

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 29, 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. Jenkins asked Mr. Pleva for the budget updates.

Mr. Pleva stated that he had made the changes to the budget summary sheet that had been requested by the Board at the last meeting. He stated that he had updated the figures for the Comprehensive Services Act Program. He further stated that there is also a chart in the Board's mail that shows what each half percent raise would cost the County if an increase is approved. He stated that those figures do not include the schools.

Mr. Pleva stated that at the last meeting, there was a question about the necessity of a shredder for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations office. He stated that he had spoken to the Court Clerk and she had stated that her office has to shred large quantities of documents in certain time periods under state archive requirements. He stated that, at the present time, they box the documents and use the shredder in the Circuit Court Clerk's office. He stated that they would prefer to do the shredding in their own office because of confidentiality concerns and time constraints.

Mr. Pleva stated that the \$5,000 increase for the Administrative Assistant in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office had been deleted per the Board's request.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Sheriff's Department and stated that one of the dispatcher positions had been deleted per the last budget work session request and all of the salary increases had been removed.

Mr. Bellows asked about the remaining budget request for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Pleva replied that \$50,000 was for a vehicle and also a request to replace some outdated computer equipment.

Mr. Pleva stated that there had been a question at the last work session about a uniform expense increase. He stated that he found out that that expense was for bulletproof vests. He stated that the department hoped to purchase eight vests this year, with four of them being obtained through a grant.

Mr. Pleva referred to the County's volunteer fire departments and stated that the figure shown on the summary sheet reflects the Board's proposal to give an \$8,000 increase over current funding for each of the three departments.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Juvenile Probation and Detention line and stated that he had reduced the figure based on the estimate for the Merrimac Center.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Electronic Monitoring line and stated that he thought the initial request of \$20,000 probably included the state's share of the program so he reduced the requested amount to the "maintenance of effort for the locality" amount of \$8000.

Mr. Pleva stated that the free health clinic's increase in funding is \$4,000 per the Board's decision at the last work session. He stated that the \$4000 is a reduction of the clinic's initial request.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Department of Social Services and stated that he had taken out the Comprehensive Services Act position, which had been a new position request from the department.

Mr. Pleva referred to Virginia Quality Life and stated that the Board had requested more information and he had included Mr. Tom Richardson's letter in response to the request.

Mr. Pleva stated that the Boys and Girls Club had requested an additional \$25,000 and the Board had made the initial decision to leave the funding level at this time at \$50,000.

Mr. Pleva referred to Rappahannock Community College's request and stated that the Board has decided to leave in both the operating cost and capital cost requests at the present time. He stated that the two requests together total \$26,686.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Land Use Administration line and stated that that included the \$17,000 for the public access engineering fees.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Soil and Water Conservation line and stated that they had requested a \$5000 increase to their funding and the Board had decided to leave the funding level.

Mr. Pleva referred to the Long Term Debt line and stated that the figure had changed some based on the debt service schedule that was obtained from the auditors approximately a week ago.

Mr. Pleva stated that he was not able to get in touch with Commonwealth's Attorney, Robert Cunningham, to ask him about a state contract for cell phone service, but that he would be in touch with him before the next work session.

Mr. Pleva stated that the updated summary shows no raises for anyone.

Mr. Pleva stated that the approximate difference between the two years is \$117,000 and that does not include any pay increases or school expenses.

Mr. Jenkins stated that this year's budget is going to have a greater impact on the lesser affluent citizens, in part because of the real estate reassessments.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Pleva for the report from the Bright software system that would show the expenditures and revenue through the end of May.

Mr. Pleva produced the document for all of the Board members.

Mr. Beauchamp and Mr. Jenkins inquired about the last time there had been a pay increase.

Mr. Pleva replied that he thought it had been about three years since a salary increase and about six years since anything had been done to help defer insurance costs.

Mr. Palin stated that he had some rough figures that he would like to discuss with the Board. He stated that the summary sheet showed an increase of \$116,983 for the County and the schools are asking for an additional \$420,001.

Mr. Jenkins stated that he would like to know whether or not the other counties have approved the RCC capital improvement request.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would check on that, but it was his understanding that some of the counties were not supporting the community college's request.

