

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on February 23, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting was adjourned from February 19, 2016.

PRESENT: Mr. Norman G. Dill, Ms. Ann Mallek, Ms. Diantha H. McKeel, Ms. Liz A. Palmer, Mr. Rick Randolph, and Mr. Brad L. Sheffield.

ABSENT: None.

OFFICERS PRESENT: County Executive, Thomas C. Foley, County Attorney, Larry W. Davis, Clerk, Ella W. Jordan, and Senior Deputy Clerk, Travis O. Morris.

Agenda Item No. 1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair, Ms. Palmer.

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Agenda Item No. 2. Closed Meeting.

At 5:01 p.m., Mr. Dill **moved** that the Board go into Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under subsection (7) to consult with and be briefed by legal counsel and staff regarding specific legal matters requiring legal advice relating to: (1) the negotiation of easements on the County Office Building property; and (2) the negotiation of an agreement for Court facilities. Mr. Sheffield **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill,  
NAYS: None.

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Agenda Item No. 3. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 6:00 p.m., the Board reconvened into open meeting, and Mr. Dill **moved** that the Board certify by a recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill.  
NAYS: None.

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Agenda Item No. 4. Reconvene and Call back to Order.

Ms. Palmer called the meeting back to order and introduced County staff and the security officer present.

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Agenda Item No. 5. Pledge of Allegiance.  
Agenda Item No. 6. Moment of Silence.

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Agenda Item. No. 7. Adoption of Final Agenda.

**Motion** was entered by Ms. McKeel to adopt the final agenda.

Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion, and asked if the Board is going to add anything related to the Closed Meeting at the end.

Mr. Sheffield responded "yes".

Ms. Mallek asked if it is acceptable to have a legislative matters update at the end of the meeting. Board members agreed that it is.

Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill.  
NAYS: None.

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Agenda Item. No. 8. Brief Announcements by Board Members.

Mr. Randolph reported that Scottsville Mayor, Raymon Thacker, who was instrumental in the formation of the levy in Scottsville and in the establishment of the library and other facilities, died the previous week at the age of 106. Mr. Randolph noted his funeral will be held February 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Mallek added that in addition to his wonderful public service, Mr. Thacker is a shining example of what it means to serve your community and remain completely undeterred when people say something is impossible, as he had been told with the levy. Ms. Mallek stated that Mr. Thacker was an excellent stand-up comedian up until the end, and his family was very proud of all the things he had accomplished.

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Agenda Item. No. 9. From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda.

There were none.

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Agenda Item. No. 10. **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive comments on the County Executive's FY 2016/2017 Recommended Budget. (*Advertised in the Daily Progress on February 21 and February 22, 2016*)

Ms. Palmer commented that the Board will be holding three public hearings and four work sessions, all of which will be held in Lane Auditorium and available via video streaming on the [www.albemarle.org](http://www.albemarle.org) website, offering delineation by topic.

Mr. Foley stated that he will provide an overview of the budget as recommended prior to the Board's review, which will take place over the next several weeks, and noted that in putting together the budget this year staff identified a theme of a challenge of a structural imbalance between revenues and expenditures looking well into the future. He said that County did financial planning over a five-year period to try to identify what was on the horizon in order to successfully provide services to citizens, but rather than looking at that longer term, which is much more difficult to accurately project, they have moved to more of a two-year budget look beginning with 2017. Mr. Foley said that in looking to the next two fiscal years, the challenge has grown even more significant. He reported the County faces an environment with very slow revenue growth just to meet mandates, commitments and obligations and maintain the current level of services without a significant gap between revenues and expenditures. He noted that in putting together the budget, staff has identified a \$3 million gap for the coming fiscal year between revenues and expenditures, which required them to look differently at the proposed budget. Mr. Foley said that in spite of measures proposed to solve the FY17 gap, staff is anticipating another \$3 million gap for FY18, which is the reason they are talking about such a significant challenge. He stated the budget will identify what needs to be done in the near term as well as looking at what is proposed for a two to three-year period. Mr. Foley said the budget gap exists while proposing no new positions for local government, no expansion of existing services, and no new programs or services, so it is a very daunting task over the next two years. He referenced the five-year financial plan discussed as recently as December 9, 2015 and pointed out the projected expenditures and revenues, stating that the budget is calling for different actions in order to make a difference.

Mr. Foley commented that his report sounds like doom and gloom but this is a resilient community. He noted that while the County had gotten through the recent recession without laying people off, 75 positions had been eliminated, a lot of other things were done to prove that they could step up to the challenge and try to make a difference in terms of how County government operated. He stated they had reallocated staffing when there were vacancies to higher priority areas such as police and social services, where there were heavy caseloads; made dramatic use of volunteers, particularly with police and parks & recreation; privatized some services to save money; achieved efficiency in the processing of paperwork such as bills; moved to purchasing cards, realizing rebates because of a more automated process; and gained recognition around the state for energy savings in buildings, which has reduced costs. Mr. Foley stated the school system has employed significant changes to the transportation system, reducing the number of miles traveled and associated fuel costs. He reported the County has been more aggressive in pursuing grants, and in this fiscal year alone acquired \$3 million in grants; and reached out to staff to come up with innovative ideas to save money. Mr. Foley said all of these measures demonstrates that the County has taken things seriously since the recession and has done things to right-size the organization.

Mr. Foley stated that in spite of the meaningful progress, challenges over the next two years have increased and the signs going forward are not promising, particularly as it relates to the anticipated direction for the economy over the next two to three years. He said that staff is expecting slow growth in the County's largest revenue source and a slowdown in the economy overall, and this coming year there are significant increases in mandates and obligations. Mr. Foley stated that because of slow growth in revenue, even the current fiscal year will require some changes, and as the population grows there are significant challenges in maintaining existing levels of service. He added that the strategic issues and aspirations from the Board and the community for moving initiatives forward are also suffering because of difficulty meeting even the basics.

Mr. Foley presented information on the slow growth in the County's largest revenue source, real estate taxes, which make up 60% of local revenues generated to pay for services for citizens. He said this significant area has seen slower growth than expected, and the decrease began in 2008 as a reflection of the recession from 2007-2010. He stated the real estate tax revenue has only begun to recover from the recession in the last few years, with some positive signs for recovery, but over the last two months reassessments showed that property values have grown at a much slower rate than anticipated. Mr. Foley said this is part of the impact that will be felt in the current fiscal year, as well as in 2017 and 2018, and referenced a graph showing property values as well as a history of how real estate values have grown over time. He noted that sales tax and meals tax are clipping along at a moderate

pace, but the gap shown between the bottom line and the top line is the reason the County is suffering a downturn in revenues. Mr. Foley mentioned that the reason the top line is showing an increase is because taxes had to be raised over the years of the recession just to keep a level funding of services, and the real estate revenue issue during the recession was also carried forward into the next few years.

Mr. Foley reported that in looking beyond local revenues, there are challenges with state and federal revenues, which are also a big part of the County's budget. He presented a graph showing the length of recovery coming out of U.S. recessions since World War II, and noted there has only been one time since WWII that a recovery had lasted as long as what will be the case over the next few years. Mr. Foley said that economists at the national level are predicting that the economy is going to slow down, and that is reflected in the County's budget. He noted that it would be unusual to think that this will be the longest recovery ever, so it is likely that over the next few years there will be some difficulties in terms of the state level, sales tax, and other factors that impact the County budget as well as the federal economy. Mr. Foley stated that in looking at the expenditure side, there are two major challenges impacting the budget: obligations, mandates, and commitments total \$7.6 million in the budget; and maintaining the current level of services while making up for shortfalls in state revenue totals about \$2.1 million. He said that before they get to any programs that need to be expanded, new police officers or social services workers, they are faced with significant impacts to the budget.

Mr. Foley said that because of the much slower property value growth rate, FY16 was impacted and FY17 includes a 2.5-cent tax increase, with no new positions, expansions of services or new programs, and it even relies on some additional cuts in existing services across the entire organization just to get to a balanced budget. He stated that in looking out to FY18, a \$3 million deficit is projected even after overcoming the challenge in FY17. Mr. Foley emphasized the County is significantly challenged to maintain existing levels of service as the population grows, and have a significant inability to move beyond that to address community aspirations. He stated that future tax increases or dramatic expenditure reductions will be needed into the future just to keep up with existing levels of service. Mr. Foley said the strategic plan and community initiatives are unfunded through the three-year period, and the capital improvement program is only funded at a maintenance level, with only essential projects funded into the future, and even that will require an additional three-cent tax increase.

Mr. Foley stated the County must overcome this challenge, and it will require some bold leadership by the community, the Board and staff, and a significant partnership to think about what the future looks like and what the aspirations are. He said that in looking at the challenge of that, there are two options: raising taxes, or cutting expenditures. Mr. Foley referenced the graph provided and noted how the 60% tax base has fluctuated over time, with changes in the tax rate just to keep at level funding to pay for police officers, social services workers, and other items. He stated this has put the County in a position where they are behind on services and cannot quite catch up, and to get them out going forward of it they will need to raise the taxes from 68 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 2007 from before the recession to 91 cents over the next two years. Mr. Foley said this is what will be required to overcome the \$3 million deficit if using taxes is the only strategy, but that increase to 91 cents will only maintain existing services over the course of the next two to three years, so it does not address aspirations or future population growth.

Mr. Foley presented expenditure information for Albemarle County compared to peer jurisdictions, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Hanover, Montgomery, Roanoke, James City and Fauquier, based on expenditures per citizen for the services provided. He noted that Albemarle County is average in terms of expenditures and is not a high-spending locality, but also emphasized that there are three major programs in place that other jurisdictions do not have. Mr. Foley stated that Albemarle County has a revenue-sharing payment to the City of Charlottesville, which averages about \$16 million per year and has been as high as \$18 million; high human services expenditures such as social services and schools, including the highly successful Bright Stars program, which has \$2.5 million in the budget; and a comparatively robust land use valuation program as an incentive for people who do not develop their property in the rural areas, which costs Albemarle about \$16 million annually in lost revenue. Mr. Foley said when removing those three items from the budget, the comparison shows that County expenditures are well below the average, which means that other departments are operating on a very thin margin. He stated the strategy for cutting expenditures would not just mean being efficient, it will mean eliminating services. Mr. Foley stated that in terms of the County being bloated with too much staff, the levels have actually decreased over a 10-year period as population grew at a moderate pace.

Mr. Foley emphasized that raising taxes to meet current levels of service will require 91 cents, and cutting services will mean elimination of services, and staff does not feel that either strategy should move forward without extensive engagement from the Board and the public. Mr. Foley said the proposed budget addresses the current situation and looks toward the future, to get them in a position where citizens feel they are getting what they deserve for their tax dollars. He stated the budget takes concrete steps towards transformational action, includes investments that will catalyze some of the change necessary in looking toward the future, and proposes an engagement process with the public so the Board and the community will set priorities for the long term. Mr. Foley emphasized this might mean the tax structure needs to change or that services need to change, but they ultimately need to engage with the public to align tax structure and service levels with what the community wants, and this budget proposes some ways to do that.

Mr. Foley reported that in putting the budget together, staff established six goals, the first three pertaining to what needs to be done now, and the second three pertaining to what is needed to move to a future that is more sustainable and more in line with the aspirations of the community. He said the goals are to meet current commitments and obligations; minimize the impacts on current levels of service so

that reductions can be avoided; hold the line on expenditures; invest in meaningful solutions; implement the community process to establish clear priorities; and move away from a one-year budget process and a five-year financial plan to a two-year budget so the County is always looking two years down the road and making some of the tough decisions for the future. Mr. Foley stated the budget, as proposed, is \$375.2 million, with 45% of revenue coming from real estate and personal property taxes, 19% coming from other local revenue, and 22% coming from state revenue. He said on the expenditure side, the \$375.2 million is divided with about 58% going to the school system for operations and capital, 38% to local government, and 4% going to the City for the revenue-sharing mandate.

Mr. Foley reported the budget represents only about a 1/10 of 1% increase from the current year's budget, primarily because fewer capital projects that drove expenses up are being done, and it reflects modest revenue growth of about 3.6%. He stated the new revenue in this budget is about 9%, generated from modest growth in real estate values and the 2.5-cent tax increase. Mr. Foley said that mandates and existing services are costing \$9.7 million, with only \$9 million additional generated, even with the tax increase. He stated the budget proposes an 84.4-cent tax, with one cent going strictly to the capital program to pay for debt service on some projects done over the last few years, but those are primarily for maintenance at school and local government facilities and payment for some critical public safety upgrades to the 911 system and other public safety projects. Mr. Foley said that 1.5 cents is going to operations, with 1.1 cents to pay for local government mandates and .4 cents going to the school system to help cover that budget gap. He noted that state and federal revenues are growing slightly, but those are for mandated programs that offer no flexibility, and the expenditure side is equal to the revenue side. Mr. Foley stated that overall government expenditures are up 2%, with school operating expenses up 3.5% and debt service costs up 16%.

Mr. Foley stated that because of the fluctuation of property values over the recession, tax bills have also fluctuated, and even though the tax rate has gone up over time, the revenue generated has not really increased and they have had to raise the tax rate just to stay at the same level. He said with this proposed budget, the County starts to inch above that with a proposed tax rate of 84.4 cents, and this is the first year the increase in tax bills will be significant. Mr. Foley stated that in the current tax year, the average residential tax bill has gone up about \$40 from the previous year, but the proposed increase will involve a bigger jump.

Mr. Foley said that regarding the first goal of meeting commitments, mandates, and obligations, \$3.3 million of the \$7.6 million is going to school operations and \$2.9 million is going to debt service obligations. He noted that one of the largest mandates and most dramatic increases reflected in the budget is for Children's Services Act, which covers treatment for children in need of services who come out of the school system with special education or are in the social services department under foster care. Mr. Foley said that new state mandates have greatly increased the requirements for the County to provide services to those children, with the equivalent of one penny on the tax rate for local government and schools just to pay for the additional costs in this budget.

Mr. Foley said that with the second goal of minimizing current service levels, the County has a regional library system, a regional jail system, and a regional emergency communications 911 system, as well as some critical services like JAUNT. He stated that all four areas are experiencing increases that must be met in order to maintain the existing level of service. Mr. Foley said that JAUNT, for example, provides transportation for people in the rural areas who need to get to doctor's appointments. The state has cut the organization back to the point that if the County had not included an additional \$184,000 in its budget, JAUNT would have had to cut critical services to some of the neediest citizens. He stated this amount, in addition to increases in the jail, E-911, and the library totals about \$1 million to protect those services. Mr. Foley mentioned there is also an increase in healthcare costs for schools and local government, with about \$621,000 or a 14.5% increase in employer contribution on just the local government side, which is similar to healthcare trends around the country. He noted this budget includes a 2% market increase for salaries, totaling about \$2 million, to keep from falling behind with peer localities and other jurisdictions around the state.

Mr. Foley stated that with \$9 million in revenue growth and \$9.7 million in expenditures, the difference has to be made up somehow, and holding the line on existing expenditures is the third goal, so there are no new positions or expansions of service to meet some of the growing needs. He said that across all departments, police, fire, social services and all other services, they have actually done better than holding the line and realized a \$17,000 total decrease across operating departments, and that is with some increases that have to be paid. Mr. Foley noted the budget relies on an additional \$400,000 of expenditure reductions across all departments over the next two years to keep the budget in balance, and the County has reduced one-time expenditures in the current year budget by \$512,000 from departmental budgets. He stated there are a few things that they do not have control over, such as fuel costs that help with cost savings and the revenue-sharing amount to the City for FY17 is down \$300,000. Mr. Foley noted that it increased by that amount in FY18, so the \$600,000 is significantly impacting them and needs to be addressed going forward.

Mr. Foley stated that with the fourth goal of investing in meaningful solutions, there is an efficiency study that includes a look with the City of Charlottesville to see how they might provide services together in the future; investment in technology to streamline services and save money; focus on further possible consolidations between schools and local government, within local government itself, and even perhaps with the City; and investment in economic development in the right areas to grow the tax base to relieve the burden on property taxes. Mr. Foley said the County had enlisted a citizens' resource advisory committee and a joint efficiency study between local government and school, which had completed their work, and the proposed budget includes some of those recommendations with a plan to look more

aggressively in the year ahead at some of the other things identified. He added the County will be looking at freezing some vacancies and reallocating positions to more critical service needs, even in the current fiscal year, to reduce costs, and several major programs, such as CSA and healthcare, will be thoroughly reviewed to see if there are different approaches that will still provide those benefits.

Mr. Foley said the fifth goal of determining Board and citizen priorities will involve priority-based budgeting as a new process to allow the community to be engaged and establish what things are most important to them, how they feel about the tax rate increase, and where cuts should occur. He stated that this process is proposed in this budget for the Board to consider, in an effort to help establish where the citizens place the most value.

Mr. Foley stated that the sixth goal is putting together a more realistic two-year fiscal plan with clear priorities to help the County move to a more sustainable future. He emphasized that if they continue to limp along and stumble more tax increases without basis in a plan for the future, they will continue to just keep up, and they need to figure out ways to move the community forward. Mr. Foley noted that the two-year plan process is a way to help accomplish that, and this will involve tough choices on tax rates and service levels, with the public engaged in those decisions.

Mr. Foley said that in conclusion, the budget recommends that they take action now to address the three-year imbalance; that they evaluate options and make necessary changes to programs, services and tax rates; and that this be done through a clear community process where the Board and the public are engaged, which ultimately will help align the tax structure and service levels to desires, values and priorities. He stated they will need to continue to stay focused on growing the non-residential tax base through economic development in the right location, which will provide a return for services rather than costing more for housing that generates more demand on the school system.

Mr. Foley emphasized the conservatives in the community will be upset with this budget because of the tax increases, and the progressives will be upset because there is no new spending on the things needed to move the County forward, but the reality is that both are needed in a big way just to balance the budget, and tough choices are needed as they look to FY18. Mr. Foley said this is why everyone needs to get to the table over the next year and talk about the future and what they aspire for the community going forward. He added this is a great community and they can overcome this challenge, and staff has laid out a plan to try to do that.

Ms. Mallek stated she had heard concern expressed on the radio that morning about the County providing funding for advocacy groups, and asked Mr. Foley to comment on that. Mr. Foley explained the County provides funding for a number of different agencies, including cultural agencies like the Municipal Band, human services agencies such as homeless shelters, and organizations such as the Small Business Administration, but not to advocacy groups such as the Piedmont Housing Council and the Free Enterprise Forum, which represents some business groups. He emphasized the organizations funded by the County are those providing direct services to citizens.

The Chair then opened the public hearing.

Ms. Mallek stated the Board and staff have worked very hard for decades to ensure that people with varying points of view can come in complete confidence and share their views, so there are stern rules as to meeting order and lack of outbursts, in order to provide speaker comfort and to keep the meeting moving along more quickly.

Ms. McKeel called the speaker names.

Ms. Marta Keane of the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), addressed the Board and stated that in the year 2000 there were just under 10,000 people over the age of 65, or 12.5% of the total population; in 2013 that was 15,000; and by 2020, they are projected to have 29,000 people over 65, or 25% of the population. Ms. Keane said that from 2000 to 2040, there will be a 490% growth in the number of seniors, and their needs are continuing to grow. She stated that JABA's service population also continues to expand, and in 2014 the agency served 4,763; in 2015 it served 6,200, with 6,800 expected in 2016 and 7,000 in 2017. Ms. Keane noted the numbers do not tell the whole story, and the information she has provided includes some personal stories of seniors who receive JABA services. She stated that 25% of funding for services is provided by the County, and JABA leverages the additional 75% of funding to provide those services.

Ms. Jacki Bryant of Ready Kids addressed the Board, stating the organization has partnered with the County for the past 15 years to provide needed services to the youngest and most vulnerable residents, and have repeatedly shown the ability to deliver high-quality, cost-effective services, to regularly achieve outcomes, and to demonstrate return on investment for the County. Ms. Bryant said that for the current fiscal year, Ready Kids received a 25% decrease in County funding due to a "fair" rating on the application, which is the first time they have received this low of a rating since the system began. She stated that even with a fair rating, their application shows that Ready Kids reached 503 residents at a cost per resident of \$49, with one outcome area hitting 79% instead of 80% as required. Ms. Bryant said that for FY17, the organization returned to an "exemplary" rating and received a recommendation for level funding, but unfortunately the level funding is a continuation of the 25% increase due to the one "fair" application. She emphasized that it took them 15 years to get the FY15 funding level, and it seems especially punitive to have a single blip have such a lasting effect on the services provided. In fact, the \$6,800 difference would allow Ready Kids to serve more than 100 County children. Ms. Bryant requested the County reinstate the funding to the FY15 baseline, effectively level-

funding the organization for the fiscal year, and said the City has already agreed to reinstate the funding. She noted that Ready Kids has been working in the community for more than 90 years.

Mr. Daniel Xisto addressed the Board, stating that he is pastor of the Charlottesville Seventh Day Adventist Church on Jefferson Park Avenue, with many of his congregation members residing in the County. Mr. Xisto said he is also vice-president of Impact, and said the organization is disappointed in not being considered for funding in this year's County budget. He stated that a year ago Impact discovered that every year, the jail locks up approximately 3,150 individuals who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, and nearly all of the women in this group are also victims of sexual assault, and while they would be cared for much better in a treatment facility rather than a jail, there are no local treatment options. Mr. Xisto said that last year, Impact had convened 1,000 people and secured a commitment from Region Ten Director, Robert Johnson, City of Charlottesville Assistant Director, Mike Murphy, and Deputy County Executive, Doug Walker, to make a plan to address this gap. He stated that since then, much work has been done by the three entities, and Region Ten has put forth a plan to open a facility by April 2017, but the County's help is needed to make that a reality.

Mr. Sheffield asked what the date of the meeting was to have that discussion. Mr. Xisto responded the meeting will be held May 3, 2016 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Elizabeth Emrey of the Scottsville District addressed the Board and stated that she is representing New Beginnings Christian Community as their pastor and IMPACT, with 27 congregations working together for justice in the community. Ms. Emrey stated that she was shocked to learn the West Street Center for Women was dropped from the budget, and urged the Board to reconsider. She said that many women in her church are County residents and are struggling with substance abuse, including Georgia Barber, who came to court intoxicated and was put in jail, where she subsequently committed suicide. Ms. Emrey stated that another woman in her church went to Boxwood treatment center in Culpeper, which is the closest treatment center at 75 miles away, but she was diagnosed with cancer and had to move back into her addictive community here in order to receive treatment at UVA. She said this is an injustice for women, as the Moore Center is available locally for men, and West Street will provide a location for women as well as their children under five years old, as many women will not go to treatment unless they are able to bring their children with them.

Mr. Robert Hogue addressed the Board, stating that instead of raising taxes, services should be cut, dog parks should be maintained by user fees, as it is not the taxpayer's responsibility to entertain or exercise dogs; there should be a fee for disposal of Christmas trees; amnesty days at the landfill should be eliminated except for hazardous waste; tires continue to be thrown off the side of the road; school bus routes can be shortened to not stop at dead-end, non-state maintained roads; high school students could take courses online in rotation with classroom work; sports and after-school activities should be fully paid for by parents; tax relief should be terminated once a spouse dies; and credit should be given to people who have never had children or grandchildren in the school system. Mr. Hogue stated the County needs to become more efficient, with too many vehicles being sent out on fire and rescue calls. He mentioned that in Europe, some governments overspent and countries are in difficult situations, and Supervisors should each ask themselves if they believe in personal responsibility.

Mr. Tom Eckman addressed the Board, stating that he is a member of the Church of the Incarnation and a member of IMPACT. He said that several weeks earlier, he had spoken with the Board about Region Ten's Plan to open a residential drug treatment facility by April 2017 that will serve 50 women and up to 100 of their children, and he and the members of IMPACT supported this proposal. Mr. Eckman stated that Region Ten needs support from both the City and the County for the facility's sustainability, and said the City has funded \$37,500, or .01% of the facility's budget, and he is disappointed that the County will not help fund the initiative and help the hundreds of women who need this treatment. He said this is not just a City problem, and commented that his nephew had been addicted to painkillers for five years, finally getting treatment and getting well. Mr. Eckman stated the treatment center locally works well for men, and a similar center would work well for women.

Ms. Charlotte Hogue of the Samuel Miller District addressed the Board, stating that she is very concerned about the County budget and does not understand why a 2.5-cent tax rate increase is necessary when assessments have gone up. Ms. Hogue said that many small savings can be made, and they add up to big dollars. She asked why the most expensive option for the landfill had been chosen when it was shown that usage would not cover costs, and using slick paper and color printing for the County report insert in the *Daily Progress* is not a needed expense. Ms. Hogue asked why so many consultants need to be hired, as new employees have been hired at large salaries citing their expertise in these matters as the justification. She stated the School Board budget has a constant shortfall, yet they want money for bottled water and things at meetings, and she said that parks, walking trails and other amenities should be totally paid for by the user. Ms. Hogue stated that many citizens, especially seniors, do not get a two to three percent increase in their income every year like County and school employees. This causes much resentment when residents are asked to pay more taxes to cover health insurance, retirement costs, etc. for these employees. Ms. Hogue emphasized that people should not expect others to pay for their wants, and the County is not setting a good example or teaching good habits to the younger generation. She urged the Board to think long and hard before raising taxes and spending the citizens' money.

Ms. Brenda Castañeda addressed the Board, stating that she is the Legal Director of the Civil Advocacy Program for the Legal Aid Justice Center, and said the center is hoping the County will restore what is proposed to be cut. Ms. Castañeda mentioned that she represented Charlotte Piersol, whose husband took out a reverse mortgage on their home, but passed away and left Ms. Piersol in a

foreclosure situation with Fannie Mae. She stated that Ms. Piersol came to the Justice Center after the foreclosure, and after she had been taken to court by Fannie Mae to be evicted. Ms. Castaneda said the center helped in Ms. Piersol's appeal of the eviction to Circuit Court and were able to stop the eviction, as well as naming Fannie Mae and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in a federal lawsuit. She stated the center challenged HUD's rule as contrary to the statute passed by U.S. Congress and reached a settlement in the case that will allow Ms. Piersol to remain in her home for the rest of her life.

Ms. Mary Jane Pudhorodsky of the Rio District addressed the Board on behalf of IMPACT, for which she serves as co-chair of their research committee on crimes and drugs. Ms. Pudhorodsky stated she is very aware of the need of a residential treatment facility for women in Charlottesville/Albemarle, and said that members of her church, the Church of the Incarnation, have known women who struggle with substance abuse, and she has personally experienced the impact it can have in her own family. Ms. Pudhorodsky stated that in 23 research meetings with 17 area agencies, the committee learned that over and over the gap in services for women seriously affected by substance abuse, and in a six-month period 2014, 30 women did not get the needed treatment and 50 women were referred out of the area for treatment, costing \$800 to \$3,000 each time. She said that Region Ten has been working with the City and County Executive Offices for the last nine months to bring this much needed service for women and their children to the area, and Region Ten plans to open the facility in April 2017. Ms. Pudhorodsky stated she and many of the 15,000 people represented by IMPACT are disappointed to learn the County did not include the allocation of \$37,500 for the West Street Center in the budget, as support is needed from both the City and the County, and asked that the Board approve the item in the budget this year. She said IMPACT hopes the absence of funding in the proposed budget does not indicate a lack of interest or commitment in bringing the service to the area, and said they already have individual meetings scheduled with Board members and look forward to seeing them at the Nehemiah action meeting on May 3.

Ms. Charlotte Piersol addressed the Board, stating that she is representing the Legal Aid Justice Center and indicated the center helped her save her home and pull her out of a depression. Ms. Piersol urged the Board not to cut the center's funding, adding that people like her work hard, but have low income and need to be supported.

Ms. Stephanie Passman of the Rivanna District addressed the Board and stated that she is a teacher at Stony Point Elementary School and works with students on projects like learning fractions by baking cookies, building original designs and creations in Minecraft, and troubleshooting CAD software to create a miniature zip line. This is just one day of the collaboration, communication and creativity that takes place in Albemarle County schools every day because of the funding the County is able to provide. Ms. Passman stated these students are the future architects, chefs, builders and engineers and the ones who will be running the community, and they are not just the kids of the parents who had them, but are everyone's kids. She asked the Board to support the Superintendent's budget to continue making Albemarle County schools a reason that people move to the County and a reason the community is so great.

Mr. Tom Olivier of the Samuel Miller District addressed the Board and thanked them for adding the natural resources position to the Planning Department in the budget last year, as that person is already working to help restore efforts to protect the local environment. Mr. Olivier stated that he supports the proposed 2.5-cent tax increase and commends Mr. Foley for his willingness to do that, stating that because of fluctuations in real estate rates, unfunded mandates and population growth, there are many new costs that need to be addressed, and it is not just people being wasteful with taxpayer money. He said he appreciates some of the proactive proposals from Mr. Foley, particularly the public engagement initiative, and he wants to urge the County to expand efforts to develop new policies, economic development and otherwise, that actively seek to avoid promoting new population growth. Mr. Olivier noted this would help save the environment as well as reduce some of the budget squeezes and the urgency to try to expand the tax base.

Mr. Eric Swensen of the Jack Jouett addressed the Board, stating that he is speaking on behalf of the Greer Elementary School PTO, where his daughter is a second grader. Mr. Swensen said that everyone from the principal down have done so much to grow her love of reading and art, and said that a week ago she had begged him to take her to the library to get more books. He stated he is always impressed by the staff at Greer, but one of the challenges they face is the fact they are already 30 students over capacity, which is expected to increase to 100 within the next three years. Mr. Swensen said the school is also becoming more diverse, with about 1/3 of the student population receiving services for English as a Second Language, which requires additional breakout space and support so those students can be fully integrated and successful. He urged the Board to help find money in the operating or capital budget to help Greer find the space they need in order to work with children and continue to inspire them and foster their love of knowledge.

Mr. Harold Pillar of the Scottsville District addressed the Board, stating the more he listened to Mr. Foley's budget presentation, the madder he got, as Mr. Foley does not understand the challenges people have. Mr. Pillar stated that currently 1/6 of his annual income goes to property taxes, which is a challenge, and while he can downsize to pay the taxes, the County can also downsize. He asked why the County has a Natural Resources Manager on staff. Mr. Pillar read from Virginia Code Section 46.2-752, paragraph B: "The amount of license fee or tax imposed by any County, City or Town on any motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer shall not be greater than the annual or one-year fee imposed on the vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer." Mr. Pillar said that permanent licenses are placed on these items, with no annual fee, and he does not understand how it is possible to have a charge on his annual tax bill to buy this license. He stated he had gone to the County last year to ask this question, but now he is asking Mr. Foley, the County Attorney and the Board. Mr. Pillar said that salary increases traditionally are provided



by increased efficiencies or inflation, and in looking at the County budget and the people being hired, there has been no improved efficiency at all.

Ms. Susan Kruse addressed the Board on behalf of the Legal Aid Justice Center, recommending that they restore \$24,500 in funding for legal aid that was recommended by the ABRT to be cut. Ms. Kruse stated they are also asking the Board to consider removing the center from the ABRT process and instead include a line item appropriation or other funding vehicle. She said the Center's services are tremendously valuable to Albemarle residents, but the ABRT process is clearly not recognizing this value. Ms. Kruse stated that last year, Legal Aid provided services to more than 154 families in Albemarle County, representing 400 residents. She told the Board that every day the Center fights to protect the rights of their constituents, preventing unwarranted evictions, helping victims of wage thefts and predatory lending, helping families access Medicaid and retain benefits, and helping parents advocate for educational services for their children. Ms. Kruse stated that Legal Aid generated \$237,000 in judgements and settlements last year on behalf of clients in Albemarle County and prevented losses of \$70,000, yet this is the second year in a row she stands before them asking for their funding to be restored. She said their program has not changed from last year or the year before that, and Legal Aid spent significantly more time and energy on the proposal this year, including sharing early drafts with ABRT and having them do a formal site visit. Ms. Kruse stated that what has become increasingly clear is the fact that the ABRT process does an objectively bad job of evaluating Legal Aid's services, and she has multiple examples of the ABRT scores being wildly inconsistent. She said that one example is a question from last year that had received a 10 out of 10 score, and this year with the same answer it received 4 out of 10, and that question alone would have pushed the civil advocacy program, that represented Ms. Piersol, to a "solid" rating. Ms. Kruse stated that whether this is due to flaws with the ABRT process or to Legal Aid's uniqueness as a social service, it is clear that a different approach is needed to ensure that Albemarle County residents have a voice in the legal system.

Mr. Art Stowe of the Rio District addressed the Board, stating that he is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year as principal of Red Hill Elementary School, following 7 years as a teacher and administrator in other County schools, and is a parent of three children in County schools. Mr. Stowe stated that he shares this information as a statement of his commitment to the County both personally and professionally, and wants to thank the Board for their commitment to funding the renovations and modernizations at Red Hill. He said he realizes there are many needs in the County, but the Board's decisions thus far has supported plans to move forward with the long awaited and much needed upgrades for the school. Mr. Stowe asked the Board to continue to keep Red Hill as a priority to ensure that funding remains available next year to fulfill the current plans, adding that the changes will be transformative and will provide a significant increase in safety for children, because of the addition at the entry and less use of trailers. He stated this will mean that learning spaces will have the flexibility to adapt to the needs of the community's children and provide for multi-age and paced learning, and the design will allow for true team teaching in which teachers work side-by-side so that children reap the benefits offered by their shared expertise. Mr. Stowe said the schools are asking the Board to continue to back their efforts to make the new vision for Red Hill a reality, by ensuring that funding is approved.

Mr. Troy Johnson of the Samuel Miller District addressed the Board and stated that he is the parent of four sons, three of whom attend Red Hill School, and has a daughter on the way. He stated that the two children currently not in school will likely attend Red Hill, and said he fully supports the much needed improvements at Red Hill. Mr. Johnson said he wants to encourage the Board's commitment to the project, stating this is a County they can be proud of. He stated the children are, indeed, the future leaders of the community and the country, and they should be supported in homes in terms of adequate funding and educational opportunities provided in schools.

Ms. Cheryl Knight addressed the Board, stating that she is a City resident but has been an Albemarle County School teacher for the past 18 years, and noted that she is also representing the Albemarle Education Association. Ms. Knight stated that she supports the superintendent's budget as presented to the Board, and agrees with previous speakers in terms of children being the future base of what is to be created in the County.

Mr. Robert Johnson, a County resident and Executive Director of Region Ten Community Services Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Johnson stated that the West Street Center is an eight-bed treatment center for women that Region Ten proposes to be open next spring. He said that Region Ten is happy that its budget request overall was approved for the coming fiscal year, but is disappointed that the \$37,500 in partial year funding from Albemarle County was not approved. Mr. Johnson emphasized that West Street Center will be a model in the state, and said he would like for Albemarle to work with Charlottesville and surrounding counties, which will also be asked for funding. He stated the individuals to be served are costing the community in many other ways, often without negative outcomes. Mr. Johnson reported that in 2014, there were 728 opioid-related deaths in the state of Virginia, surpassing vehicle deaths at 700. He emphasized the treatment center will make a difference by serving at least 50 women and up to two kids per person, making a huge positive impact and keeping families together.

The Chair closed the public hearing, and stated that the Board sincerely appreciates the comments.

Mr. Dill stated in terms of the claim that the Board has rejected funding for the West Street Center, the Board has not yet had an open discussion on the budget, and things are still in flux. He pointed out this is the first look at the budget, not the final step.



Ms. Palmer confirmed that is the case, stating that there will be work sessions over the next several weeks, all of which will be video-streamed so that people can watch them if they are unable to attend meetings. She asked Ms. Allshouse to review the budget schedule.

Ms. Lori Allshouse, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, addressed the Board and stated the County really wants to engage the public in the budget process this year. Ms. Allshouse said there will be work sessions on February 25 and 29, with the budgets reviewed in detail and studied at that time; in March there will be a third work session on the Capital Improvement Program; on March 8 the Board will finalize the budget for advertisement and advertise the tax rate; on March 30 there will be a second public hearing on the Board's proposed budget; and on April 12 is the final public hearing.

Mr. Foley said that in addition, based on the Board's last discussion, staff is working on three opportunities during the weeks of March 9-28 for additional public engagement at the County's high schools for the public to come out and hear the presentations and make comment.

Ms. Palmer noted that citizens can sign up for A-Mail with the County to be notified of when the events occur.

Ms. Mallek asked where people will look for information about these events.

Staff confirmed that it will be in the papers and on radio.

Mr. Randolph stated that in the Scottsville District, there will be a public hearing on March 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Monticello High School.

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**Recess.** The Board recessed their meeting at 7:33 p.m. and reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

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Agenda Item. No. 11. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Legislative Update:

Mr. Davis reported that the Air BnB bill has moved forward in both the House and the Senate and is soon to go to the Governor. One issue in the Senate budget bill includes an amendment requiring further study and that the bill will not become effective until 2017, with more opportunity for input as to how the bill will affect local governments. He stated this will be dependent on whether the Senate approves the budget amendment and whether it is reconciled and stays in the budget when it is adopted, so there is a possibility the Air BnB bill will not move forward as anticipated. Mr. Davis reported that regarding the proffer legislation, the Senate bill was approved in the House, but the House bill is still pending in the Senate. He stated the County and TJPDC are still working those bills, and there might be an opportunity to influence the Governor to try to amend or veto them. He added there are some other bills also working through the General Assembly, and requested that Board members contact him directly if they have questions about specific legislation.

Ms. Mallek stated it is mind-boggling to her that hotels would be able to come into the state and not be required to register with the Virginia Department of Taxation or to let localities know they are operating, and legislators do not seem to even know why they are supporting the legislation. She said this was why it is important to send repeated emails to hammer home some of these points.

Ms. Palmer asked if they would like to send a letter from the Board. Mr. Davis responded he is not sure that is the most effective approach at this time, and the County's position is pretty clear to legislators, and David Blount, VACO and VML are doing a good job with working those positions forward. He stated it might be helpful if a Board member was invited to serve on the committee that may be established on this issue, but he does not feel that letters, at this point, would make a huge difference.

Mr. Randolph asked Mr. Davis if he feels the figure provided in the School Board budget of a 6% increase in state revenues based on the Governor's proposal and re-benchmarking is still reliable. Mr. Davis responded that in both the Senate and House versions of the budget, there is continued support for K-12 funding, and in some cases might be even better than what the Governor proposed. He stated that it is hard to reconcile what that bill will look like at this point because of differences between the Senate and House versions, but he is confident that funding will not be cut and may even look better than what is proposed.

Ms. Mallek noted there are some who are really challenging the predictions about continued growth levels, and they do not want to be caught in the predicament of overzealous estimates.

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Agenda Item. No. 12. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Foley stated that Ms. Catlin has put together a calendar of budget meetings already happening in March, but wants to provide the opportunity for the additional meetings at the high schools. He said that for consistency, staff can still do the budget presentations at the high schools and have the Board hold subsequent conversations in their districts.

Ms. Lee Catlin, Assistant County Executive, addressed the Board and stated she had handed out the budget process outline to the Board, noting the items that are completed or in process as well as upcoming items such as public hearings, work sessions, A-Mail and work with the media. Ms. Catlin pointed out the formal Board meetings are already on their schedule, as well as School Board meetings, parent conferences and other school happenings. She reviewed the calendar of meetings and said that staff will need to understand what support the Board needs at their advisory committee meetings, and noted the town hall meetings will provide the opportunity for Board members to engage directly with their constituents. Ms. Catlin noted the remaining evenings that do not conflict with existing scheduled meetings, and said it will depend on the availability of high schools, but they will be the first choice for the meeting locations.

Mr. Foley commented that the broader discussion is not just about this budget, although that is important, but there are items that go beyond this tight timeframe.

Ms. Mallek said that March 22 and 23 are the best for her if those are possible for Western Albemarle.

Ms. McKeel commented that there are not many dates available, and suggested that, because of the tight schedule, she would be happy to move her Jack Jouett Advisory Committee meeting to Albemarle High School as it will serve the same purpose.

Ms. Catlin said they are intending that the advisory committee meetings will have a budget focus during this month, but some may not want to expand attendance to those from other districts.

Ms. Palmer said she would hate to do that without asking the advisory committee.

Ms. Catlin said that staff can look for another date as to when Monticello High School might be available during that time period.

Mr. Randolph said that March 17 is already reserved for Monticello High School, and it could just be expanded to include Samuel Miller and the rest of the County.

Ms. Palmer stated she would like to touch base with their advisory council leaders about this. Ms. Catlin agreed that staff will follow up.

Mr. Sheffield stated that his CAC wants to have a full-on budget presentation and would like to have Ms. McClintic come to talk about economic development, and said the meeting is already scheduled for March 21 as a joint meeting with Mr. Dill's CAC. He stated they will need to figure out a venue, but reminding the public that they can attend the CAC meetings will be an additional help in getting the word out.

Ms. Catlin said they will present it as the CACs always being public meetings for anyone who wish to attend, whereas the high school meetings will involve outreach to stakeholder groups and networks so they are inviting people from various sectors of the community to come to one of the three high school meetings.

Mr. Dill stated it would help the CACs to recruit people if they are to support and promote the larger meetings, adding that the Pantops CAC had 20 people in attendance at their February 22 meeting.

Ms. Catlin asked Ms. Mallek if she wants her March 16 Crozet CAC meeting to have a budget focus. Ms. Mallek responded that the agenda for that CAC meeting is already packed as there are three rezonings underway in the area, but she is doing a budget presentation with the Crozet Community Association on March 10. She suggested having the larger meeting at Western on March 22 or 23, and said they can use Henley or Brownsville if Western Albemarle is not available.

Ms. Palmer suggested that she would like to consider something for the southern portion of Samuel Miller, and said that she typically has a good turnout of people at Red Hill.

Ms. Mallek noted the Red Hill parents also come to Crozet, and the point is to not have staff drag itself to so many meetings as they had in 2015.

Ms. Palmer stated she has a meeting at the Ruritan Club in North Garden on April 7, but that is probably a bit late for the budget discussion.

Ms. Catlin said this is a continuing community conversation, so staff does not feel the March calendar is going to be the end of things, and would imagine that there will be a comprehensive community collaboration effort pertaining to the budget. She commented that even if the budget has already been adopted, the message of challenge, change and community engagement will be a continuing theme going forward.

Ms. Palmer suggested that she contact the Ruritans and see if they would be willing to open up the meeting in this way, as they typically have about 30 people in attendance.

Mr. Randolph stated that in past years, people felt obligated to make just the one meeting held in their district, but this structure provides more opportunities that are not restricted by district, and it will be important to communicate that to the public. He said that given what the County is entertaining in terms

of fiscal challenge and a new two-year budget, it is important to remember that they can never over-communicate. Mr. Randolph stated that having the opportunity will be very valuable for people.

Ms. Catlin said that staff is looking into the Smart Cville option, because everyone has agreed they have done a nice job with other efforts.

Mr. Sheffield stated it would be good to get it up sooner than later, and volunteered his time to help get it up and running.

Ms. Catlin noted there can also be virtual town hall meetings using Go To Meeting, in addition to the in-person meetings at the high school sites.

Mr. Randolph stated it would be helpful for people to have printout copies of Mr. Foley's PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Sheffield asked if there is any reason why they would not want to nail down the other two high school meetings now.

Ms. Palmer responded that she wants to check with the new CAC president and 5<sup>th</sup> Street vice-president about rolling their meeting into a larger meeting at the high school, as it is common courtesy to ask them first.

Mr. Sheffield said he would not encourage them to do Mr. Foley's presentation at the CAC meeting, but have a CAC meeting that will focus on the budget, and he sees the high school meetings as completely open without the formal decorum of the CACs.

Ms. Mallek said they will need a much bigger space.

Ms. Palmer stated that Mr. Randolph had suggested they make the CAC meeting a larger one at the Monticello High School meeting, and she agreed with him but wants to ask the CACs first.

Ms. Catlin said that staff will lock the dates down and do some checking with the high schools as to space availability and how they want to do the CAC.

Mr. Sheffield stated he is a bit disappointed that they are walking away without the three meetings defined.

Mr. Foley noted the only outstanding one is Monticello High School.

Ms. Catlin stated that the Albemarle High School meeting will be March 15, with Western Albemarle being March 23, and reiterated the only outstanding issue is whether the CAC meeting will be rolled into the Monticello meeting.

Ms. Palmer said that she just wants to ask.

Ms. Catlin stated that staff will have all of this clarified by their work session on February 25.

Mr. Foley noted there will be a presentation and update on the economic development strategic plan on the agenda for the Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting of February 25, and that discussion will provide a good basis for anything the Board wants to discuss in this regard at their CAC meetings.

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**NonAgenda.** Closed Meeting.

At 8:14 p.m., Mr. Dill **moved** that the Board go into Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under subsection (7) to consult with and be briefed by legal counsel and staff regarding specific legal matters requiring legal advice relating to: (1) the negotiation of easements on the County Office Building property; and (2) the negotiation of an agreement for Court facilities. Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill,  
NAYS: None.

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Certify Closed Meeting.

At 8:59 p.m., the Board reconvened into open meeting, and Mr. Dill **moved** that the Board certify by a recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill.  
NAYS: None.

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Mr. Sheffield **moved** to direct staff to bring to the Board by April 6 information on available alternatives for relocating the courts to another location. Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill.  
NAYS: Ms. Palmer and Mr. Dill.

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Agenda Item. No. 13. Adjourn to February 24, 2016, 8:30 a.m., Monticello Fire Station Training Room.

At 9:01 p.m., Ms. Mallek **moved** to adjourn the Board meeting to February 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. the Monticello Fire Station training room. Mr. Sheffield **seconded** the motion.

Roll was called, and the motion passed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Ms. Mallek, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Dill.  
NAYS: None.

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Chairman

Approved by Board
Date: 06/01/2016
Initials: TOM