

AT A SCHEDULED BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE
COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
AT 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: A.J. "JAY" LEWIS, II.
DANIEL E. LYONS
DAVID W. HINTY, JR.
JOHN M. HIGGINS
R. W. DAY

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

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Lewis 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 Lewis 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.

Chairman Lewis 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 53010-5602 (Program for the Aging):

Laura Hotinger with the Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) explained what their organization accomplished in 2018. She remarked that currently 38.6% of the population in Rockbridge County is over the age of 60. Ms. Hotinger communicated that the meals on wheels service delivered 19,000 meals in 2018 and are looking to expand. VPAS is a hub for activities and they want to look into expanding services into Lexington City. Her final comments included that they provide Medicare counseling which resulted in \$195,000 in participant savings and that VPAS leads the way in dementia education in our area.

Budget Lines 53010-5601 and 5604 (Department of Social Services and CSA):

Department of Social Services (DSS) Interim Director Kay Wren explained to the Board the various services they provide for Rockbridge County, and the Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington: child care, protective services, adoptions, etc. Ms. Wren detailed their FY 2020 request for one additional position to serve in both the Foster Care and the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) programs. She stated that case workers should only carry an average of 15 cases and currently staff is managing caseloads of 47. Ms. Wren also commented that DSS is looking to add another vehicle. They currently have two vehicles they plan to surplus, one of which is not currently drivable. She thanked the Board for their continued support and consideration of the DSS and CSA funding requests.

Budget Line 53010-5606 (Blue Ridge Legal Service):

John Whitfield, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS), thanked the Board for their previous financial support and asked for continued support in fiscal year (FY) 2020. Mr. Whitfield detailed that in 2018 the organization helped 102 low-income residents with legal support, including guardianship, divorce, recovering wages, wills and power of attorney services. He explained that the BRLS brought in about \$37,000 in organizational revenues while it cost \$100,000 to provide the applicable services. Mr. Whitfield ended by asking for \$2,780 in County funding which equates to \$1.00 per person in Rockbridge County below the poverty level.

Budget Lines 64010-5601 and 5605 (Dabney S. Lancaster Community College and Dabney Promise Program):

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Ben Worth thanked the Board for its long-time support to the college. Dr. Worth stated DSLCC is requesting \$83,384, which is the same amount as FY 2019, \$68,384 for the Rockbridge Regional Center and \$15,000 for the Dabney Promise Program, noting that applications are still open for eligible students to seek financial assistance. He indicated that DSLCC is looking into development of a dual-enrollment program next year at Rockbridge County High School for an Associate's in Applied Science degree. Dr. Worth added that the DSLCC Rockbridge Regional Center offers general studies, culinary, and nursing programs; noting that 100% of

students in the nursing program recently passed the required nursing exam. He also informed the Board that they currently have a high number of students enrolled at DSLCC and they relocated their Veteran's Services program, which assists with financial guidance, to the Rockbridge Regional Center.

Budget Line 81010-5601 and Department 83010 (Soil Conservation Service and Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District):

Jay Gilliam, one of the two elected Directors for the Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District (NBSWCD), thanked the Board and the regional partners for their support in caring for environmental impacts in the community. Mr. Gilliam stated the NBSWCD was requesting level funding in FY 2020. He indicated the details were provided in handouts included in their budget booklets. Mr. Gilliam commented that the NBSWCD has a great staff, having been in place for 21 years.

Budget Line 71005-5603 (Lime Kiln):

Spencer McElroy, Executive Director of Lime Kiln Arts, Inc., thanked the Board for its support and opportunity to speak at the evening's scheduled budget meeting. Mr. McElroy indicated that Lime Kiln had an excellent year in 2018. He stated they sold on average 607 tickets out of 650 which resulted in \$140,000 revenue. Mr. McElroy commented that 72% of attendees came from outside of Rockbridge County and 40% from out of state. In addition, total attendance exceeded 12,000 for the year, which was up 30% from previous year. He added that Rockbridge County is a big

part of the growth. Mr. McElroy indicated that Lime Kiln has an education program in the community. Their outreach program includes a play for local youth and music involvement at local elementary schools. He stated they've made capital improvements totaling around \$162,000, sourced 50% from donations and grants, and 50% from Lime Kiln. Mr. McElroy said he looks forward to continued support again next year.

Budget Line 71005-XXXX (Town of Glasgow Events Venue):

Glasgow Interim Town Manager Jon Ellestad stated that Glasgow would like to rejuvenate the old carnival grounds for events in the community, to include special events, concerts, and private family gatherings. Mr. Ellestad indicated that Glasgow is requesting \$15,000 in funding which would be matched by the town. He commented that the site is privately owned now by Mr. Jerry Locher, but that Glasgow is looking to negotiate a donation of the property to the town, or even a long-term lease. Mr. Ellestad stated that Mr. Locher doesn't want to move forward with the potential donation until there is a funding commitment from the County. Supervisor Hinty asked how many music in the park events have been held in Glasgow. Mr. Ellestad responded by saying one. Supervisor Lyons asked for confirmation that Glasgow is seeking a 50/50 match from the County. Mr. Ellestad affirmed that this was the request from the town.

Budget Line 51020-5605 (Rockbridge Area Community Services Board):

Rockbridge Area Community Services Board (CSB) Acting Executive Director Irma Bailey explained the CSB regional mission, which includes

Bath County, to the Board. Ms. Bailey stated the CSB employs over 110 people serving in 25 programs for the community. She added that 1,059 residents were served in 2018 with approximately half of the revenue coming from Medicaid, 32% from state, and 40% from the partner localities. Ms. Bailey said the CSB has an \$8M budget for the year and is requesting 7.6% increase in funding from all four localities; specifically, \$169,620, or a 9.3% increase, from Rockbridge County. She ended by thanking the Board for their continued support.

Budget Line 53010-5605 (Habitat for Humanity):

Lynne Harris, Director of Communications Relations, spoke for the Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity (Habitat). Ms. Harris began by thanking the Board for the opportunity to speak before them. She indicated that Habitat is currently focused on four new housing projects, to include assisting those in need of home repairs. Ms. Harris stated potential program participants must meet income requirements, share in the cost, and help with the projects (sweat equity). She ended by saying that Habitat always welcomes volunteers, no experience required.

Budget Line 73020-5604 (Talking Books):

Daniel Swift with Talking Books, thanked the Board for its past support. Mr. Swift explained that Talking Books helps the blind or vision-impaired community, which is a significant issue in the region. He stated that most patrons are not born blind, but become blind later in life; typically, 60-90-year old's find themselves isolated and books become

their life source. Mr. Swift said on average in a year, 67 books per person are checked out in Rockbridge County. He added that Talking Books run their services out of the 2nd floor of the Staunton library with two employees (one is full time and the part time). Mr. Swift communicated that their 2020 request is for level funding. He ended by saying he feels that Rockbridge County is underserved, but Talking Books is seeking to bridge this gap with state support.

Budget Line 53010-5607 (Rockbridge Area Relief Association):

Jen Handy, Executive Director with the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA), thanked the Board for having her. Ms. Handy explained that last year RARA served 200 tons of food, which is over 400,000 meals. She added that they receive fresh produce and meat from distribution centers and also have an extended health and hygiene section. Ms. Handy added that they have partnered with a local grocery store which resulted in keeping approximately 50,000 pounds of food out of the landfill. She provided a flyer to the Board detailing the Senior Feed Program. Ms. Handy indicated a truck goes to Verona once a week to help agencies aligned with a hunger coalition in the region. She added that RARA currently has a few program options for renters who need help; in 2018 they assisted with over \$100,000 in energy share costs. Ms. Handy ended by thanking the Board for their continued support.

Budget Line 73020-5601 (Rockbridge Regional Library):

Rockbridge Regional Library Director Julie Goyette thanked the Board for their support to the library system. Ms. Goyette explained that the funding support assists with managing five locations in the region: Towns of Glasgow and Goshen, Bath County, and the Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington. She indicated that the library system has a 5-day delivery services among all locations. Ms. Goyette stated the Library is requesting \$648,283 in FY 2020, which is a 6% increase from 2019 levels. She added that budget increases included a cost of living adjustment, projected health care costs, and other operational expenses (to include security upgrades). Ms. Goyette communicated that all library facilities and book-mobiles are equipped with Wi-Fi. She indicated that they have added Kindergarten Preparedness classes and added tablets with interactive programs for children who don't use the internet. Chairman Lewis asked what (percentage) the cost of living percentage increase was. Ms. Goyette stated she didn't have the information with her, but that she would provide it at a future date.

Budget Line 51010-5609 (Rockbridge Area Transportation System (RATS)):

Director Hattie Myers, speaking on behalf of the Rockbridge Area Transportation System (RATS), thanked the Board for their continued support. Ms. Myers provided 2018 statistics which were included in packets provided to the Board's budget books. Information reflected an increase of 40% in trips; they have 16 vehicles, 22 drivers, and four office personnel. Ms. Myers added that RATS provides no charge trips for dialysis patients which resulted in 2,000 rides in 2018 for 24 individuals. She

also stated that transportation is provided for citizens with disabilities, veterans, and anyone else in need, to include rides to work. Chairman Lewis asked if RATS provides transportation outside Rockbridge County. Ms. Myers answered in the affirmative, stating RATS has been to Alleghany and Augusta counties; cities of Charlottesville, Roanoke, and Lynchburg; and even to the state of North Carolina. Supervisor Lyons asked if RATS coordinates services with other organizations, such as VPAS. Ms. Myers confirmed that they do.

Budget Line 81090-5607 (Chamber of Commerce):

Tracy Lyons, Executive Director of Lexington/Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Board for their continued support. Ms. Lyons indicated the Chamber realized membership growth in 2018, their biggest gain in recent years. She said they currently have 500 members and all dues are paid in full. Ms. Lyons explain that the Chamber provides business support and advertising for small and large businesses and that Chamber events are free for members. She added that the Chamber launched the Women in Leadership program in 2018 and that they have over 200 participants. Additionally, she communicated that the Live Healthy Rockbridge campaign was adopted by Carilion, noting a healthy workforce equals a strong workforce. Furthermore, Ms. Lyons informed the Board that their first Community Business guide comes out in March. She ended by indicating the Chamber has a current staff level of three personnel.

Budget Line 71005-XXXX (Boxerwood):

Catrien Van Assendelft with Boxerwood communicated their funding request of \$10,000 in FY 2020. Ms. Van Assendelft stated Boxerwood is currently working with all area schools and other locations in the community. They have been recognized by the state nationally for the depth in their education programs. She added that kids who grow up in the area will have contact with Boxerwood several times during their educational path. Ms. Van Assendelft communicated that their environmental education mission requires stewardship of 15 acres which leaves Boxerwood with a mortgage, utilities, etc. to cover. As a result, the funding will address needed repairs such as HVAC, windows, and roof replacement; they have a \$67,000 gap in their projected funding for 2020. She noted that Boxerwood has 27 part-time employees and 20 volunteers operating the location 365 days a year (dawn to dusk), and that the funding will assist them in helping maintain the property; they are asking the other jurisdictions for funding support too. Supervisor Higgins asked if Boxerwood was asking for a one-time donation or ongoing funding support. Ms. Van Assendelft answered that they will likely be asking for money in the future as grant funding is coming to an end and they are looking for other support to continue dealing with maintenance needs.

Budget Line 71005-5619 (FOR Swimming Program):

John Gunner spoke on behalf of FOR Swimming and asked for level funding at \$15,000. Mr. Gunner indicated an information packet was given to the Board explaining what they do and that he had recently spoken with the Board at a regular meeting on the FOR Swimming capital funding request

for FY 2019. Mr. Gunner added that FOR Swimming provides support to people who need to learn how to swim, and that their indoor pool is open to the public and is open many hours.

Budget Lines 51010-5608 and 5613 (Rockbridge Area Health Center and Rockbridge Area Health Center Building Improvement Capital):

Executive Director Suzanne Sheridan spoke on behalf of the Rockbridge Area Health Center (RAHC) and thanked the Board for having her. Ms. Sheridan explained that the RAHC has two funding requests for FY 2020: 1) \$50,000 for continued operation support; and 2) a \$20,000 contribution to their Capital Campaign supporting their facility expansion. She provided statistical information about the RAHC: in 2018 they had 5,902 people served (124% increase); 18,214 visits, to include 2,038 children, 96 newborns, 173 veterans, and 21 homeless (76% of clients are low income). In addition, they had 1,072 contacts made on dental visits to the schools. RAHC provides comprehensive services involving medical, dental and behavioral health. Ms. Sheridan stated the growth of the RAHC has created 45 new jobs, they have 63 employees in total, while contributing \$1.5M into local economy. The RAHC estimates they provided \$1.1M in charitable (discounted) services. She commented that in 2017, the RAHC decided to enlarge the facility with grants and USDA loans, and started capital campaign (\$1.25M) to fund the entire expansion project. She added that the projected generated \$44,000 in building permit fees and that the project

provided employment opportunities for local sub-contractors. Ms. Sheridan ended by expressing that the County's capital contribution would help leverage funds on the project and her thankfulness for past capital support.

Supervisor Lyons asked if there was a duplication of services, example, the CSB providing behavioral services in the community. Ms. Sheridan answered that there were differences in their programs, but would contact the CSB to clarify. Supervisor Lyons also asked if they were able to provide services to the Rockbridge Regional Jail. Ms. Sheridan stated there was a meeting a few months ago to discuss, but the jail services needed are different from what the RAHC provides. Mr. Suter added that they had spoken about dental and medical piece and didn't quite work out to meet the requested need.

Budget Line 81090-5603 (Tourism Program):

Lexington/Rockbridge Tourism Program Director Jean Clark gave an updated tourism handout to the Board and thanked them for their continued support. Will present the newest research/strategic plan. State marketing grant was received along with 2 other state grants (matching funds). Supervisor Lyons asked why the FY 2020 funding request was down compared to 2019. Ms. Clark responded that meals and lodging receipts were lower in 2018 which impacted the overall calculation.

Adjourn:

Chairman Lewis provided the opportunity for any final comments or questions from the Board. Supervisor Hinty moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Higgins. The meeting was adjourned after a roll-call vote.

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