

AT A SCHEDULED BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE  
COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 150 SOUTH  
MAIN STREET LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA  
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN D.W. HINTY  
MEMBERS: R.R. CAMPBELL, J.H. HIGGINS, A.J. LEWIS, II,  
D.E. LYONS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
AND CLERK TO BOARD: SPENCER H. SUTER  
FISCAL SERVICES  
DIRECTOR: STEVEN J. BOLSTER

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Hinty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and provided sign-in instructions for all organization representatives wishing to speak at the meeting.

**Scheduled Budget Meeting #1:**

Chairman Hinty explained the meeting's purpose was to give requesting external agencies an opportunity to provide information regarding their requests to the Board of Supervisors. He reminded all in attendance that estimates being discussed were only estimates, and no budget has been adopted; the expected adoption date would be Wednesday, April 23, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board of Supervisors meeting room. He also noted that as with most years, current requests exceed anticipated revenues.

Chairman Hinty announced the Board's goal was to hear from every organization. The meeting format was explained to the room; speakers would be called upon by Fiscal Services Director Steve Bolster in the order they signed in; speakers were to state their name, organization, and limit comments to five minutes.

**Budget Line 71005-5616**

Greg Frederick with the Rockbridge Regional Fair & Expo, thanked the Board for their continued support. They have a new board as of 2017. Mr. Frederick provided a concise history on how the new Fair corporation has progressed since the reorganization took place. Last year they broken even operationally for the 2017 Rockbridge Regional Fair. They are looking to become self-sustaining. The Fair Board requests \$30,000.00 to help with expenses throughout the year, such as marketing, insurance, accounting, etc.

**Budget Line 71005-3005**

John Trudgeon with Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization, thanked the Board for their continued support. Between Lexington and Buena Vista, participation is up over 1,600 participants, and using all available facilities. He indicated the locality cost-share is based on a participation percentage among the member communities.

**Budget Line 81010-3202 and 5801**

Director of Community Development, Sam Crickenberger, spoke and represented several organizations. On behalf of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), Mr. Crickenberger indicated the CSPDC funding request included payment for planning services (level funding) and payment to the CSPDC (a slight increase of \$47).

**Budget Line 81090-5627**

Mr. Crickenberger also indicated the Fields of Gold funding, paid to the CSPDC, is level with the current year budget request.

**Budget Line 81090-5611**

Mr. Crickenberger informed the Board that the Shenandoah Valley Partnership request is based on a per capita formula. There is no change in their funding request from FY 2018 levels.

**Budget Line 81090-5624**

Mr. Crickenberger stated the Small Business Development Center is requesting level funding in FY 2019.

**Budget Line 81090-5629**

Mr. Crickenberger relayed that the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) previously provided grant support on the Greenhouse Village (GHV) project - connection fees totaling \$71,000. In addition, SERCAP is providing \$107,060 in grant funding to assist with the phase 2 portion of the GHV project. SERCAP is requesting \$5,000 in FY 2019, up \$3,000 compared to the approved funding for FY 2018.

**Budget Line 53010-5602**

Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) Executive Director Jeri Schaff thanked the County for their continued funding contributions. VPAS

supports the 'Meals on Wheels' program at the Maury River Senior Center in Buena Vista, doing home services, and other community-based services. Ms. Schaff remarked that by 2020, the population of 60+ year old's in Virginia will equal 22.1% and in Rockbridge County it will be 38.6%. The 'Gray Wave' of baby boomers has started and communities need to start planning for the increase of services to fill gaps and holes in the system. She stated Federal funding has a number of restrictions, and local funding helps bridge the gaps in sourcing services.

**Budget Line 73020-5604**

Daniel Swift, representative for the Talking Book Center in Staunton, thanked the Board for their reliable funding. The center is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library in Staunton, and helps with providing audio books to the blind or visually impaired. He remarked that the majority of the people that use this service are over the age of 60. All digital books are by the National Library Service in Washington, D.C. and are delivered free of charge.

**Budget Line 64010-5601 and 5605**

Ben Worth, representing Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC), sent greetings from DSLCC President Dr. John Rainone and thanked the Board for their continued support. He stated DSLCC is requesting the same funding as the previous year. These funds will be for the My Dabney Promise program and the DSLCC - Rockbridge Regional Center. Mr. Worth

explained that the Center now has new leadership and is making good progress.

**Budget Line 53010-5603**

James Wall, representative from the Covington City office for Total Action for Progress (TAP), was filling in for Kristen Moses, who had submitted the FY 2019 request to the Board. He thanked the Board for their support in the past, and stated TAP is asking for level funding for FY 2019. TAP has helped 52 residents in Rockbridge County with emergency home repair, the Headstart program, and are helping families who are facing eviction (must have a child under 18 and meet qualifying requirements). Mr. Wall is in Lexington every Thursday at the Department of Social Services office taking applications for program provided in the region.

