

**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 18, 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 6:45 p.m.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATION**

Mr. Pleva referred to the Information Technology section of the budget and stated that \$10,000 had been added for the County’s website upgrade per the Board’s request.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Electoral Board section of the budget and stated that Mrs. Jett, County Registrar, had said that department was showing an increase for next year because of the number of elections that will be held.

Mr. Jenkins referred to the town elections and asked if the towns contribute to that cost.

Mr. Pleva replied that he thought the County picked up the entire cost.

Mr. Pleva pointed out changes to the proposed budget, such as level funding for the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic and a donation of \$10,000 to Dreamfields. He referred to the Enhanced Emergency Telephone System and stated that figure had been reduced from \$54,000 to \$30,000, based on information from the Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Debt Service portion of the budget and stated that there is a five-year period for the County refinancing approximately \$1 million at a lower rate and a ten-year period for financing approximately \$7.2 million for capital projects. He

stated that there are two separate schedules because there are two different lengths of time and there are two banks involved, which results in four sections concerning the debt service.

Mr. Pleva stated that Chief McGregor and Robert Cunningham were present to represent their budget requests.

### **Commonwealth's Attorney**

Mr. Cunningham stated that he wanted to address the salary of the Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney, Kenneth Kunkle. He stated that he does a good job and would like to buy a home in Lancaster County, but doesn't feel like he can do that with his present salary. He asked the Board if they would consider giving Mr. Kunkle a raise.

Mr. Jenkins asked what Mr. Kunkle's current salary was.

Mr. Cunningham replied \$70,000 and that amount includes benefits, such as insurance.

Mr. Jenkins asked if that was the amount set by the compensation board.

Mr. Cunningham replied yes.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

Chief McGregor stated that he had re-categorized many of the expenses to better reflect where the money is actually spent.

Chief McGregor stated that the biggest change was in the part-time and overtime salaries. He stated that there is a substantial increase, however that number reflects actual spending. He stated that after looking at those two line items over the years, he realized that they have been drastically underfunded. He stated that he is only asking for what is actually being spent.

Mr. Bellows stated that is why he thought it was important to look at five –year trends. He stated that a budget was a plan, but that plan should be realistic.

Mr. Bellows asked about the part-time positions.

Chief McGregor replied that they do not have enough full-time employees to cover the number of service hours, so the part-time people fill in the gaps. He stated they also fill in for vacations and when employees are sick.

Mr. Bellows asked about hiring more full-time employees.

Chief McGregor replied that would cut down on the overtime, but with full-time employees, benefits would have to be paid, so there would really not be a savings.

Mr. Beauchamp referred to line item 3310 and asked about the \$1200 figure.

Chief McGregor replied that figure represents any necessary repairs or maintenance on the maternity center building.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the call volume had increased.

Chief McGregor replied that the call volume had slightly increased.

Chief McGregor stated that he was not asking for anything extra, he was just bringing the budget more in line with actual spending. He stated that if more volunteers get involved, there may be a decrease in salary expense, but that will be long term as volunteers will need to take classes and become certified and that takes time.

Mr. Pleva referred to page one and stated that the budget reflects completely phasing out the boat tax. He stated that, on the revenue side, even with the local sales tax decrease, it is up approximately a quarter of a million dollars. He stated that debt service was the biggest increase on the expenditures side.

Mr. Gill referred to page forty-one and two capital improvement items, Athletic Building and the Purchase and Renovation of the Library, and stated that those two items are included in the lease bonds. He stated that they were separated out so they would not be double-counted. He referred to page forty-two and the capital improvement items, Public Access and use sites, Greentown/Gaskins Sewer Project, Replacement of Emergency Radio System and Equipment and EMS Building, and stated that those items had also been separated out because they are included in the lease bonds.

### **Regional Jail**

Mr. Pleva stated that the Regional Jail in Warsaw includes Westmoreland, Richmond and Northumberland counties. He stated that most counties are part of a regional jail. He stated that he had spoken to the superintendent of the regional jail in Warsaw and was told that Lancaster could save approximately \$130,000 the first year it joined. He stated their services would include housing prisoners and transporting them from our county to their facility and back for court dates. He stated that there would be an additional cost for medical services that could not be taken care of in the regional jail.

Mr. Pleva stated that the Lancaster County jail is approximately forty years old and at some point in the future, a major expenditure would have to be made to make sure the jail is up to date. He stated that if the idea is pursued, a long term contract would need to be signed and Lancaster would not be an actual member of the jail board like the other three counties. He reminded the Board that he had just a very preliminary discussion about the issue with the superintendent.

Mr. Lee asked what the \$130,000 savings included.

Mr. Pleva replied that would be the housing savings.

Mr. Lee asked about the impact on personnel.

Mr. Pleva replied that there would probably be some people laid off here.

Mr. Palin stated that he remembered the issue being brought up years ago and the Sheriff was not in favor of it.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he would like to see more concise numbers from the regional jail. He stated that the County receives \$670,000 annually from the state compensation board. He stated that the other aspect that would concern him is that there are probably one to two arrests on a daily basis in Lancaster County and those individuals would need to be transported to Warsaw. He stated that there would be lay-offs and that is another concern, and because the County receives almost \$700,000 a year from the comp board, he doesn't see a savings for the County.

Mr. Bellows stated that this issue has no effect on this year's budget. He asked what role the Sheriff would have in the decision.

Mr. Pleva replied that the Sheriff is the jailor, but the Board would make the decision. He stated that the Sheriff would need to be consulted.

There was discussion about setting the next work session. It was determined the next work session would be Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Pleva stated that the work at the Windmill Point canoe/kayak launch site should be completed before the holiday weekend.

Mr. Pleva stated that no bids were received for the Sheriff's Office roof project, so they will have to restart the bidding process.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins to adjourn to Thursday, May 28<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