

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 Wednesday, May 15, 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
Don G. Gill, Planning/Land Use Director
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

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

BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Social Services

Mrs. Edna Davenport, Director and Mr. Charles Lee, a Social Services Board Member were present to represent the Department of Social Services.

Mrs. Davenport stated that the Department of Social Services was undergoing modernization and is now taking applications online. She stated that the state has requested that they have a terminal in their lobby, which is not being used much yet.

Mrs. Davenport stated that their budget request includes a 3.8 percent increase in local funding with a 2.6 percent increase overall. She stated that one of the factors that influenced the department's request was personnel expenses. She stated that they would like to have more funding for a CSA coordinator position. She stated that this position is critical and they want to be prepared for the County's audit. She further stated that it would be a part-time position.

Mrs. Davenport stated that the department has lost three workers within the last years. She stated that their starting salary will not permit workers to live in workforce housing and the employees are having to take outside employment to make ends meet. She stated that neighboring agencies' starting salaries are approximately \$4,000 more per year. She stated that they have requested that the state do a salary study.

Mrs. Davenport stated that, in the last fiscal year, the Social Services Department generated over 16 million dollars that came into the county that recipients used locally.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the salaries are determined by the Richmond headquarters, how did the other localities' salaries get out of line with Lancaster.

Mrs. Davenport replied that the state has a salary range and range revisions are done. She stated that another factor is that last year, some localities made up for the VRS increase and some did not.

Mr. Lee asked about the lobby terminal.

Mrs. Davenport replied that the state requires that the department have a terminal in the lobby for citizens and they have complied with that requirement.

Commonwealth Attorney's Office

Mr. Robert Cunningham, Commonwealth's Attorney for Lancaster County, stated that he had two items for the budget request.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he was requesting a \$5000 salary increase for a full-time employee. He stated that the employee has been with the County since 1991 and has taken very little vacation or sick leave and has not had an increase in pay in at least five years. He stated that he believes the employee deserves this increase and asked that the Board consider his request.

Mr. Jenkins asked the current salary of the employee.

Mr. Cunningham replied \$42,451.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the second item was an increase in their telephone funding. He stated that his office is constantly calling and texting with law enforcement. He stated that, instead of purchasing a second phone for employees, he is asking that the individual telephone accounts be supplemented. He stated that the telephone line item should read \$3,640 because of the increase with the addition of the Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney.

The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.

Ms. Ellen Yackel, Executive Director, stated that they are asking for a \$500 increase for the Haven this year. She stated that the Haven is more than just a shelter. She stated that there were 37 adults and 8 children that received domestic violence advocacy services and 11 adults and 4 children who received sexual assault advocacy services. She stated that the advocacy includes court and hospital accompaniment as well as referrals and case management, in addition to shelter.

Ms. Yackel stated that they provided shelter for 12 adults and 14 children in the same time period, which amounts to 1060 nights of shelter.

Ms. Yackel stated that the shelter services cost \$63,000 and the advocacy services cost \$33,240 for Lancaster County this year. She stated that they do have grant funding in the amount of approximately \$60,000 and the rest is up to them to raise to continue to provide the services.

Mr. Jenkins asked how did the figures, such as the number of clients, relate to last year's figures.

Ms. Yackel replied that there has been a ten to fifteen percent increase, especially in the bed nights at the shelter. She stated that, because of the economy, the length of the stays are increasing. She stated that the shelter is also called upon to assist the homeless community as well. She stated that they have started a rapid rehousing program and are working with other agencies to help that sector of the population. She added that they are the only shelter that serves the five county area.

Planning/Land Use

Mr. Don Gill, Lancaster County Planning and Land Use Director, stated that he had provided estimates on the cost of a county public access site, which were broken down into two parts. He stated that the first part was the preparation of professional plans, which would go under the land use budget and the second part was for the actual construction costs of the public access facility, which would be a capital improvement budget item.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Gill what was the plan cost.

Mr. Gill replied that it would be \$15,000 to \$17,000 on top of the \$2000 already in his budget. He stated that the figure was an estimate from the engineer for full construction drawings and plans to submit with the grant proposal and to facilitate the actual construction.

Mr. Beauchamp asked for the total cost.

Mr. Gill replied that the total was \$19,000 for contracted services in his budget.

Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck

Mr. Phillip Mumford, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club, stated that for five years they have provided quality after school and summer programs for the County's youth. He stated that their goal is to help make the youth become productive citizens who can give back to their community. He stated that they have served more than 820 youth in the last five years and currently they have approximately 380 members.

Mr. Mumford spoke about some of the success stories of the youth they have served. He stated that more than fifty percent of their youth, that attend the club on a regular basis, have achieved an honor roll status this school year.

Mr. Mumford stated that they are grateful for the \$50,000 that they have been given in the past, but would like to request a \$25,000 increase this year. He stated that beginning with the 2013 summer program, they are partnering with the schools, churches, library and the Visions group to try to curb problems with discipline and gang activity. He further stated that the additional funds would help with any grant money not being received at this time.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that the Boys and Girls Club had done an outstanding job. He asked what was the purpose of an additional \$25,000.

Mr. Mumford replied that the money would go to several things. He stated that the summer program this year would be run with no cost to the majority of the children's families. He stated that their computers and the technology center is aging. He also stated that the majority of their staff is part-time and they would like to invest in their staff to keep good employees.

Community Library

Ms. Lindsay Gardner of the Community Library and Mr. Bill Pennell, Chairman of the Library Board, were present to represent the budget requests.

Ms. Gardner stated that her request was in two parts. She stated that the first part involved state funding.

Mr. Pennell stated that the state had cut back on programs with the library being one of them. He stated that they are asking for the same consideration as other agencies that have been cut in recent years.

Ms. Gardner stated that they generally use the state funds for their book budget and the \$4,000 would go to books and materials.

Ms. Gardner stated that the second part of the request is to increase the hours of their technology specialist. She stated that they would like the specialist to work thirty hours a week, which would be an increase of ten more hours per week. She stated that the

technology specialist does technology maintenance, assists patrons with computer use such as job applications and on-line classes, helps with individual devices and other duties. She stated that computer use has increased fifty percent over the last year.

Mr. Pennell stated that they have a great library and in many cases a citizen cannot get a job unless they apply on-line and their only resource for that application is the library. He stated that the library is very involved in helping citizens with internet access as well as basic computer skills.

Sheriff's Office

Mr. Ronnie Crockett, Lancaster County Sheriff, stated that he was requesting two new dispatchers and one school resource officer. He stated that he has been in need of new dispatchers for the last two or three years. He stated that the number of calls has increased over the last three years and the workload in the dispatcher's office is tremendous. He stated that the dispatcher's office is part of the jail and the dispatchers also monitor cameras for the jail and courthouse, open doors for officers and provide information to the Commonwealth's Attorney's office. He stated that a dispatcher is the first person a citizen talks to when they have a problem.

Sheriff Crockett stated that he had moved the school resource officer request up because of the recent school shootings and the calls he had received from parents. He stated that he had his deputies do school patrols as part of their normal patrols since the recent shootings have occurred. He stated that from September through April, there were 18 calls at the high school that his resource officer needed to address. He stated that some of those calls ended in arrests, probation, or were dealt with through the school. He stated that there were 17 calls at the middle school and 4 or 5 at the primary school in the same time period. He stated that that was a lot for just one deputy.

Mr. Lee asked how many dispatchers were employed at the present time.

Sheriff Crockett replied three and that sometimes his correctional officers fill in for the dispatchers.

Mr. Beauchamp asked why there was an increase in calls.

Sheriff Crockett replied that, in his opinion, it was the economy. He stated that there are more larcenies and more assaults and it seems to be increasing every year.

Volunteer Fire Departments-Kilmarnock, White Stone and Upper Lancaster

Mr. Paul Elbourn of the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department stated that he was representing all three volunteer fire departments in the county. He stated that they were asking for a \$10,000 increase per department and their last increase was in 2008. He stated that their operating costs have increased with fuel costs, increased insurance premiums and building maintenance.

Mr. Lee asked about the different amount for the Upper Lancaster Department.

Mr. Elbourn replied that Upper Lancaster was asking for an additional \$8,000 because they do not serve an incorporated town and therefore do not get the additional state funds every year that the Kilmarnock and White Stone departments receive.

Mr. Jenkins asked if that money came from the Commonwealth and not from the towns.

Mr. Elbourn replied that it was money from the state.

Mr. Elbourn stated that if the Board did not want to consider the entire \$10,000 increase, then maybe they could find some middle ground or consider an automatic yearly increase in the three to five percent range.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that the fire departments provide outstanding service and it is very much appreciated.

Mr. Elbourn stated that they are still the only public servants with no paid staff.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the fire departments do a great job, twenty-four hours a day and cautioned to not let the government get too involved in their organizations. He further stated that the fire departments work hard, put a lot of time and effort into their organizations and risk their lives.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he finds it surprising that so many residents who have lived in the area for a number of years have no idea that all of the fire departments are run by volunteers only.

Mr. Elbourn agreed.

Mr. Jenkins stated that it would be interesting to show what the tax rate in the county would be with a paid fire department.

Mr. Elbourn stated that an example of that would be what the county is paying for EMS services now.

Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Dale McNeal, a member of the Board of Directors and Training Officer, stated that the fire fighters spend more time fund raising than they do training. He stated that their fund raising is down from previous years. He stated that he hoped the Board of Supervisors would consider the additional \$8000 to help the Upper Lancaster Department.

Mr. McNeal stated that his department has equipment that needs to be replaced and that fire calls are increasing.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. McNeal how many calls he had gone on this year.

Mr. McNeal replied he had gone on 38 calls in three months. He stated that their department averages about 130 calls in one year. He stated that they are hurting for firemen to run calls in the daytime because people are working. He stated that they needed young firemen as well. He stated that his 86 year old father drove a fire truck earlier in the day for a fire call.

Mr. McNeal stated that their bingo and letter drive fund raisers were both down this year.

Mr. Beauchamp asked how many actual members fight fires on a regular basis.

Mr. McNeal replied about fifteen.

Mr. Jenkins stated that when there is a big fire, all of the departments come together, including Fairfields, Callao and others. He stated that they all cooperate very well together.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Pleva to find out from VACO or Delegate Ransone why counties without incorporated towns and volunteer organizations were not represented very well in the legislation.

Mr. Danny Akers, Chief of Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department, stated that all the department does is fund raise so a lot of young people get burnt out from attending all of the fund raising activities, especially on the weekends. He stated that they should be spending more time on training, but because of expenses they are always concerned about the next fund raiser.

Rappahannock Legal Services

Mr. John Rellick stated that they are requesting level funding this year. He stated that he wanted to thank the Board of Supervisors for their support over the years and the funding is very important to the organization. He stated that his organization provides free legal services for low income citizens.

Rappahannock Community College

Mr. Kim McManus, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, and Bill Pennell, a Board member, were present to represent the college.

Mr. McManus stated that they had just graduated their 42nd graduating class and wanted to thank the Board of Supervisors for their past support over the years. He stated

that 302 Lancaster County residents attended the college in 2012. He stated that the college has local high school students enrolled in dual-enrollment classes and many adults attend the college's workforce training classes.

Mr. McManus stated that this year they were asking for something more. He stated that they have a ten-year capital plan for much needed infrastructure improvements. He stated that forty-five years ago, the state decided that all site and groundwork that occurred five feet outside of the community college building would be paid for with local funds. He stated that they had a ten-year total of three million dollars and were asking for an annual contribution of \$20,150 from Lancaster County. He stated that that figure would be in addition to the operating budget amount of approximately \$6,000.

Mr. Pennell stated that there are twelve counties that are served by Rappahannock Community College and they based the annual contribution on the percentage of students from each county to arrive at the figure. He stated that 47.7 percent of students in Lancaster County who are pursuing higher education are attending the community college. He stated that they needed the Board's help with this project and had already used some reserve money to resurface the Glens's campus' parking lot.

Mr. Bellows asked what the county's share would pay for.

Mr. McManus replied it would be going for site work at the Warsaw campus and the road at the Glens campus.

Mr. Pennell stated that he had spoken to Dr. Crowther of RCC and Delegate Margaret Ransone about an initiative to get the General Assembly to take the responsibility of needs outside the five-foot limit. He stated that the community college is a state school just like Virginia Tech or William and Mary and he doesn't understand why the burden is placed on localities.

Mr. Jenkins stated that it is because there are no honorary degrees given to members of the legislature.

Mr. Pennell agreed.

Discussion of Employee Compensation

Mr. Pleva stated that he had spoken to the Compensation Board and the state has funded a three percent salary increase. He stated that depending on how much the County is supplementing the salaries depends on whether or not you have to give all or part of the three percent. He stated that it is a mandate depending on whether the County is currently supplementing and at what level it is supplementing after last year's five percent increase in the Virginia Retirement Service. He further stated that the numbers would have to be run on each employee and constitutional officer.

Mr. Jenkins stated that it should be done by going back to see what was paid in the salary portion of personnel costs and calculate the increases over the last ten years to see what the percentage is at the present time.

Mr. Pleva stated that he had spoken to VACO about the social services side and they stated that most localities either treat their social services staff as state employees or local employees, but they don't get the best of both worlds. He stated that he believed they had been treated more like local employees in the past.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he respects the executive director of social services, but the department has always been the toughest with the salary decisions because of the rules concerning them.

Mrs. Davenport stated that it was her understanding that the state had already awarded the three percent increase.

Mr. Jenkins stated that what they needed to find out was if the social services budget comes under the Comprehensive Services Act and if it does then the County would have to pay a part of an increase. He further stated that the state cannot mandate a salary that they do not fully fund.

Mrs. Davenport stated that at the conference she attended last week, it was stated that the state had funded a three percent increase.

Mr. Jenkins stated that one department cannot have a three percent raise and another have no increase. He stated that it has to be fair for all. He asked Mr. Pleva to check that the state legislature has passed a three percent increase. He stated that his interpretation was that if the locality gives a three percent increase, then the state will give up that portion of funding based on the composite index.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that they have the funding for a two percent pay increase for the school teachers and due to the composite index, it costs the County approximately \$150,000 to get \$25,000. He asked if the County loses the \$25,000 if they agree to a one percent increase. He asked that, in other words, is the County required by the state to comply.

Mr. Pleva stated that the program is probably set up where it is a two percent increase or nothing.

Mr. Bellows stated that it is an 80/20 composite index so the County would have to pick up eighty percent of the two percent raise. He stated that if the County went with a smaller increase, the difference in money would be a lot less than the \$25,000 and they could tell the state to keep their \$25,000.

There were no more comments or questions.

Mr. Jenkins asked about setting a date for another work session.

It was agreed by consensus that the next work session would be on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. before the public hearing for the school budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board/Commission meeting room for another Budget Work Session.

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