

VIRGINIA:

A FY 21 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, March 12, 2020.

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/Building & Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

FY 21 Budget Work Session

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to present the budget.

Mr. Gill stated that the Board had before them the draft FY 21 County budget. He stated that it was important to note, especially to the press, that this is a working document and the Board of Supervisors will be making changes to it.

Mr. Gill referred to the synopsis page and stated that they began FY 20 with an audited fund balance of \$1,942,762. He stated that, as Mr. Larson pointed out at the December meeting, that figure did not include the \$2 million dollar borrowing that was done in May 2019 for Capital Improvement projects. He stated that the loan was closed at the end of May 2019 and the first transfer to the general fund did not occur until August 1, 2019, which was FY 20. He stated that was why those funds did not show up in the FY 19 audit. He stated that an argument could be made that, in reality, the beginning fund balance in FY 20 is more than what was shown.

Mr. Gill referred to the synopsis page and stated that it suggests a total revenue increase, from FY 20 to FY 21, of \$737,051 and a total expenditure increase of \$787,290. He stated that the budget has been built using the tax rates from calendar year 2019. He stated that the budget has also been built assuming a two percent raise for employees. He stated that he used two percent because the latest information he had received from the state suggests that they will be giving a two percent bonus, effective December 1, 2020, to all constitutional officers and their staffs. He stated that, historically, the County has gotten into a situation where there were raises granted in July and then, in the middle of the fiscal year, the state would grant a bonus or a raise to comp board employees and then the Board would feel obliged to equalize that for the

remaining County employees. He stated that he was going to suggest following what the state intends to do and that is to give a one-time, two-percent bonus for FY 21 that would be effective December 1st. He stated that comp board employees make up 44 percent of full-time employees, leaving 56 percent of employees that the County would be responsible for.

Dr. Westbrook stated that it was his understanding that no one in the Sheriff's Department was getting a raise per the state.

Mr. Gill stated that the employees of the Sheriff's Department are included in the bonus. He read the email he had received concerning the two percent bonus. He stated that the email went on to say that there were also plans from the state to give a three percent raise, across the board, effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought the employees would appreciate the extra pay in December because there is about a six-week period between December's paycheck and January's paycheck each year.

Mr. Larson stated that he supports what Mr. Gill was proposing and it can be a pitfall when the County gives raises in July and then the state comes in December to give another increase to comp board employees. He suggested that they follow the state on this. He stated that he thought the Board should come to a consensus on the subject, so they can give Mr. Gill direction.

Mr. Lee asked if this bonus included all employees.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Dr. Westbrook asked if it was a raise or a bonus. He stated that a bonus is a one-time thing that is added on to a salary and a raise goes on.

Mr. Gill stated that they could say a two percent raise for only FY 21.

Dr. Westbrook stated it was simpler to just say it's a bonus.

Mr. Gill stated that he did not think Mr. Larson liked the term "bonus."

Mr. Larson stated that the reason he did not like to use the word "bonus" was because he had serious reservations about paying certain employees a bonus. He stated that if they call the increase a bonus, then they should be selective about who is given one.

Mr. Bellows stated that a bonus is usually given based on performance.

Mr. Gill stated that he had used the word "bonus" because that is the wording that the state was using.

Mr. Larson stated that he didn't think that they needed to worry right now about what it will be called, but that it will take effect December 1st and be a one-time payment. He stated that he would not mind the payment being called a bonus, if it could be done selectively.

Dr. Westbrook stated they could do it selectively and evaluate who would get a bonus.

Mr. Bellows stated that it would have to be similar to what the schools do in that employees who are proficient get a bonus and the ones who need improvement would not.

Mr. Larson stated that it would also have to be documented.

Mr. Bellows asked if the constitutional officers would have to have their own procedure.

Mr. Gill replied no because they would be getting their bonus through the comp board.

Mr. Larson asked if there was a consensus that the effective date of the two percent increase would be December 1, 2020.

