is important to note.

Mr. Lee stated that he had a note that Bay Aging had been level funded for eight years.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought that was correct, but he would have to research it.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought the request should be granted.

Mr. Bellows agreed.

The majority of the Board was in favor of granting Bay Aging's request of \$60,000 and Bay Transit's request of \$15,600.

Mr. Gill referred to Legal Aid Works and stated that they have requested \$5,600, but last year they were not funded.

Mr. Lee stated that the Director of Legal Aid Works had said that they represented sixty-nine residents of Lancaster County last year.

Mr. Larson stated that they do a good job raising money on their own.

The consensus of the Board was to strike the Legal Aid Works request for funding.

Mr. Gill referred to The Haven Crisis Shelter and stated that they had requested a \$1,000 increase this time.

The majority of the Board favored level funding for The Haven for FY 20.

Mr. Gill referred to the Comprehensive Services Act account-53504 and stated that he thought \$600,000 was a good estimate for budgeting. He stated that, last year they were under \$600,000, but this year they would be over it. He stated that he would be bringing a supplemental appropriation request to the Board at its next regular meeting.

Mr. Bellows stated that there was a lot of discussion on this subject at the General Assembly.

Mr. Gill referred to the Boys and Girls Club and stated that they were requesting \$35,000 for FY 20. He stated that last year, the Board trimmed their request from \$55,000 to \$35,000 and that is what they were requesting this time.

The majority of the Board was in favor of level funding the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Gill referred to the Healthy Harvest Food Bank's request and asked what the Board would like to do about this one.

Mr. Larson stated that he would like to strike the request.

Mr. Gill stated that this had not been funded last year or the year before.

The majority of the Board decided not to fund the Healthy Harvest Food Bank's request.

Mr. Gill referred to Rappahannock Community College's request and stated that they were requesting a small increase of \$145 in their request for a total of \$7,387.

The majority of the Board decided to fund the request.

Mr. Gill referred to the YMCA's request of \$50,000 and stated that it was a level funding request. He stated that the Board cut the request last year from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

The majority of the Board decided to fund the request.

Mr. Gill referred to the Mary Ball Museum's request of \$4,400 and stated that they take care of historic County buildings.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they do very little in the way of fundraising, in his opinion. He stated that he had requested that the museum staff identify the portraits in the meeting room.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought that was on the museum's to-do list.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought their request should be cut in half.

Mr. Larson agreed.

The majority of the Board decided to level fund the Mary Ball Museum and Library.

Mr. Gill stated that the next one was the Community Library's request of \$122,995.

Mr. Larson stated that he had received an email from a friend urging the Board to provide support for the library, so he called the person to find out how the issue was raised. He stated that the person's daughter, from Chicago, had encouraged her to reach out to her supervisor to get funding for the library. He stated that he found the library's Facebook page and there was a post to encourage people to ask their supervisors to provide funding for the library, but nothing was mentioned about the requested increase being the issue. He stated that he found it to be disturbing.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had received a letter from a citizen that said that the citizen found it difficult to fathom why he would want to reduce or eliminate funding for the Lancaster Community Library. He stated that was not what the Board had ever talked about.

Mr. Gill stated that the library has asked for an increase of \$10,000 for each of the next five years and that would bring the County up to the level to comply with state code requirements. He stated that he had met with Alice Cooper, the Lancaster Community Library's librarian, and they had discussed that the library would not spend more than 4.5 percent out of the endowment each year. He stated that Ms. Cooper pointed out, that out of the 94 community libraries in Virginia counties, Lancaster is last in local funding.

Mr. Lee stated that he had seen documents supporting that.

Mr. Larson stated that, after looking at the library's financial statements, they have been increasing their net assets over the last several years. He stated that it also bothers him that the Town of Kilmarnock does not support the library.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought there was a misrepresentation of what the Virginia Library Board was requiring. He stated that the Virginia Library Board said, to meet their formula, the local library had to have either an increase in its endowment or an increase from the locality. He stated that Ms. Cooper's letter said that it had to be both

things. He stated that they have an option of increasing their endowment. He stated that the most he would agree with for the library is level funding and that gives him heartburn.

Mr. Bellows stated that there was no legal way that this Board could allocate future money that a new Board could change.

Mr. Larson stated that the library is dropping the issue on the County and expecting the County to take care of their problem. He stated that, if the letter is signed, that is what is going to happen. He stated that the library is not going to do anymore than it is already doing and they are not going to put any more pressure on the Town of Kilmarnock for funding.

Mr. Lee stated that the library is increasing its contributions.

Mr. Gill stated that the letter that the library wanted him to sign read that the library needed incremental increases of \$19,335 per year for the next five years. He stated that the library was asking that \$10,000 of that amount come from the County and the other \$9,335 would come from the library's endowment. He stated that Ms. Cooper told him that the library has asked the Town of Kilmarnock for \$5,000, but he did not believe a decision had been made on that request.

Mr. Bellows stated that, if the County had to fund a library totally out of public funds, it would be much more expensive than this.

Dr. Westbrook stated that it was a private library and the County had made no commitment to having it here. He stated that he was glad that the library is here and he thought that they did a wonderful job, but he did not think it should be up to the County to increase the funding each year because of an artificial formula from the Virginia Library Board.

Mr. Palin stated that he was in favor of level funding.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to see the library receive the additional \$10,000.

The majority of the Board favored level funding for the Lancaster Community Library.

Mr. Bellows referred to the Youth Club of Lancaster County and stated that their request was the best deal in the budget book.

Mr. Lee stated that, if the County had to build a field on the same level as Dreamfields, it would be very expensive. He agreed with Mr. Bellows that the request was a very good deal.

The majority of the Board supported level funding for the Northern Neck/Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership and the Rappahannock River Basin Commission.

Mr. Gill referred to the Department of Housing and the Indoor Plumbing Program and stated that there were discussions about doing away with the Indoor Plumbing category and from an accounting standpoint, they have. He stated that he had moved the \$16,000 figure from Indoor Plumbing to the Department of Housing. He stated that the Housing Director has asked that this be continued. He stated that they are now collecting an administrative fee, which will yield about \$10,000 each year.

Mr. Larson stated that he did not support this and they still have not solved the problem with the \$6,000. He asked how the money would be dispersed.

Mr. Gill replied through payroll.

Mr. Larson asked if a time sheet was submitted.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Larson stated that he still had issues with the way this was done in the first place. He stated that he had looked at the workload here and it is not justified. He stated that the last payment made, in regards to the Indoor Plumbing Program, was made in 2013. He stated that, under the guidelines of the Indoor Plumbing Program, that payment should have been processed immediately and the program discontinued. He stated that he did not see the value of the part-time employee and how it is differentiated from their responsibilities with Bay Aging. He stated that the County already contributes to Bay Aging. He stated that it should not be done, in his opinion.

Mr. Palin stated that he supported it and stated that he thought the part-time employee was valuable and helps people in the County. He stated that when the Housing Director spoke to the Board about her workload, he thought that she had all she could handle and what she is doing is worthwhile.

Mr. Larson stated that there was a time when one person was handling the Greentown-Gaskins project, Indoor Plumbing, flood elevations and the Section 8 Program.

Mr. Palin stated that his understanding was that person was not doing an efficient job.

Mr. Larson agreed, but stated that other employees don't have a part-time person on the payroll to "help break the ice" with citizens.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was in support of the Department of Housing's budget.

Mr. Lee asked if the part-time employee is also employed with Bay Aging.

Mr. Gill replied that he is a part-time employee with Bay Aging. He stated that the number of homes that were built in Lancaster County far exceeds the other counties combined.

Mr. Larson stated that those homes are supposed to be over and done with. He stated that the real work associated with those homes was when they were being built. He stated that they were paying someone to send form letters for about twenty homes, in which people were still making payments.

Mr. Lee asked if the part-time person wrote those letters.

Mr. Gill replied no.

Mr. Larson asked how long were they going to have that part-time employee.

Mr. Gill replied that program income was expected to be generated for another three years. He stated that the program income has to be spent in Lancaster County.

Mr. Larson stated that he wanted the deceased and delinquent properties cleaned up.

Mr. Gill stated that they have released three deeds of trust since January that have been satisfied.

The majority of the Board favored the requested funding for the Department of Housing.

Mr. Larson stated that it was a mistake and he felt very strongly about it.

Mr. Gill referred to the Planning District Commission and stated that they were requesting level funding.

Mr. Larson referred to the Planning District Commission's financial statement and stated that they were adding to their net worth because their revenues are exceeding their expenditures each year. He stated that they have talked about having an Economic Development Director and he would continue to push for the PDC to put some effort into that initiative and possibly adding a person to their staff.

The majority of the Board favored level funding for the Planning District Commission.

Mr. Gill stated that the next request was a new one from the Broadband Authority. He stated that he did not know of any bigger economic development driver for Lancaster County than widespread broadband and his recommendation would be for the Board to

consider funding the Broadband Authority's request out of the Poorhouse Tract Fund. He stated that, several years ago when the Poorhouse Tract was sold, a separate fund, outside of the general fund, was earmarked for economic development.

Mr. Bellows agreed.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they will only spend what they need.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was in support of using the Poorhouse Tract Fund for the Broadband Authority's request.

Mr. Palin and Mr. Lee agreed.

The majority of the Board favored granting the Broadband Authority's request.

Mr. Gill referred to the Soil and Water Conservation District and stated that they had asked for an increase of \$5,000 this year.

The majority of the Board favored level funding for the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Gill referred to the River Realm Branding and stated that they had asked for \$25,000 this year, which was the same amount as last year.

Mr. Larson stated that he would like to see them taken back to what was actually spent in FY 18, which was \$18,750.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought they should grant the \$25,000 request. He stated that he thought they were getting a lot from the branding initiative.

The majority of the Board favored granting the River Realm Branding request of \$25,000.

Mr. Gill stated that he was not sure why FY 18 was showing \$18,750 as the actual figure. He stated that the River Realm Branding money is dispersed as a quarterly payment and he would check to see if there was an error with the FY 18 figure.

Mr. Larson referred to the documentation provided for River Realm Branding and stated that the way the money is spent is not included, but rather what they claim they have accomplished.

Mr. Bellows stated that it was hard to put an actual measurement on something when it comes to advertising.

Mr. Gill asked the Board if they wanted to consider this item being funded from the Poorhouse Tract Fund.

Mr. Palin replied no.

Mr. Lee stated that it might be stretching the definition.

Dr. Westbrook stated that the purpose of the Poorhouse Tract Fund was for economic development.

Mr. Gill stated that he was thinking about the seven percent threshold requirement on the general fund.

Mr. Palin stated that he did not want to start chipping away at the Poorhouse Tract Fund because they might really need it when it comes to county-wide broadband service.

Dr. Westbrook referred to county-owned land and stated that they had talked about the possibility of selling some of that land. He stated that they have not made a decision to get the properties appraised, but it is a reserve that is sitting there and they should look into doing something with it.

Mr. Bellows agreed and asked Mr. Gill to start working on that. He stated that the money received from the parcels sold could go into the Poorhouse Tract Fund. There was a consensus of the Board to move forward with that.

Mr. Gill asked what was the decision on taking the money from the Poorhouse Tract Fund to pay for the River Realm Branding request.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was in favor of leaving it in the general fund budget.

Mr. Palin and Mr. Lee agreed.

The majority of the Board decided to leave the River Realm Branding request in the general fund budget.

Mr. Gill referred to the Capital Improvement Budget and stated that he had provided the Board members with another book just for the requested capital items. He stated that the large school capital items, such as new school expenses have been pushed out beyond FY 20 because of the unknowns.

Mr. Bellows stated that he did not think the new schools capital item would be approved all in one year.

Mr. Gill agreed and stated that it would probably be spread out over three years or so, unless the County goes with the USDA.

Mr. Gill stated that the School Board reconvened the School Facilities Committee and that committee will make a recommendation to the School Board that will be less

than \$80 million dollars. He stated that he thought the recommendation would be that the expense not exceed \$70 million dollars. He stated that would be for a new junior and senior high school on the new parcel with an auditorium. He stated that they have reduced the amount of square footage per pupil. He stated that the figure also includes a minimal renovation at the middle school. He stated that it was not an unanimous vote and some of the members could not make the meeting.

Mr. Gill stated that the County requests for the Capital Improvement Budget includes painting the steeple on the Administrative Building, the Sheriff's Office voice recorder, renovations at the Social Services Building, another vehicle for the Sheriff's Office and replacement of an HVAC unit for the jail.

Dr. Westbrook asked about the status of having the EMS Department in the same location as the courthouse buildings.

Mr. Gill replied that the Sheriff had an item in the Capital Improvement Budget for expanding his office, so that everyone in that department was under one roof. He stated that would create space in the old district courtroom for the EMS Department. He stated that there was also discussion about having the Registrar's office move to the old jail in the Administrative Building. He stated that, given the uncertainty with the early voting law, they have found that the old jail would not have sufficient space. He stated that the Planning Commission also pushed that item out to FY 21 because of the unknowns. He stated that he thought the reasoning was if schools come in whatever shape or form, there would be at least one vacant school building and perhaps some County departments could move there.

Mr. Gill stated that, last year, the Board took the Capital Improvement Budget out of the Operating Budget and approved the Operating Budget first and then later, the Board approved the Capital Improvement Budget. He stated that the Board could do that again this year, but he thought that the items that could be the most contentious have been moved to outer years. He stated that the total for projects proposed for FY 20 was \$521,000.00. He stated that funds would have to be borrowed to cover that amount.

Mr. Gill discussed advertising requirements for the budget and tax rates.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the public hearing on the budget on Thursday, June 13th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bellows made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye

Jack D. Larson	Aye
William R. Lee	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye