

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 8, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN D.W. HINTY
MEMBERS: R.R. CAMPBELL, R.S. FORD, A.W. LEWIS, JR.,
J.H. HIGGINS
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 19, 2017 at 6:00PM 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 less than five (5) minutes.

Budget Line 81010-5801

Director of Community Development, Sam Crickenberger, was the first to speak and represented several organizations. On behalf of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, Mr. Crickenberger requested flat funding in the amount of \$17,359; he recognized the organization for being a resource for the County for many years, noting that we would lean on them heavily in the upcoming year during the Phase 2 development of Greenhouse Village Development.

Budget Line 81010-5611

Mr. Crickenberger stated that flat funding of was also requested for the Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) in the amount of \$22,090. He informed the Board that SVP Executive Director, Ms. Chenery, had been getting a lot of kudos from State level leadership for her efforts.

Budget Line 81090-5624

Mr. Crickenberger remarked that the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) requested flat funding of \$3,000. SBDC Director, Joyce Krech plans to spend additional time in Rockbridge County in the future and is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to accommodate working space for her.

Budget Line 81090- 5627

Mr. Crickenberger indicated that flat funding in the amount of \$2,400 was requested in FY 2018 for the CSPDC Fields of Gold program.

Budget Line 81090-XXXX (new funding request)

Mr. Crickenberger communicated that a new line item for the Economic Development budget was requested for SERCAP (South East Rural Community Assistance Program) in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Crickenberger informed the Board that SERCAP provided gap funding for Phase 1 of the Greenhouse Village development a couple of years ago and that there are plans to work with them again as the Greenhouse Village expands.

Budget Line 53010- 5602

Valley Program for Aging Services Executive Director, Jeri Schaff, informed the Board there was no request for additional funding in FY 2018 (requesting \$40,000), and referenced their new strategic plan that was previously provided to the Board. She noted that services provided in Buena Vista, Lexington, Rockbridge County, and Bath County were impacted in FY 2015-2016 due to a 20% decrease in Federal funding related to the Staunton/Waynesboro area no longer being classified as rural. She concluded by assuring the Board that the program will continue to review policies to determine if items need to continue, even those that have been in place for forty (40) years.

Budget Line 53010-5603

Stephanie Clark, TAP's (Total Action for Progress) Director of Rural Community Development, thanked the Board for their support, introduced herself and Jo Nelson, Director of This Valley Works. Ms. Nelson provided the agency's request for flat funding of \$13,600 for FY 2018 and explained how the prior funds were being used:

- Eighty-four (84) Rockbridge County residents are enrolled in major programs.
- \$8,000 was paid to Headstart which helped leverage \$340,000 in funds for early childcare.
- Weatherization, indoor plumbing, and emergency home repair services are available to eligible County residents.
- Emergency services for homeless veterans are available to residents.
- Emergency housing assistance was provided to six (6) families last year, and four (4) thus far this year.

Ms. Nelson shared a unique story about how TAP helped a working, Rockbridge County resident provide housing and utilities for her family when no other resources would. She noted that this specific case was "not a rule for this area but not a rare exception either."

Budget Line 51010-5603

Project Horizon Director of Community Outreach, Leonard Stewart, addressed the Board of Supervisors on behalf the Project Horizon Board of Directors and the citizens of the community. He informed the Board that

year-to-date numbers for Project Horizon were up compared to the same period last year. As a 501(c)(3) organization, they wanted to thank the Board for their thirty-five years of support for the only organization of its kind in Rockbridge County. Mr. Stewart requested level funding of \$8,414 in the upcoming budget year.

Budget Line 81090-5607

Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Tracy Lyons, introduced herself and the Chamber Board members present in the audience. After thanking the Board for their support, she requested \$25,000 in funding for FY 2018, an increase of \$20,000 from the previous budget year, to increase "visibility". The additional funding will help provide better outreach to the one-hundred and seventy (170) current members and other potential members through face-to-face contact. The Chamber seeks to add an additional business development position to work directly with the County Community Development Office to research data and trends in our area. Ms. Lyons concluded by asking the Board to "Please consider our request as an extension of your efforts here in Rockbridge."