The Board members replied yes.

Mr. Bellows asked if the money was spread out over the year.

Mr. Gill replied that it was a one-time payment.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they would have time, after the one-time bonus, to come up with an evaluation process.

Mr. Larson stated that they have time before the December 1st payment to come up with an evaluation process and inform the employees who are not eligible to not expect it. He stated that they could budget for it across the board and any money that is not used for the payments could go into the fund balance.

Mr. Bellows suggested that the evaluation process needed to be started soon to have everything in place before December 1st.

Mr. Larson stated that the department heads should be notified of the evaluation process and decide which employees are deserving of a bonus. He stated that the department heads should not include everyone because not everyone deserves a bonus.

Mr. Bellows asked if this was a mandate from the state or up to the locality.

Mr. Gill replied that the General Assembly is voting on it today, so it could be a mandate for the comp board employees.

Mr. Bellows asked if it is a mandate, could they still have a merit system or would it be required to give the bonus to everybody.

Mr. Gill stated that, if it was a mandate, it would be a requirement to give it to all comp board employees, but it would be up to the locality whether to apply it to the non-comp board employees.

Dr. Westbrook stated that if they do a one-time bonus and nothing else changed, they would have time between now and next year to set up an evaluation program to decide not to give some employees a bonus or to let them go, if they are sub-standard in their performance.

Mr. Larson replied that would be fine, too. He stated that, instead of setting December 1, 2020 as a goal, they could set the deadline for July 1, 2021.

The Board agreed by consensus.

Mr. Gill referred to the revenue section on page 2 and stated that he had shown the estimates for real property taxes being increased and the reason is because when the assessors finished their work in December 2018, the total taxable amount of land in the County was \$2.67 billion dollars and during the last year, the Commissioner of Revenue's office has gone out and picked up additional improvements and the most recent number is now over \$2.7 billion dollars. He stated that one penny on the tax rate will now generate \$270,699.

Mr. Bellows asked what the amount generated from a penny on the tax rate was previously.

Mr. Gill replied the amount was \$267,079.

Mr. Gill stated that he took the total taxable amount and divided it by 100 and applied the 63-cent tax rate to come up with the number. He stated that he subtracted the exemptions, which are about \$80,000, to come up with the figure of \$16,974,038 for property taxes.

Dr. Westbrook asked if they had heard from the General Assembly about the letter that Mr. Cornwell had written concerning the Virginia Tech properties.

Mr. Gill replied that they had not heard further about that, but they may have some footing concerning the referendum and getting added to the Halifax County bill to be able to impose an additional sales tax for funds for new schools.

Mr. Bellows stated that another delegate had carried a similar bill and through VACo he had found out that those bills had been passed and were headed to the Governor for his signature. He stated that he contacted the Governor's staff and asked if they could amend one of those bills and add Lancaster County to it. He stated that the Governor's staff is considering it and hopefully it will happen, so they would not have to wait another year. He stated that it would allow the issue to go to referendum this November for the public to consider a one-cent sales tax increase in which funds would be applied to new school construction.

Mr. Gill referred to the public service corporation taxes and stated that figure had increased because when he looked back at past years, the increased tax rate had not been applied to that number, so now it has. He referred to the rest of the taxes and stated that he was basing those figures on the 2019 actuals.

Mr. Gill referred to page 4 and stated that the building and land use permit fees' figures are trending up. He referred to the section entitled revenues from use of money and property and stated that they had increased that amount, last year, because of the interest that the Treasurer was earning in the Virginia Investment Pool and the actuals from FY 19 were even more than the estimate.

Mr. Gill referred to page 4 and stated that the ambulance and rescue fees had been reduced to \$310,000 for the upcoming year to better reflect the actual figure of \$307, 243 from FY 19.

Mr. Larson asked if that number was staying stagnant or going down because there was less use of the ambulances.

Mr. Gill replied that he thought the figure had increased for FY 20, but would check on it.