Mr. Pleva stated that, according to the information he had just received, the Board had funded a two percent raise in FY12 and a one and a half percent raise in FY11.

Mr. Palin resumed his discussion with stating that the total of a potential school increase of \$420,001 and a county increase of \$116,983 would equal a total of \$536,984. He further stated, with a potential three percent raise, the figure is increased to \$671,315. He stated that, according to his rough calculations, it would come to about 2.7 cents.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought that whatever raise was decided, it would have to be across the board. Everyone on the Board agreed.

Mr. Jenkins asked if law enforcement was getting a raise through the state.

Mr. Pleva replied that the state gave funding for a three percent raise for social services and constitutional officers, including law enforcement. He further stated that the composite index does not apply to constitutional officers. He stated that the composite index is strictly a school funding formula.

Mr. Jenkins asked how much of the proposed budget request for social services is funded by the state.

Mr. Pleva replied that the state funds eighty-five percent of the salary side of the increase.

Mr. Bellows asked about the specifics of the salary chart that had been provided to the Board.

Mr. Pleva stated that the chart did not include the school salaries or the social services department. He further stated that it did include the constitutional offices, county employees and anyone who goes through the county's payroll.

Mr. Jenkins stated that they needed to see the chart that provided federal, state and county figures for the salaries.

Mr. Pleva asked if the Board could suggest a percentage for a proposed increase, he could provide them with a spreadsheet that showed the totals. He stated that it could always be changed at a later date.

Mr. Bellows stated that it would take a two percent increase to just break even after last year's decreases with the social security taxes and the VRS changes. He stated, that in his opinion, they should look at a three percent increase.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would like to see reports that show a proposed three percent increase in salaries as a starting point.

Everyone on the Board agreed.

Mr. Pleva stated that the Board could adopt the school portion of the budget tomorrow at their regular monthly meeting and if they did not, they could have a special meeting called for the following week.

Mr. Jack Larson was present for the meeting and had some comments on the school budget.

Mr. Larson stated that school operations should stay stable from one year to the next and he did not understand why there is so much money left over at the end of the school year. He stated that it seemed like stockpiling, when it should be pretty easy to budget closely. He referred to a big fuel buy that looked to him as stockpiling for the next year. He stated that many of the school departments are over the percentages they should be this far into the school year.

Mr. Larson referred to Mr. Beauchamp's question on fiscal services and stated that according to the schools, it cost them \$85,000 to perform the necessary duties to get reimbursement from Medicaid. He stated that it deals with the school system paying for the needs of children that are on the Medicaid plan, but then getting reimbursed for those payments. He stated that he understood Ms. Sue Salg to say that the schools were spending as much to get the reimbursement as the reimbursement itself.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Larson the title of the report that had been presented to the Board.

Mr. Larson replied that it was an expenditure summary that is an accounting report from the Bright software system.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Pleva if he had ever been an administrator of a county that had ordered a spending freeze.

Mr. Pleva replied no.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that those school department's monies will probably be spent quickly in the next 30 days.

Mr. Lee stated that when considering a spending freeze, it should not jeopardize something that really needs to be done.

Mr. Jenkins stated that it would not be a freeze, but an amount that could be spent in the last month of the fiscal year.

Mr. Bellows asked if Ms. Salg had made any projections of where she thought they would be at the end of the school year.

Mr. Pleva replied no, but he would ask her.

Mr. Pleva stated that the Board would need to set another work session for next week.

Mr. Beauchamp asked what the deadline was for a decision on the school budget.

Mr. Pleva replied the end of next week.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that, if everyone was in consensus, that they ask Mr. Pleva to explore the stopping of funds or the capping of funds in the next 30 days after consulting with the county's attorney to make sure that it had a sound legal basis. He stated that no one is to say what is a necessity, but the schools should be buying for this year and not next year.

Mr. Pleva stated that he would check into that matter.

Everyone agreed to meet on Tuesday, June 4 at 4:30 p.m. for another work session.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to appoint Mr. Robert Janeski to the Wetlands Board and to appoint Mr. Page Henley as an alternate member to the Wetlands Board.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. 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