Budget Lines 64010- 5601 and 5605

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College President (DSLCC), Dr. John Rainone, approached the Board with appreciation for their support and requested flat funding for FY 2018(annual DSLCC contribution =\$64,384 and The Dabney Promise =\$15,000). He noted some of the College's significant achievements in the previous year:

- 11% increase in enrollment; the highest community college in the State.
- 200 of 600 students in the Dual Enrollment program are Rockbridge County residents (anticipating 400 next year.
- CTE (Career and Technical Education) program is increasing.
- Many students will earn a high school diploma and college degree simultaneously; most will be one year certificates, but two students are on track to receive their Associate's Degree at the same time as their high school diploma.
- Funding for the Dabney Promise program allowed DSLCC to leverage an additional \$113,000 in funding from other sources; 20 students are in the program; 7 are Rockbridge County residents
- The Dabney Promise has been recognized in a Department of Education publication as one of four institutions profiled for other states to model.

Dr. Rainone also informed the Board that DSLCC plans to start an HVAC program at Rockbridge County High School and an Advanced Manufacturing Program at Parry McCluer High School that will be available to students and to the general public; the programs will expand the DSLCC presence in the area.

Supervisor Ford asked Dr. Rainone if he was aware of any items that the General Assembly will continue in the future. Dr. Rainone replied that he was aware of a current 5% reduction in State funding of non-credit

programs, and was unaware of anything specific for DSLCC in the current budget. Supervisor Ford continued to inquire about any regional initiatives that the DSLCC was aware of. Dr. Rainone responded that DSLCC was involved with the Shenandoah Valley Partnership and is working toward a \$3.6 million grant that provides tuition, books and fees, and focuses on healthcare and manufacturing. This area is important because he "keeps hearing that businesses want workforce training." He reminded the Board that by the year 2020, 70% of jobs will require some degree of college-level training and education.

Budget Line 51020-5602

Executive Director for Rockbridge Area Occupational Center (RAOC), Roy Funkhouser, explained to the Board that the community-based employment center in Buena Vista has been providing employment for adults with disabilities since 1970 and has been operating as RAOC since 1986. One large component of their organization is transportation for the employees and he requested flat funding (\$15,747) for these needs in FY 2018. In 2016, the costs were just over \$45,000 which provided services for twenty-three (23) workers; seventeen (17) from Rockbridge County. Mr. Funkhouser reminded the Board that the rules are changing and it has been a tough transition since HDT Global closed in Buena Vista on December 31, 2016. Such factors create the potential for the facility-based program that performs work in-house, to become a community-based program that requires workers to perform at community businesses instead. In order to keep the program a "workshop" based model, RAOC is procuring a grant from the State

to ensure viability. Additionally, they will be developing positions for job coaches and targeting programs for non-Medicaid covered individuals. Mr. Funkhouser concluded by stating that all new measures would include a transportation demand and they will look to the County to help fund the transportation program.

Budget Lines 32050- 3007 and 5602

Executive Director for the Central Shenandoah EMS Council, Chad Blosser, explained to the Board that municipal support requests have been calculated using a specific formula for the past eighteen years equating to \$0.45 per capita(\$10,076). The funding request is derived from the Council's contract with the Virginia Department of Health which requires them to "raise" funds. In addition to the funding request, Mr. Blosser explained the services CSEMSC provides to the County, which includes:

- Offering quality EMS training at Southern Virginia University
- Maintenance of proper EMS protocols in Rockbridge County so that responders know how to assist those in need
- Grant writing assistance
- Critical stress management(counseling)to all EMS, Sheriff Department, and 911 dispatch personnel
- Assistance with recruitment/retention of volunteers

The FY 2018 funding request for contracted EMS training service is \$8,500. Mr. Blosser concluded his presentation to the Board by reiterating

the value of the volunteers and how their services keep costs at reduced rates.

Budget Line 53010-xxxx (new funding request)

Valley Associates for Independent Living representative, Kim Murray, explained that their organization promotes self-direction and independence for adults with disabilities. Additionally, VAIL provides advocacy, skills training, referral services, mobility modifications, Medicare waiver services, and utility assistance. In 2016, they served 20 Rockbridge County residents and have seen a 25% increase year over year. They can also provide ADA compliance audits for local businesses. Ms. Murray requested \$2,000 from the Board for FY 2018. Supervisor Lewis inquired about the total service area of the program and was informed that the program served Rockingham, Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland counties.

Budget Line 53010-5606

Executive Director of Blue Ridge Legal Services, John Whitfield, stated that BRLS provides free legal services to low-income people residing in Rockbridge County, Winchester, Harrisonburg, Lexington, and Roanoke. He then provided statistical data for the Board. In 2016, BRLS assisted ninety-one (91) low income Rockbridge County residents; the services ranged from small civil claims, divorce, foreclosure, will writing, child support, and child custody cases. The cost of these services totaled \$79,000 of which they were able to return \$30,000 in

benefit to the clients. The organization is asking for \$2,780 which is equivalent to \$1.00 per low-income person in Rockbridge County.

Budget Line 73020-5601

Executive Director of Rockbridge Regional Library, Julie Goyette, thanked the Board for the support they give that allows the Library to provide services to the community. Ms. Goyette requested a 4% budget increase to provide a modest salary increase for staff and perform necessary parking lot repairs. Originally, the request included a ten-percent increase to cover potential healthcare costs, but new information had been provided about the future healthcare costs and she requested to revisit that item in upcoming discussions. An update was provided about the Library's services:

- Four out of the five libraries have fiber internet service, the bookmobile serves as a mobile hotspot, and Lexington and Goshen will soon transition to an internet service provider using the Rockbridge Area Network Authority's broadband.
- Two new programs have been developed: STEAM TEAM and STEAM jr. These programs will teach children activities such as catapult construction, Alka Seltzer volcanoes, and computer program coding.
- American Sign Language has been added to story time.

In an effort to reduce spending, the Library has been working on a strategic planning project in-house and anticipates its completion soon.

Ms. Goyette concluded by reminding the Board that the Library is once again offering Sunday hours.

Budget Line 53101-5605

Executive Director for Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity, Lynn Leech, addressed the Board by asking for their continued support for critical repairs and new builds in the County. She informed them that Habitat is a "hand up, not a hand out," and repairs are offered on a sliding scale. The organization is performing ten (10) to twelve (12) critical repairs in the area per year, including new roofs and handicap access. To date, Habitat has placed eleven (11) homes on the County tax rolls and plans to add four (4) per year in the Greenhouse Village development. The organization receives no funding from the United Way and \$0.92 of each \$1.00 went to families enrolled in the program. Supervisor Lewis questioned her request for flat funding as the draft budget showed a \$1,000 increase. Ms. Leech noticed that her team had updated the request and confirmed per the draft budget they are asking for an additional \$1,000.

Budget Line 53010-5607

Director of the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA), Jen Hardy, thanked the Board for their continued support of the safety-net services against hunger and poverty that RARA provides to six-hundred families per month. Calendar year 2016 was a big year for RARA; Kitty Brown retired

after twenty-one years of service. During the transition organization was still able to:

- Secure 200 tons of food; family equates to fifty pounds of food per month
- Build a partnership with Wal-Mart to salvage 14,000 pounds of fresh produce
- Offer emergency services for heat, shelter, and utilities (166 times- 48% to County residents)
- Build a partnership with Project Horizon

In the future, RARA plans to increase collaboration with local services, offer nutrition education through cooking classes, encourage use of free weatherization, improve education to prevent maintenance emergencies, and increase their computerized database efforts. RARA requested flat funding (\$12,000).

Budget Line 71005-5603

The Theatre at Lime Kilns' Board of Directors President, Jamie Goodin, requested a \$3,500 Challenge Grant to leverage a match from the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA). Mr. Goodin informed the Board that in 2016, Lime Kiln sold 12,000 tickets, of which 7,000 were out-of-County and 1,000 were out-of-state. The Theatre has moved from being hopeful to being "realistically a national music destination" that brings people to Rockbridge County. Upcoming endeavors for the Lime Kiln include "Weekend

Rockbridge" packages, and rebuilding the kiln venue to bring in bigger acts. Supervisor Lewis added that the Rockbridge Chorale Society would work with the County's Fiscal Services Director to procure additional funding of \$1,500 from the VCA, which would require local matching funds, if approved.

Budget Line 81090-xxxx (new funding request)

Jamie Goodin, also the President of Main Street Lexington, requested \$750 from the Board to "raise the tide in the County." He asked, "What issues do we care about?" The decision to focus on one area was too narrow; the need is to focus on anything that brings business to Lexington and the surrounding area. Currently, there are eighteen plus local events that are part of a precise, targeted, regional plan. He also spoke of mid-Atlantic regional coordination with a program called Destination Retail, currently eleven retailers in Lexington are participants. Mr. Goodin hopes that Main Street Lexington can serve as a platform for economic development.

Budget Lines 83010 and 81010-5601

Director of the Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District (NBSWCD), Jay Gilliam, expressed gratitude from his eight-member Board for the County's continued financial support and on behalf of them, requested flat funding (\$7,500). He recognized the great NBSWCD staff and their tenure with the organization; "they are always recruiting local farm families to utilize the services." The organization's mission is to:

implement state cost share money, educate and provide outreach to explain issues to the general public, and to work with impaired streams to correct issues.

Budget Line 73020-5604

Margaret Bailey, representative for the Talking Book Center in Staunton, thanked the Board for their reliable funding. Ms. Bailey shared a story about the services they were able to provide for an eighty-five year old, legally blind, avid reader; he began listening to six books in the first year and by the second year increased to one-hundred and twenty (120) books. The service is also available to those with physical handicaps that will not allow them to hold a book, or those with severe dyslexia. The program has been in existence since 1931 and is available at no cost to those in need. The funding request of \$5,723 was adjusted due to assistance from the United Way and Friends of the Library.

Budget Line 71005-5609

Bobbie Wolfe, Executive Director for the Rockbridge YMCA, provided literature to the Board and an overview of the organization's services to put Christian principles into practice through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. In 2016, the local chapter merged with the Roanoke Valley chapter which resulted in changed leadership, increased access to resources and programs for rural areas. In the last six months, the YMCA has implemented pilot programs at Fairfield Elementary and Natural Bridge Elementary for after school activities. Supervisor John

Higgins asked Ms. Wolfe if she has partnered with the local pools, and she replied that she has access to Lexington Country Club and Kendal, and hopes to partner with Lexington Community pool in the future. Ms. Wolfe stated the Rockbridge YMCA is requesting \$15,000 for FY 2018.

Budget Line 51010-5609

Betty LaRock, Rockbridge Area Transportation Services (RATS) Executive Director, requested level funding of \$11,763, the same as it has been for the previous six years. Ms. LaRock informed the Board that RATS has been serving the community for 21 years providing transportation to elderly, disabled, and low income residents. In 2016. RATS provided 26,560 trips equaling 355,830 miles of transportation; 37% was provided to Rockbridge County residents. The organization plans a new shuttle service that has been approved for a six- month pilot period.

Budget Lines 53010- 5601 and 5604

Suzanne Adcock, Executive Director of the Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services, began with providing methodologies for the upcoming fiscal year funding request; she noted that the funding streams for the department are complicated like an onion with many layers. The department is recovering from issues that occurred in May of 2016 during a quality management review. Moving forward, they hope to stabilize in FY 2018 by adding some new positions. At this time FY 2019 funding is unclear, but building conditions will need to be addressed after other items are

stabilized. The Department of Social Services cost-share funding request was decreased by \$9,398 based on the implementation of the correct funding methodology for FY 2018. The Department of Social Services was able to use \$220,000 to leverage \$1.77 million in funding.

Ms. Adcock provided data to the Board for average numbers of Comprehensive Service Act (CSA) cases from 2013-2016; these were annualized values and she informed the Board that there was no way to accurately predict a census because special education, foster care, and child protective services are variable in nature. She requested an increase in CSA funding of \$31,590. Supervisor Ford asked if we would be more organized by July when the Governor's Magellan Plan will be enacted; Ms. Adcock replied that she hoped so. Supervisor Ford also asked how the proposed budget reflects the cash advance that was received from the County during the previous year. Ms. Adcock explained that she was still sorting through the cause and the resolution, but there appeared to be a cash-flow issue. Steve Bolster, the County's Director of Fiscal Services, informed the Board that the auditors accrue sixty days beyond the fiscal year, but since the County works on a cash system, the funds have to come from the current budget resulting in a cash flow/reimbursement issue. Supervisor Higgins added, that in essence, the County floats the cash for sixty days while waiting for reimbursement. County Administrator, Spencer Suter, confirmed that the funding is a combination of both.