Mr. Larson stated that his concern was that there is a lot of money that is owed to the County for these services and were they really doing everything they can to get that money.

Mr. Gill stated that they had that conversation before and the question was how far was the County going to go to collect money from people who had a hard time paying their bills.

Mr. Larson stated that some localities do hard billing. He stated that some people have delinquent accounts and they have the means to pay.

Mr. Bellows stated that the ambulance service is a public safety thing, so it is sometimes hard for people to reconcile that they pay for it in their taxes and then pay again when they actually use it.

Mr. Larson stated that it is like that everywhere and no one gets a free ride in an ambulance in other localities.

Dr. Westbrook asked about having a means test.

Mr. Larson replied that a chart had already been established and wondered if it was being followed.

Mr. Lee asked who would be enforcing the chart criteria.

Mr. Larson replied that, quite frankly, the County does not have the staff to enforce it. He stated that they pay the Northern Neck Planning District Commission to do the billing, but they do not really enforce it, to his knowledge.

Mr. Gill stated that they had talked about having the Treasurer's Office do the ambulance billing, but they would not do it.

Mr. Gill stated that the Northern Neck Planning District Commission charges the County five percent to do the billing. He referred to the Emergency Services Department's supporting documentation and stated that for FY 20 so far, there is a 62 percent collection rate and when Medicare and other insurance adjustments are made, the percentage goes to 95.52.

Mr. Bellows stated that, given that information, all they are really talking about is the uninsured and he would not want to do hard billing for people who already have hardships.

Mr. Larson stated that they have a document that they said they would follow and he was asking if it was being followed because he was pretty sure that it was not.

Mr. Bellows suggested that Mr. Gill check with the Northern Neck Planning District Commission to see if they are following the County's means test.

Mr. Gill replied that he thought these were good questions for Chief Smith to answer when he comes in front of the Board on March 24th.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Gill if he could contact Chief Smith and let him know the questions that the Board has, so he will be prepared with the answers on March 24th.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Gill referred to page 8 and the school operating fund and stated that all of the numbers pertaining to the schools are actual numbers since the School Board passed its budget on Tuesday night and it was the same budget that was presented to the Board of Supervisors in February.

Mr. Gill referred to expenditures and stated that health insurance for FY 20 will have a 4.3 percent increase. He stated that there was no increase last year, so if you averaged it out over 2 years, it would be a 2 percent increase for each of the two years and that was another reason that he would not like for any raise for County employees to go below 2 percent.

Mr. Bellows asked if they were still paying 100 percent for at least one plan.

Mr. Gill replied that the County covers one plan for the employee only and that is the high deductible plan.

Mr. Gill referred to page 16-County Administration and stated that the changes there were mainly in salaries, health insurance and the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). He stated that VRS has increased from 12.1 percent to 13.71 percent.

Dr. Westbrook asked what were the contracted services.

Mr. Gill replied that the contracted services were rental agreements for the Ricoh copiers and printers.

Mr. Bellows referred to the County Administration account and asked if this was the account that BoardDocs would fall under or would it be in the Board of Supervisors' account.

Mr. Gill replied it would fall under the County Administration account. He stated that they received an estimate for BoardDocs a couple of years ago and he would look for that information.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was still interested in pursuing it, but didn't know how the other members felt.

Mr. Lee stated that he was one of the members that objected to it last time because the Board was cutting other things and he could not justify, at the time, to add something to the budget for them.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to investigate the BoardDocs cost again. He stated that he would also like to know how much it costs to create all of the paperwork each month for the Board meetings.

Mr. Gill replied that he could estimate how much staff time it takes and he would find out the other information as well.

Dr. Westbrook stated that another consideration is whether the Board would be provided a laptop to view BoardDocs. He stated that the School Board had been provided a laptop. He stated that might also need to be considered in the costs.

