

AT A SCHEDULED BUDGET MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
AT 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: D. E. LYONS
R. W. DAY
L.E. AYERS (virtually)
D.B. MCDANIEL (virtually)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: A.J. "JAY" LEWIS, II.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: SPENCER H. SUTER

FISCAL SERVICES
DIRECTOR: STEVEN BOLSTER

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Lyons called the meeting to order and shared the following announcement:

"While the room will be open to the public, due to the size of the meeting room and social distancing requirements, no more than 10 attendees other than County staff will be allowed into the room at one time. Per the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia Executive Order 63, all person over the age of five, that do not have a precluding medical condition, are asked to wear a face covering.

The purpose for tonight's scheduled budget meeting is to give agencies requesting FY 2022 funding support an opportunity to provide information regarding their requests to the Board of Supervisors. Our role tonight is to listen. In the interest of everyone's time, we will hold any potential questions we have, make a list, and pass them on to staff to seek answers from presenting organizations in the days after the meeting.

(a) Budget requests to be discussed tonight are at this point only estimates to be included in the draft budget. The FY 2022 budget cycle will continue over the next three months. The Board expects to adopt a budget on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

(b) County Administrator Spencer Suter or Fiscal Services Director Steve Bolster will elevate agency representatives to participant status on Zoom or will call representatives to the podium in the order they are listed on the external agency roster provided via email earlier today.

(c) We ask that you follow these guidelines when addressing the Board:

- State your name, the organization you represent, and address your comments to the Board as a whole.

- Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes.

- If you represent a group, you may want to recognize others in attendance, or those you're representing."

Chairman Lyons then advised that he and Supervisor Day were attending in-person, and Supervisors Ayers and McDaniel were attending virtually. Supervisor Lewis was absent from the meeting.

Agencies Present Information Related to their FY 2022 Funding Request:

Rockbridge Area Transportation System (RATS):

RATS Vice-President Terri Bsulak commended the Board for its continued support since 1995. She advised that RATS expended services through the pandemic such items as grocery pickup and delivering student lunches. Ms. Bsulak requested level funding of \$13,500.

Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services and Child Services Act

(DSS/CSA):

Rockbridge Area DSS Director Dinah Clark explained that their preliminary budget included an increase for staff raises and system upgrades such as their security system and time-keeping system resulting in a funding increase of \$151,245. She also added that the CSA request was an increase of \$99,000 from last year to assist with private day-placement for children.

Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS):

VPAS Southwest Region Director of Senior Services Laura Hotinger shared that the meals on wheels program had grown over 30% since the pandemic began and requested level funding for FY 2022 (\$40,000).

Habitat for Humanity:

Executive Director Lynne Johnson thanked the Board for its continued support and requested \$2,500 to allocate to their repair program.

Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS):

Executive Director and General Counsel John Whitfield thanked the Board for continued support and requested a contribution of \$3,465. He then commended Supervisor Day for the nice things he had done for his neighbors, recently.

Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA):

Executive Director Jennifer Handy explained that 2020 was a very busy year resulting in an increase of food by over 25%. She added that estimated costs for emergency shelter during the pandemic was \$25,000. Ms. Handy communicated that RARA is requesting \$12,000 in funding for FY 2022.

Valley Associates of Independent Living (VAIL):

Executive Director Gayl Brunk advised that, following the pandemic, staff began making face masks and delivering them to residents along with gloves, hand sanitizer, and other cleaning wipes. She requested \$2,000 for the upcoming budget.

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) and The Dabney Promise:

President John Rainone thanked the Board for prior support. He advised that Dabney planned to expand in the region in a physical space creating an advanced manufacturing and entrepreneurial center for machining skills, welding skills, and maintenance mechanic. Dr. Rainone requested level funding of \$83,384.

Lime Kiln Theater:

Executive Director Spencer McElroy requested \$4,500 for the upcoming budget. He added that year 2020 was very hard on the theater and was not able to receive very much funding from the COVID Relief Program.

The Y:

Executive Director Bobbie Wagner thanked the Board for its prior support and advised that additional childcare services were provided as a direct result of COVID. She added that staff had been able to conduct wellness checks on the elders in the community and even deliver their groceries. Ms. Wagner communicated that The Y is requesting \$10,000 for FY 2022.

Rockbridge Regional Fair and Expo:

Vice Chair Steve Hart thanked the Board for its support and announced that there would be a fair in 2021 even if there were restrictions in

place. He added that the venue moved from the Virginia Horse Center to Glasgow and requested the same support from the County as it had prior in FY 2020 (\$25,000).

FOR Swimming:

President Joellyn Schwarzmann explained that through COVID, the pool was able to reopen for scheduled appointments by online registration. She requested the same amount of funding as years prior (\$15,000).

Boxerwood:

Education Director Elise Sheffield asked the Board to continue investing in Boxerwood. She communicated the FY 2022 request is for \$10,000.

Rockbridge Regional Library:

Board Trustee Gail Heslep shared with the Board a letter of appreciation from a member of the public along with a donation for remaining open during the pandemic.

Director Julie Goyette thanked the Board for its continued support and requested \$609,205 for the upcoming budget.

Talking Book Program:

Supervisor Llia Desjardins advised that COVID relief funding was not available for the Talking Book Program because it remained open through the pandemic; however, some donations were received. She stated the FY 2022 funding request is \$7,500.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC):

Executive Director Bonnie Riedesel shared that the CSPDC had been working with the County for 50 years now. She noted some of the large projects they assisted with were Greenhouse Village affordable housing, a

certified welding program, and Broadband expansion by BARC. She asked for level funding of \$29,057 for the upcoming budget which represents \$20,057 for the annual assessment and \$9,000 for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism:

Director Jean Clark noted that the Tourism Department took a 20% cut in their requested budget which took them back about 8 years in funding revenues. She communicated the FY 2022 funding is \$402,324 based on data from the County's FY 2020 audit.

Chamber of Commerce:

Executive Director Tracy Lyons thanked the Board for its continued support as well as the Rockbridge County EDA who assisted small businesses with funding through the pandemic. She noted that the Chamber seen about a 20% decrease in its membership as a result of COVID. Ms. Lyons stated the Chamber's FY 2022 funding request totals \$6,000.

Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP):

Executive Director Jay Langston advised that 2020 was unexpectedly a good year for economic development throughout the valley. He advised that unemployment dropped down to about 4.5%. Dr. Langston informed the Board that the SVP FY 2022 funding request equaled \$22,596.

Small Business Development Center:

Director Joyce Kretch shared that the Small Business Development Center had served the valley for 31 years and asked for level funding (\$3,000).

SPCA:

Executive Director Tara Rodi advised that fewer animals came through the shelter during COVID, as well as fewer volunteers and visitors. She stated the SPCA funding request for FY 2022 totaled \$191,947.

SERCAP:

Planning Manager Lauren Mason advised that SERCAP provides technical and financial services to ensure citizens have clean water for cleaning, drinking, and cooking. She asked for a \$5,000 contribution.

Mr. Bolster commended those who participated in the meeting.

Chairman Lyons closed with the following announcement:

"This concludes our scheduled budget meeting #1. We appreciate your attendance and for the information provided tonight. The Board's finance committee will be meeting over the next two weeks to further review and develop a draft budget for the full board to consider.

Our next scheduled budget meeting is on Thursday, February 25th beginning at 5:30 pm in this room. The County Administrator and Fiscal Services Director will present the draft FY 2022 budget to the Board of Supervisors."

Adjournment:

Supervisor Day moved to adjourn. A second was provided by Supervisor Ayers, and the motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Day, Ayers, McDaniel, Lyons
Nays: None
Absent: Lewis
Abstain: None