Budget Line 51010-5608

Suzanne Sheridan, Executive Director of the Rockbridge Area Health Center, requested level funding for her organization. She informed the Board that the Health Center saw 3,759 patients in 2016 and of that number 2,600 were below poverty level; they have also provided \$2,000,000 in charity care. Supervisor Ford inquired if any Health Department services were heading toward the Health Center, Ms. Sheridan replied that they plan to partner with the Health Department in the area of family planning services in the future.

Budget Line 71005-5005

John Gunner, President of the Rockbridge Community Pool, recognized the \$7,500 funding that the County provides each year. Adding that it plays a big part in the services that are provided to youth and to seniors, this is the only pool open to the public and senior citizens are taking advantage. He introduced Aquatics Director, Leslie Ayers. Ms. Ayers spoke of the pool's outpouring of patrons including senior citizens, who use the pool for aqua-cize and aqua therapy, reiterating "the pool is not just for swim teams." The pool offers forty-nine (49) hours per week of public swim; twelve and a half hours (12.5) for swim teams; three hours (3) of adult instruction; and nine hours (9) of aqua-cize. They also provide swimming lessons and lifeguard certification testing. Ms. Ayers stated that the facility is trying to build a capital fund so that in ten years it will look just as it does today.

Mr. Gunner stated that this "is a public facility with a lot of private support" and they are just asking for a little more help. The Community Pool requested an additional amount of \$7,500. Supervisor Ford inquired about the funds being channeled through the Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization (RARO) and Ms. Ayers clarified that the entire amount of \$15,000 would come through RARO. Supervisor Higgins asked them to have a conversation with the YMCA regarding a partnership.

Budget Line 35090-5601

Tara Rodi, Executive Director of the Rockbridge SPCA, requested a 2.9% increase in funding for FY 2018. Their previous attorney, who offered pro bono services, has retired and there is also a necessity for an on-call vet. Dr. Logan has contracted with the facility and is requiring a \$1,800 retainer fee. Additionally, the shelter needs to update the following: their computer systems, buildings (\$35,000), HVAC system (\$7,000), and construct new outdoor kennels (\$88,000). The shelter received less animals this year than the previous year, likely due to the closure of an after-hours drop-off box. The current save rate for dogs is 93% and cats 46%, which is up from previous years. Overall, more animals were transported out to rescues than were adopted locally. An aggressive spay/neuter, and trap-spay/neuter-return program has been implemented. The first annual "Spay-ghetti" dinner and poker tournament earned \$1,000. One-hundred and ten (110) emergency crates have been purchased for housing and transportation in the event of a natural disaster. The Rockbridge SPCA has received an A+ shelter report for a clean facility and accurate reporting.

Ms. Rodi added that the shelter will continue fundraising and continue towards improving the cat sanctuary.

Mr. Suter added that the County will continue to work with the three localities on updating the contract and will present it to the Board; he noted the funding formulas will remain the same.

Budget Line 81090-5603

Jean Clark, Director of the Rockbridge Area Tourism Board, presented some highlights to the Board.

- The Braiding the Way initiative is moving along through a collaboration of partnerships and has created a segue to the VDOT grant for the Chessie Trail.
- A new website has been created www.rockbridgeoutdoorrecreation.com. The upper part of the James River has been designated a scenic river; the website includes access points and mapping.
- The Shenandoah Beerwerks Trails has also seen a lot of success in the first year.
- In June of 2017, twenty (20) journalists will be spending four (4) days and four (4) nights in the area writing articles and blogging.
- In April of 2017, employees from Virginia's Welcome Centers will be staying in the area to learn more about what we have to offer.
- The partnership with the Natural Bridge State park is going extremely well.

Funding for the Regional Tourism Board is based on a formula; the County's FY 2018 contribution is up \$35,051 compared to FY 2017. Ms. Clark concluded by thanking the Board for supporting tourism and what it means to this area.

Adjourn:

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

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