Mr. Gill referred to page 21 and stated that the Board would see most of the increase in General Government under the Registrar's account. He stated that the Electoral Board has asked for a \$17,500.00 salary increase for the Registrar. He stated that the Electoral Board has also adopted an order creating a Deputy Registrar position with a starting salary of \$31,200.00 per year. He stated that, according to Virginia Code, the Electoral Board has the right to create that position.

Mr. Lee stated that he remembered from last year that they were waiting on a study concerning the Registrar's salary.

Mr. Gill stated that there was a request last year for a JLARC study to look at how registrars' pay compares to constitutional officers' salaries because registrar's salaries have not significantly increased since 1976. He stated that, to his knowledge, the study has not been completed.

Mr. Bellows asked if the salary for the new position would be covered by the comp board.

Mr. Gill replied that, to his knowledge, the new position would not be covered by the comp board. He referred to the code section 24.2-112 and read: “The electoral board of each county and city shall determine the number of assistant registrars to serve in the office of the general registrar, including any to serve full-time. Any county or city whose population is 15,500 or less shall have at least one substitute registrar who is able to take over the duties of the general registrar in an emergency and who shall assist the general registrar when he requests.”

Mr. Lee stated that the Registrar currently has part-time employees and asked if one of those people could serve as the Deputy Registrar.

Mr. Gill replied that he thought that was Mrs. Jett’s plan.

Mr. Lee stated that part of the salary is already built in with the part-time salaries.

Mr. Gill stated that Mrs. Jett reduced the part-time salaries.

Mr. Lee stated that part-time salaries were reduced by \$7,500, but they want \$31,200 for the new position.

Mr. Gill stated that he was going to ask Mr. Cornwell, County Attorney, to review the code sections for his opinion.

Dr. Westbrook stated that it looked like another unfunded mandate from the state.

Mr. Larson stated that the Registrar’s budget has increased substantially in the last two years.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would be inclined to only apply the two percent raise.

Mr. Lee agreed.

Mr. Larson asked Mr. Gill if he would get some clarification about whether the comp board will or will not fund the proposed new position.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Gill moved on to the courts portion of the budget.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the machinery and equipment account for the General District Court and stated that he would like a better description. He stated that it can’t be for machinery and equipment every year, but possibly something else like records storage.

Mr. Bellows stated that the Board will have the opportunity to ask these kinds of questions to the department heads when they come in with their budget requests.

Mr. Gill stated that, usually, the Clerk of the General District Court does not attend the budget meetings, but if the Board would like for him to ask her to attend, he would be glad to do so.

Mr. Larson replied that he did not think that was necessary and Mr. Gill could find out the answer.

Mr. Gill stated that he would ask the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Diane Mumford, to attend one of the budget meetings to answer questions because her budget is larger.

Mr. Larson referred to the Commonwealth's Attorney account and asked why the public official liability insurance expense had been deleted.

Mr. Gill replied that it might be an error and he would look into it.

Mr. Gill referred to page 26 and stated that this was the law enforcement portion of the Sheriff's budget. He stated that the Sheriff is showing a reduction in overtime, but an increase in part-time salaries.

Mr. Gill referred to page 27 and stated that the volunteer fire departments are not asking for any additional funding from what they were given last year.

Mr. Bellows asked if the Board of Supervisors was going to have another joint meeting with the volunteer fire departments this year.

Mr. Gill replied that the volunteer fire departments have not requested a meeting.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had heard that the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department has been fined \$40,000.00 from the Department of Environmental Quality and asked if his fellow Board members had heard that.

Mr. Gill referred to the stormwater basin on the side of the firehouse and stated that the next door neighbor said that his yard stayed wet because of the stormwater basin overflowing. He stated that the stormwater basin was designed by an engineer.

Mr. Bellows stated that he did not understand how the fire department got stuck with the bill. He asked why the responsibility would not be on the contractor.

Mr. Gill replied that he did not know. He stated that he also didn't know if the fire department had paid the fine.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had heard that the fine had been paid by the fire department. He stated that he would like to get more information about the situation because he did not think the fire department should have been stuck with that bill.

Dr. Westbrook stated that what he remembered from the joint meeting with the volunteer fire departments was the expensive costs of their equipment. He stated that he didn't recall if the fire departments talked about their replacement schedules.

Mr. Gill stated that they left it at the point where the fire departments were going to come up with a capital improvement budget for them that would be separate from their operational expenses.

Mr. Bellows asked that Mr. Gill reach out to the volunteer fire departments to see if they want to have a joint meeting this year.

Mr. Gill replied that he would do that.

Mr. Gill referred to page 28 and stated that the paid rescue services account has increased by over \$150,000. He stated that Chief Matt Smith has space for fourteen full-time employees, but has been through most of his tenure with only twelve. He stated that he had just hired a full-time employee and now has thirteen full-time employees, but would like to keep both vacant positions open. He stated that, essentially, Chief Smith is asking for an extra full-time person.

Mr. Larson referred to the paid rescue services' salaries and stated that there was a \$60,000 increase from FY 20 to FY 21, which is slightly less than 10 percent and asked for clarification on it.

Mr. Gill stated that the increase comes from one additional full-time employee, plus the two percent increase across the board.

Mr. Larson asked why Chief Smith was asking for another employee when he has been operating with two less employees for some time.

Mr. Gill replied that he had asked Chief Smith the same question. He stated that Chief Smith said that he would like to keep both vacancies open. He stated that Chief Smith will be here for the budget meeting on March 24th to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Mr. Larson stated that they were good to the EMS Department last year and asked what the department needed to be competitive with other localities.

Mr. Lee stated that Chief Smith reduced the overtime expense for FY 21, so he figures that, if a full-time person is hired, there will not be as much overtime expense.

Mr. Gill stated that was what he was told. He stated that, anytime shifts do not get filled, Chief Smith goes with the part-time people versus full-time people getting overtime which is a good thing.

Mr. Larson stated that there was no question that Chief Smith does a good job and the County is lucky to have him. He stated that he would like to hear Chief Smith's justification for needing another full-time employee.

Mr. Gill stated that he knew Chief Smith would be happy to answer all questions. He stated that he wanted the Board to know that when Chief Smith submitted the increases for his employees, what he submitted was actually less than two percent and he did not include himself in the increases.

Mr. Gill referred to page 32 and stated that the Sheriff's correction and detention account had increased by approximately \$19,000, which represents the two percent increase and VRS expense. He stated that there is a reduction of \$8,000 for maintenance costs which is a result of having Mr. Sadler, the Building Official, being able to take care of things in-house.

Mr. Gill referred to page 35 and stated that there was a \$126,000 increase for FY 21 for refuse disposal. He stated that was for the two percent raise and VRS increases for the two full-time employees and he also included the two percent increase for the part-time employees because he thought that they deserved it.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the uniform rental costs and stated that it had decreased from \$20,000 to \$2,000.

Mr. Gill stated that was a good change that had been done.

Mr. Gill stated that the County pays Waste Management roughly around \$50,000 per month, but it's a reflection of how well the economy is doing. He stated that the better the economy, the more trash that is generated.

Mr. Gill referred to the brush/waste wood removal account and stated that the Board approved a new contract last fall that increased substantially. He stated that part of that fee is based on tire disposal.

Mr. Larson asked if the County was still charging citizens to dispose of tires.

Mr. Gill replied that the County still charges a dollar per tire to citizens for tire disposal. He stated that most people think it is a nuisance and it doesn't collect that much money.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought that the Board had discussed eliminating that tire fee.

Mr. Gill stated that they have had that discussion.

Mr. Bellows suggested that the tire disposal fee be eliminated. He stated that people will be more prone to throwing them on the sides of the road if the fee stays in place and that contributes to more litter.

The consensus of the Board was to eliminate the tire disposal fee for citizens.

Mr. Gill referred to page 38 and the Comprehensive Services Act account and stated that, last year, he came to the Board for a supplemental appropriation and he has increased the budget

amount for FY 21 to \$700,000. He stated that based on where they are now, he will probably be coming back in the spring for another supplemental appropriation.

Mr. Larson stated that the Comprehensive Services Act is based on sharing costs and he would like to know if that equation has changed.

Mr. Gill replied that the local share is .4391 and that is for residential day placement. He stated that if the case involves treatment that the Community Services Board can provide, then the local share drops to .2491. He stated that the more the Community Services Board can do, the cheaper it is for the County.

Mr. Larson asked if they were continuing to be reimbursed at the rate of 55 percent.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Gill stated that all of the counties in the Northern Neck have seen increases in this account. He stated that Westmoreland County is well over a million dollars.

Mr. Gill referred to page 41 and stated that the Community Library is asking for level funding from FY 20, which is \$10,000 more than in FY 19. He stated that the original request, last year, was \$112,995 and then the library came back for another \$10,000.

Mr. Larson stated that he would think level funding would be what the library received in FY 19.

Mr. Gill referred to page 41 and stated that there was a new request for FY 21 from the group that was formed to save the Golden Eagle Golf Course. He stated that they are seeking a similar arrangement with the Board like Dreamfields. He stated that the schools' golf teams play there.

Mr. Larson asked if the Golden Eagle Golf Course had programs where County citizens and children could use the facility, similar to what Dreamfields does.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had a meeting with the group a few days ago and they have some ideas that they want to share and want to plan to meet with each Board member to discuss plans.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought part of their plea involves the fact that the Golden Eagle is now the only golf course in Lancaster County. He stated that their request will reference an economic development perspective.

Mr. Larson stated that he wondered how much thought was put into the amount of the request, considering it is the same amount that Dreamfields asks for each year. He stated that another concern is why the golf course isn't asking the schools for green fees as part of the sports activities and those funds could come out of the School Board budget.

Dr. Westbrook stated that another question would be if the group has asked the three towns for funding.

Mr. Gill stated that he had a conversation with some of the group about ways to keep the golf course viable. He stated that one option could be that the state code allows for use value taxation on open space. He stated that the state code allows it in four classes, which are crop land, timberland, open space and conservation land. He stated that Lancaster County currently allows land use taxation for only crop land. He stated that golf courses fall under the open space category, so it may be something the Board would consider as a tax incentive.

Mr. Bellows asked if Mr. Gill could find out what that tax savings would be for the golf course.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Larson asked, along those same lines, had Mr. Gill come up with a figure concerning timberland.

Mr. Gill replied that they had discussed having use valuation on timberland and the past beliefs were that big companies owned most of the timberland, so the Board did not want to give a tax break to them. He stated that he had found that the County has 29,000 acres of timberland in parcels of 20 acres or more. He stated that the state code requires that a parcel has 20 acres or more of timberland to qualify for use valuation. He stated that he had not had a chance to come up with a dollar figure of how it would affect the budget. He stated the taxable value was over \$46 million dollars. He stated that he would check with the SLEAC website and find out what the use valuation for timberland is in Lancaster County and he would have that information for the next budget meeting on March 24th.

Mr. Gill referred to page 42 and stated that, within the land use administration account, there are four full-time positions. He stated that one has not been filled since Mr. Barnes moved up to the Planning/Land Use Director position. He stated that his plan is to fill that vacant position in the next few months and that is shown in the budget numbers.

Mr. Gill referred to page 43 and stated that the indoor plumbing account has been included in the Department of Housing account. He stated that a salary reduction is shown based on decreased work load in relation to the indoor plumbing program.

Mr. Gill referred to page 44 and stated that the Broadband Authority requested \$52,500 last year and the Board decided that money should come from the County's Poorhouse Tract account. He stated that he assumed that they would follow that again this year. He stated that the Broadband Authority is requesting an amount for one half of a full-time employee that the Broadband Authority says they would need in January 2021 if they are successful with the USDA grant.