**Budget Line 53010-5606**

Executive Director of Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS) John Whitfield stated that BRLS provides free legal services to low-income residents in civil cases. In the past year, BRLS has helped 130 applicants in Rockbridge County, to include 17 senior-citizen residents seeking help with wills. BRLS has provided \$114,000 in service benefits involving regional cases and has spent almost that amount to provide services for eligible, area residents. BRLS is asking for \$1.00 per low income person in locality; for Rockbridge County that equals \$2,780.

**Budget Line 51010-5609**

Rockbridge Area Transportation Services (RATS) Executive Director Hattie Myers explained that RATS has served the area since 1995, but she has only been serving as Executive Director for a few months. RATS appreciates the funding support the Board has given in previous years and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak tonight. RATS is asking for the same amount of funding as last year. She explained that RATS provides transportation in the community for running errands, trips to schools, doctor appointments, rides to the airport, veterinarian visits, dialysis appointments, etc. They try to help whoever is in need of transportation in the community, not just profitable rides.

**Budget Line 53010-5605**

Lynn Harris, Director of Development and Marketing with Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity (Habitat), thanked the Board for their previous support, and expressed her appreciation working with Sam Crickenberger on the Greenhouse Village project where they have completed several houses. Habitat is now building their 70<sup>th</sup> home in the region. She explained that Habitat does not give away free houses to poor people; they have to be eligible families with an income, provide 200 hours of sweat equity towards a home build, and take a 9-week financial course. She invited the Board to come to the Greenhouse Village development to see the houses going up now. Current plans include building 12 more homes during the next 3 years.

**Budget Line 71005-5603**

Lime Kiln Theater Director Spencer McElroy thanked the Board for their previous funding support. He informed the Board that in 2017 they had 24 events, and an audience of over 11,000 people for concerts (578 tickets per show), plays, private events, etc. Mr. McElroy stated that 54% of audience was from outside of Rockbridge County and 10% came from out of state. In 2018, they expect their capital expenses to increase at an ambitious level. The Lime Kiln Theater has plans to expend \$120,000 in capital improvements. They hope to break ground in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Suter asked Mr. McElroy to consider providing a more detailed presentation to the Board in the future (Spring 2018) on the impact Lime Kiln Theater is having on the region. Mr. McElroy agreed and would be happy to share updated information. Chairman Hinty asked that Mr. Suter coordinate this presentation with Mr. McElroy.

**Budget Line 81090-5607**

Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Tracy Lyons, introduced herself, thanked the Board for having her, and expressed appreciation for all the funding support they have given. She explained the Chamber's goals were listed in the budget-request packet in their budget book and that their new mission statement and strategic plan were also provided. The Chamber wants to be a strong part of the business community, and are excited to welcome new businesses and work alongside Rockbridge County in supporting economic growth.

**Budget Line 53010-5607**

Director of the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) Jen Hardy thanked the Board for their continued support and indicated RARA has served in the community for 46 years. She explained that they have given out 220 tons of food last year with over 50% of clients in Rockbridge County, some of which come often. They also provide fresh produce and meat which is donated from grocery stores, at each of their distribution points, which has helped with diverting waste from the landfill. She explained that deeper in their mission is the goal to help people with financial assistance in their time of need. RARA has over 1,000 cases where they helped people facing utility cut off or rent evictions. She stated that payments go directly to their vendors, not the person. RARA has a partnership with Project Horizon to curb homelessness; she added that partnerships are vital to coordinated efforts in the region (Campus Kitchen, Community Table, etc.).

**Budget Line 71005-5609**

Bobbie Wolfe, Executive Director for the Rockbridge YMCA (the Y), provided literature to the Board and shared with them the impact the Y has made since last year with the increased contribution level in FY 2018. Currently, they have over 2,000 members and are able to offer service to aging adults. They have expanded their program to now have sports activities for 3 to 4-year old's [soccer, t-ball, and basketball at Maury River Middle School (MRMS)]. The program has volunteers to help with the 3 to 4-year old's; the Y has two after school programs (Central and Waddell Elementary Schools) providing tutorial help, enrichment, etc. There are 50



children in the program started last year at Natural Bridge Elementary School, and now the Y is there year-round (currently 2 days a week). The Y has realized growth since last year. They have about 50 part-time staff and 3 full-time staff members. Ms. Wolfe thanked the Board members for their continued support.

**Budget Line 71005-XXXX**

John Gunner, representative from Friends of Rockbridge (FOR) Swimming, requested continued funding support as provided in FY 2018. They offer free lessons after school: teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade MRMS students how to swim. Mr. Gunner mentioned that the Rockbridge County High School swim team earned the District Championship title for swimming. He also explained that the support from the Board is very important for what they do. Mr. Gunner offered the Board to come swim with them - Monday evening is a good class.

Mr. Suter explained that there are further details to work out regarding the terms of agreement with Lexington and the FOR Swimming funding process. Chairman Hinty suggested that further discussions with FOR Swimming's Mr. Gunner be held with the finance committee.

**Budget Line 51010-5608**

Suzanne Sheridan, Executive Director of the Rockbridge Area Health Center (RAHC), is requesting \$50,000 for operations and \$250,000 for a capital project (potentially spread out over a 5-year period). Ms. Sheridan explained that the RAHC has a \$6.6 million building and

renovation project prepared to begin in the coming days. She stated that since health care is growing and health services are declining in the County, the RAHC will be offering expanded Pediatrics, Women's Health, Family Medicine, Behavioral Health, and Dental services. Supervisor Campbell is interested in the expansion of services and facility and would like to see more information related to this effort. Chairman Hinty asked when this project started; Ms. Sheridan said the contract will be signed February 16, 2018. They have \$4.6 million secured via a USDA loan, \$1.0 million Health Resources & Services Administration federal grant secured, a \$50,000 USDA grant secured, and hope to raise \$1.2 million in contributions to support the capital improvement plan. Supervisor Higgins explained that this is no longer the free clinic, but now anyone can go to be seen. Ms. Sheridan explained the change from a free clinic to a health center is associated with being more sustainable, but they are still doing charity care (over \$1.0 million in 2017). Supervisor Lyons asked how much their current budget is and Ms. Sheridan replied it's \$5.0 million. Supervisor Lyons then asked about their revenue sources. Ms. Sheridan explained about their federal grant to be a health center, and then included Medicare, Medicaid and fundraising as other sources. Chairman Hinty asked how long this capital project had been in development and Ms. Sheridan replied at least a year. Chairman Hinty expressed his concern about being 10 days away to execute the contract and the County had not been involved in the process. Ms. Sheridan explained the floor plans were in their budget books if they have any other questions related to the capital project.

**Budget Line 35090-5601**

Tara Rodi, Executive Director of the Rockbridge SPCA, said they are happy with the save-rate numbers. The SPCA was going in a positive direction with pets. They have had a 95% save rate with dogs and 74% save rate with cats. The outdoor cat play area is now finished and the outdoor kennels were removed last year. Supervisor Lewis asked about the adoption process. Ms. Rodi explained the process: review applications, make sure the animal has the necessary vaccinations; ensure the animal is spayed/neutered; and check prospective adoption family's yard (away from busy streets). She said the process takes about 24 hours to complete. Supervisor Lewis asked what the process is if the prospective adopters currently don't have pets and Ms. Rodi explained that this would be no issue.

**Budget Line 81090-5603**

Jean Clark, Director of the Rockbridge Area Tourism Program, thanked Supervisor Campbell for being on the Tourism Board. Ms. Clark mentioned an upcoming research project, which is completed every 5 years, that assists local partners with understanding who is coming to the region and what/where they spend their tourism dollars. She also indicated that the Tourism Program is looking into developing a new strategic plan. In addition, Ms. Clark provided an update on the Braiding the Way project. Lastly, she advised the southern part of county has so much going on right now.

## Closed Meeting

At 7:20 p.m., Supervisor Lyons moved that the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors convene in a Closed Session as permitted by Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1), discussion concerning a personnel matter involving demotion, discipline or resignation of specific officers, appointees or employees. Supervisor Higgins provided the second, and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

AYES: Lyons, Higgins, Campbell, Lewis, Hinty  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Supervisor Lyons moved to reconvene in open session following the Closed Meeting. Supervisor Campbell provided the second and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote by the Board.

AYES: Lyons, Campbell, Higgins, Lewis, Hinty  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Supervisor Lyons moved that the Board certify that, in the closed meeting just concluded, to the best of each member's knowledge, nothing was heard, discussed or considered except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be so discussed as exempt from open meeting requirements under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Supervisor Higgins provided the second, and the motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Lyons, Higgins, Campbell, Lewis, Hinty  
NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Adjourn:**

Chairman Hinty provided the opportunity for any final comments or questions from the Board or citizens. Dan Lyons moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ronnie Campbell. The meeting was adjourned after a roll-call vote.

AYES: Lyons, Campbell, Lewis, Higgins, Hinty

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None