Mr. Gill referred to page 44 and the Soil and Water Conservation District account and stated that they were requesting \$15,000 again this year. He stated that, in the last couple of

years, the Board has given them \$10,000. He stated that he had been informed that the Soil and Water Conservation people can only do one hazardous household waste collection day for the County this year because we don't fund at the same level that the other Northern Neck counties do. He stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District also has created a memorandum of understanding which ties agricultural assessments to the amount of funding that a county gives them. He stated that counties that gave \$15,000 were entitled to two assessments each year. He stated that performing agricultural assessments is a part of the County's Chesapeake Bay Act compliance. He stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District is basically saying that they won't do the two agricultural assessments for Lancaster County because we don't pay what the others do.

Mr. Gill stated that the Northern Neck Planning District Commission has obtained a grant for agricultural assessments. He stated that they will get funding for two assessments for each county in the Northern Neck. He stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District will not do the assessments for Lancaster County because of the difference in funding. He stated that, instead, the PDC got the Tri-Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District in Tappahannock to do the two agricultural assessments under the grant.

Mr. Bellows asked if the grant was one-time.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Lee stated that it looked like it would cost the County \$5,000 more to get two agricultural assessments and two hazardous household waste collection days.

Mr. Larson stated that if they can't get another grant for next year, that they look to Tri-Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District again.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Gill how much would Tri-Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District charge to do an assessment.

Mr. Gill replied that he did not know for sure, but thought the fee was approximately \$500 per assessment.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to know for sure because the County could probably get by with just one hazardous household waste collection day.

Mr. Gill stated that another consideration would be the fact that the Soil and Water Conservation District does some advertising for the hazardous household waste collection day, but the County pays the bill.

Mr. Larson stated that, after discussing this subject last year, there was another organization that is funded by the County that is involved with the hazardous household waste collection day.

Mr. Gill stated that organization is the Cooperative Extension Service.

Mr. Lee stated that the Extension staff works with the Soil and Water Conservation District people and volunteer their time.

Mr. Bellows stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District is working on a lot of things concerning alternative shoreline management, like living shorelines.

Mr. Gill stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District does a lot of good things for the local farmers as well.

Mr. Gill referred to page 48 and stated that those numbers were a synopsis of the school budget and the entire school budget was located in the back of the Board members' budget books. He stated that he will have to advertise, for public hearing, what has been forwarded to them by the School Board.

Mr. Gill referred to capital improvements and stated that is the one thing that has not been included in the budget books, yet, because the Planning Commission is still working on it and will hold its public hearing on those items next Thursday, March 19th. He stated that list with supporting documentation will be given to the Board members at their next budget meeting on Tuesday, March 24th.

Mr. Gill referred to page 51, which shows the County's debt service and stated that he was assuming the Treasurer was going to ask for another Revenue Anticipation Note this year, so he had included the same numbers from last year. He stated that they will do the Request for Proposals in-house like last year.

Mr. Gill referred to page 51 and the school energy performance account and stated that it shows the annual payment for that.

Mr. Bellows asked how many more years did we have to pay for that.

Mr. Gill referred to page 53 and stated that there was a worksheet for that debt that goes through the year 2026.

Mr. Larson stated that they might want to think about refinancing that, because as he recalled, the interest rates increase as time goes on.

Mr. Bellows stated that, given the climate of the economy, it might be a good idea to look at refinancing that debt. He stated that, as they look at the capital requests, they should think about bundling everything to a lower interest rate.

Mr. Gill stated that was the budget review and the next budget meeting would be Tuesday, March 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Larson stated that he would like to see the budget presentations limited to a certain amount of time.

Mr. Bellows stated that he was imposing a five-minute time limit on all budget presentations.

Adjournment

Mr. Bellows adjourned the meeting to Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye