

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on March 30, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting was adjourned from March 23, 2016.

PRESENT: Mr. Norman G. Dill, Ms. Ann Mallek (arrived at 4:22 p.m.), 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 6:00 p.m., by the Chair, Ms. Palmer.

Ms. Palmer also introduced staff present and the presiding security officer, Officer Thomas.

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Agenda Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.  
Agenda Item No. 3. Moment of Silence.

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Agenda Item No. 4. Adoption of Final Agenda.

Ms. McKeel **moved** to adopt the final agenda as presented. Mr. Randolph **seconded** the motion.

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

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

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Agenda Item No. 5. Brief Announcements by Board Members.

Ms. Mallek stated that Columbia Gas has been undergoing a safety campaign for calling \*811 to locate utility lines and prevent digging near lines, and there is also a lot of important information available from the City and County, and this information can save lives. Ms. Mallek also reported that household hazardous waste amnesty days at the Ivy MUC will be Friday, April 1, 2016 from 2:00-6:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; bulky waste days are Saturday, April 9, 2016, furniture and mattresses are Saturday, April 16, 2016; and tires are Saturday, April 23, 2016.

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Ms. Palmer reported that Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority and Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Executive Director, Tom Frederick, will be leaving his position at the end of April to take a job elsewhere, and he will be delivering his quarterly report to the Board on April 6 so they will have a chance to thank him for the excellent water system and sewer system that he has helped build.

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Agenda Item No. 6. From the Public: Matters not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda.

Ms. Barbara Cruikshank, a City resident and owner of a home in Earlysville, addressed the Board and stated that all three of her children have attended Albemarle County schools. Ms. Cruikshank stated she is before the Board to speak in opposition to the proposed cell tower at Albemarle High School. She said that cell phone towers are powerful transmitters of radio frequency radiation, which is the same as cell phone and microwave oven radiation, and there is no long-term proof of the safety of placing these towers to be placed near schools. Ms. Cruikshank stated that FCC regulations are outdated and over 20 years old, are not reflective of current science, and do not protect children. She said the World Health Organization has declared radio frequency radiation, which is the same type of radiation, as a class 2-B carcinogen because of the links to brain cancer, and studies continue to show that there is an increased risk of cancer for those who live or work near cell tower base stations. Ms. Cruikshank referenced studies that she has provided to the Board, stating that one study shows that living less than 300 meters by a base station, women have a tenfold increase in cancer, and the general population has a four-fold increase. She stated that other adverse biologic effects include damage to the DNA, damage to the reproductive and immune systems, tremors, insomnia, palpitations, and a myriad of other physical complaints. Ms. Cruikshank said the Bio initiative Report is from an international, global research group that evaluates all the research on human health and electromagnetic radiation, and they come out strongly in saying that by placing cell towers near schools, children are exposed to much higher levels of radiation than they were 20 years ago. She stated there are many other safety issues such as fires, falls from towers, and truck traffic near schools, as well as negative impacts on property values. Ms. Cruikshank said she hopes the Board will look at the information she provided and not approve the cell tower in this location.

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Agenda Item No. 7. **PUBLIC HEARING:** To receive comments on Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2016-2017, and Calendar Year 2016 Tax Rates. (*Advertised in the Daily Progress on March 22 and March 27, 2016.*)

Ms. Palmer stated the purpose of this meeting is to receive public comments on the recommended FY17 County budget. The Board is not planning to make any decisions on the tax rate at this time. She said the County Executive will provide a brief presentation and overview of the budget.

Mr. Foley stated he will provide capital and operating budget highlights, and emphasized that the County is facing a significant challenge as it looks at the future financially, the ability to pay for services and capital program that the community has come to expect from local government. He referenced a graph depicting five-year revenues and expenditures and said it represents a structural imbalance, with the gap widening into the future. Mr. Foley said the County has looked at this graph over the last several years and have been challenged to figure out how to get into a better position going forward. He stated there has been slow growth in the County's largest revenue source; a projected slowdown in the economy overall; and significant increases in obligations, mandates and commitments. Mr. Foley also said the challenge is both short and long-term, with significant challenges in maintaining existing levels of service as the population grows.

Mr. Foley presented a pie chart showing the County's revenue sources, pointing out that 60% of local revenue is generated from the real estate tax base and stating that when that is not moving in a positive direction, it affects the ability to fund the future. He referenced a graph with data showing that real estate taxes driven by property values have fluctuated through the Great Recession, with a huge dip in 2007 and a recovery that peaked out in 2015. Mr. Foley said the peak has begun to drop again, and that represents where the County is today and the challenges faced in terms of growth in that 60% of revenue base. He presented a slide highlighting mandates, obligations and commitments, which total \$7.6 million, and funding to minimize impact to existing levels of service, which total \$2.1 million, for a total of \$9.7 million just for those two items in the proposed FY17 budget. Mr. Foley said the \$9.7 million is greater than the projected \$9 million in revenue growth, so the difference had to be made up with specific strategies, but the point to emphasize is that the things they have to do are outstripping a budget that even includes a 2.5-cent tax increase. He mentioned this challenge is both short and long-term, with property values dropping below what staff had projected in the current year and into the next two fiscal years. Mr. Foley said it is hoped that the impact on the current year will be impacted by growth in other sources of revenue as well as some expected expenditure savings, but it is something that will need to be monitored in between now and July 1, 2016.

Mr. Foley reported the reality of FY17 is that just to deal with these mandates and obligations, the County has had to include a tax increase of 2.5 cents, with no new positions, expansions of services, or new programs and services in the budget. He stated even beyond that, they had to make up the \$700K difference between revenue growth and obligations just to balance the budget. Mr. Foley said the budget includes \$400,000 in reductions that County government will have to make just to keep the budget in balance, in spite of the tax increase and not adding any positions. He stated that in looking out to FY18, staff is projecting a deficit of \$2.5-\$3 million, and without some changes going forward the County is challenged just to maintain existing levels of service, and it is very difficult to meet the aspirations the Board and community have established through the strategic plan in terms of things they want to do. Mr. Foley said that future tax increases or dramatic expenditure reductions are needed into the future just to keep up with existing services, and strategic plan initiatives go unfunded for the three-year period, and the CIP is funded only at a maintenance level for essential projects, and even that will require a 3-cent tax increase over the next five years. He added the challenge is hitting this year harder than anticipated, due to some changes and drops in values and growth.

Mr. Foley stated the County has faced significant challenges in the past, including during the recession when efficiencies were implemented, such as eliminating positions or reallocating them to other departments based on priorities, privatization of some services, increased use of volunteers, more aggressive use of grants, and other measures. He said a lot of these measures will remain in place, so more will need to be done going forward. Mr. Foley stated there will need to be strong leadership from the Board and some public engagement to help overcome this. He presented a graph showing the tax rates since 2002, with a low of 68 cents in 2007 climbing up to almost 92 cents by 2019, and said that a drop in property values will need to be offset by increasing taxes just to balance the budget without any new services or positions. Mr. Foley said this will be the way to address the gap on the revenue side with a strategy of just raising taxes.

Mr. Foley stated the other side will be looking at expenditures to see what programs, services and initiatives might be cut. He stated that in comparison to localities like Hanover and Stafford, Albemarle's expenditures seem to be average, but are actually well below average because those other communities do not face some of the same challenges, including revenue sharing paid to the City of Charlottesville, which will be almost \$16 million in FY17 and will increase in FY18 and beyond, which is the equivalent to almost 10 cents on the tax rate. Mr. Foley said the County also gives up approximately \$16 million defers through a hearty land use program, which taxes for properties that are qualified as agricultural, forest, or open space, and while Albemarle's program is not the only one in the state, it is more comprehensive than many because of the value placed on protection of rural areas. Mr. Foley stated that the community has a very strong pre-K program, and in looking over a 10-year period the number of employees has not increased. He said the County has remained conservative on expenditures and is very lean, so there is not a lot of cutting that will help solve this problem, but staff still proposes to do an efficiency study in FY17 to further look at this opportunity. Mr. Foley reported that Albemarle County ranks 126 out of 133 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth for the number of police officers per capita, and this is another example that Albemarle is below average on expenditures in some key areas.

Mr. Foley stated the proposed budget balances hard choices and opportunities for change and some different types of action, and proposes some concrete steps to transform the organization, as well

as talking about investments needed to bring about some of those changes. Mr. Foley said the budget is focused on establishing clear Board and community priorities that drive future decisions, and the bottom line is that the County must align tax structures and levels of service to what is desired as a community, and that will require a considerable amount of involvement by the public in terms of values and what the future should look like. He stated there are six goals established in the budget, three related to addressing current challenges, and three related to making investments in the future. Mr. Foley said the budget meets current commitments and obligations, minimizes impacts on current levels of service, holds the line on existing expenditures and invests in meaningful solutions. He stated it also establishes a process for determining Board and citizen priorities, while creating a realistic two-year fiscal plan after FY17, rather than looking one year at a time or trying to project out five years.

Mr. Foley reported the budget is a \$376.3 million budget, with the majority of revenues coming from property taxes at 44%; other local revenue is about 19%; state revenue provides about 22%; and the remainder is borrowed proceeds and small sources such as federal revenue. Mr. Foley stated that 58% of the County's expenditures are school-related, with 38% for everything else local government does, and 4% paid to the City of Charlottesville under a revenue-sharing agreement. He said the budget represents a 0.4% increase or \$1.6 million, with the majority of the change due to a decline in the capital program in the year ahead, and operating expenses are up about 4.5% for local government and schools. Mr. Foley said that although the County is seeing some moderate growth in some revenue sources, slow growth in real estate values is having the biggest impact on the budget. He reported the budget is built on an 84.4-cent tax rate, which is a 2.5-cent increase, and 1 cent of that is dedicated solely to capital to keep up with some maintenance and critical public safety needs. Mr. Foley stated that of the remaining 1.5 cents, 1.1 cents is going to local government to pay for mandates, and 0.4 cents is going to the school system to address their budget gaps. He said that state and federal revenues are not a large sum of this budget and are not changing dramatically in the future.

Mr. Foley presented information on the impact of the budget on tax bills, and the average home price in 2007 tracked up to the FY17 budget, emphasizing that the tax bill has not changed very much in real dollars, and it definitely has not changed when considering inflation-adjusted dollars. He stated the tax bill on the average home with the proposed 2.5-cent tax increase would be \$2,201; at the current rate it would be \$2,136.

Mr. Foley provided some brief highlights of the first goal of meeting mandates and obligation in the budget, stating that support for the school system will increase \$3.3 million; debt service obligations are increasing \$2.9 million; and Children's Services Act mandates, providing treatment services for children in need in the school system, special education and foster care, are increasing \$1.4 million. He stated that with the goal of minimizing there will be increases of about \$1 million in key regional agencies just to maintain existing services; local government healthcare costs are up 14.5% in the budget; and the budget includes a 2% market increase in salaries to keep employees up with the market as it changes, so the County is able to attract and retain them in what is a pretty difficult environment. Mr. Foley said that with the third goal of holding the line on existing expenditures, the budget includes no new positions or expansion of services or programs, and the local government side is actually down by \$17,000. He stated this does rely on \$400,000 of reductions over the next two years, and one-time expenditures have been reduced by just over \$500,000. Mr. Foley said the revenue-sharing amount to the City drops in FY17 by about \$300,000, but increases again in FY18 by almost \$600,000.

Mr. Foley reported that with the fourth goal of investing in meaningful solutions, the County proposes an efficiency study at a cost of about \$100,000, which will be done in concert with the City of Charlottesville to include evaluation of combined services or regional solutions; a technology assessment to streamline services; further consolidation of services; investment in economic development in urban areas to invest in initiatives that will grow the non-residential tax base; possible freezing and reallocating positions in local government; and further scrutinizing the healthcare fund and Children's Services Act obligations to see if there may be other ways to provide those things at a lesser cost. Mr. Foley stated that if the County has to think about reducing services, or if tax increases must be a part of providing the high level of services valued in the community, there needs to be discussion with the community about that, and this process proposes priority-based budgeting to take a hard look at what is being done now and how it might need to be done differently in the future.

Mr. Foley said the final goal involves developing a two-year fiscal plan beginning in FY18, which will focus on realistic priorities that move the County to a sustainable future, and this will involve tough choices on tax rates and service levels. He stated the idea is that if the County can get itself to the right place, it can quit limping along year after year with reductions and hopefully reach a point where it is reaching toward community aspirations.

Mr. Foley concluded that in summary, the budget recommends the County take action now to address a three-year budget imbalance; evaluate options and make necessary changes, which will involve clear Board and community priority-setting; aligning tax structure and service levels to desires, values and priorities; strengthen the focus on economic development and growing the non-residential tax base, as residential development costs the County more money than it costs to educate a child; and engage with the public significantly so they are involved in making choices and decisions about the future. Mr. Foley emphasized this is a great community, but it will take bold leadership and investment to overcome the current challenges and embrace the future. He stated that today is not the end, and the public will continue to be engaged going forward.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Ms. Mallek read the ground rules for public speakers.

Ms. McKeel stated that she has two lists, one for those who signed up online, and one for those who signed up in person at the meeting.

Ms. Peggy Williams of the Samuel Miller District addressed the Board, stating that she is a parent of three children in County schools, and commenting that when you have a good thing going, it is worth the extra effort and resources to keep it going. Ms. Williams stated that she supports the tax rate increase so the schools can face challenges head on, maintaining ideal class sizes despite continued growth and enrollment; attracting and keeping the best teachers and paying them competitive salaries; providing professional development opportunities so teachers can keep up with cutting-edge technology and inspire their students at the next level. She emphasized the world has changed and continues to change, and schools must continue to change. Ms. Williams said the money invested today will pay great dividends, not just for schools and those in them, but for everyone. She urged the Board to support the full tax rate increase and funding for Albemarle County Schools, and asked them to do everything possible to keep a good thing going.

Mr. Michael Irani, Principal of Meriwether Lewis Elementary School, addressed the Board and stated that he is before them to support full funding of the proposed County budget and tax rate. Mr. Irani stated that he works side by side with teachers and staff every day, and he is consistently impressed with the level and quality of service they provide schools and children. He said the quality surfaces the most in the small things, such as grounds crews scheduling their mowing times around recess so as not to endanger children; emergency responders giving up their lunch hour every week to partake in pizza Friday, showing young people that police officers, firefighters and EMTs are real people; teachers attending a student's soccer game on a Saturday morning, despite not getting the annual 3% pay raise that the average American worker in the private sector has received over the past three years. Mr. Irani said he is encouraged that the proposed budget appears to make a small step towards compensating these public servants more appropriately, and he hopes it is just the start. He stated that he knows teachers need it, as many of them cannot even consider affording a home in the school districts they serve. Mr. Irani urged the Board to keep in mind the impact the budget has on children, and in the schools this means providing them the finest teachers, who have had adequate professional development; innovative learning opportunities such as elementary world language programs; and surrounding our children with the highest quality adults possible on a day to day basis.

Ms. Charlotte Hogue of the Samuel Miller District addressed the Board and asked why, if the County is so short of money, the Board gives to so many nonprofits, because if they give to one, all the rest will expect it. Ms. Hogue said the Senior Center wants a huge donation from the County for an elaborate new facility, but they should have a fundraiser for the center instead, as many citizens do not use this center. She stated the County should not expend funds on the book festivals and other such events, as most of the benefits from those events go to the City of Charlottesville. Ms. Hogue asked why the Board donated the money saved from a recent court case rather than returning it to the general fund, and said she is disappointed that the Board does not hold the School Board accountable on how they spend funds, and wonders how they can justify such large increases to school officials in the highest paying jobs. Ms. Hogue said that a lot of citizens in lower-paying or part-time jobs, do not get annual increases, and should not be expected to pay for everyone's pet projects. She emphasized this money belongs to the citizens and is not the Board's, and told them to be wise and conservative in spending that money. Ms. Hogue critiqued them for raising assessments and increasing real estate tax rates plus car registration fees.

Mr. Robert Hogue addressed the Board, stating the Senior Center should raise their own funds through their membership and activity fees. Mr. Hogue suggested that instead of raising the fees on car and truck fees, they should raise the cost of dog tags, as cars are necessities and dogs are not, and said that owners should pay the cost of having the fire department rescue their dogs, cats and horses. He stated it is no wonder that a lot of seniors resent the school system, because a 2% pay raise for teachers while seniors are not even getting a cost of living increase, and the school system is not efficient, doing things such as running buses on dead end non-state maintained roads. Mr. Hogue asked why entrance corridors are being mowed this week, as it is a waste of money to mow short grass. He stated the only day that should be funded at the landfill is hazardous waste day, and they should drop the other three as they are losing revenue there, and these amnesty days are not worth it, because people are still using roadsides as dumps.

Ms. Marta Keane addressed the Board, stating that she is CEO of the Jefferson Area Board for Aging and a resident of the Jack Jouett District. Ms. Keane thanked the Board for their support and stated that JABA had more than 6,000 clients last year out of 15,000 total seniors, and 29% of the seniors the organization works with are at poverty level, so it is a group in great need of these services. She said the Board's budget information includes outcome data and satisfaction rates among seniors and other clients, with a more than 90% satisfaction rate among those served with information & assistance and options counseling. Ms. Keane stated that JABA saw almost 1,300 seniors last year with the insurance counseling program, saving them almost \$1/2 million in Medicare Part D subscriptions in which they were enrolling. She said that JABA served almost 20,000 meals to seniors last year, in both home-delivered and congregate meal programs, which provided nutrition as well as socialization opportunities. Ms. Keane stated that JABA's senior volunteers have expressed a sense of purpose, with 98% stating that they feel they make a difference, and a lot of these seniors are also at poverty level. She asked the Board to approve JABA's budget, stating that it will help them continue to grow.

Ms. Pat Smith, Director of Offender Aid and Restoration and an Albemarle County resident, addressed the Board, and stated that she is before them to talk about OAR's restorative justice program, which is the one OAR program that the ABRT process recommended restoring the funding to. Ms. Smith asked the Board to follow that recommendation and restore the funding, and stated that she has provided a packet on the restorative justice program.

Ms. Robyn Bolling, principal of Greer Elementary School and a member of the Hydraulic Places 29 Committee, addressed the Board and asked them to support full funding of the proposed budget. She told the Board about a student named "Sasha," who was born in a refugee camp and has cerebral palsy, and was brought into the community through the International Rescue Committee. Ms. Bolling stated that she spent one of this student's first few weeks in school in the bathroom with her to help her overcome fear of indoor plumbing due to the sound of flushing toilets, and a year later, Sasha is running, climbing, reading, loves math, and is learning to communicate in English. Ms. Bolling said that she feels Greer is the changing face in Albemarle County, and while the school educates many students like Sasha, it also educates many students who are from here. She stated that it is her job to provide a high-quality education to all students, including those who have significant gaps, have moved around from school to school, and those who are not struggling but need constant enrichment and higher rigor. Ms. Bolling said that when she moved here from Fairfax County four years ago, Greer had a little over 400 students with about 60% of them economically disadvantaged; today, Greer has close to 630 students with almost 80% of them economically disadvantaged. She stated that she has hired close to 40 teachers due to that growth and the school got a new addition four years ago that is now maxed out, and yet less than 20% of current 5<sup>th</sup> graders attended Greer as kindergartners. Ms. Bolling said that in her 31-year career as a teacher and a leader, she has specialized in Title I schools and is passionate about diverse schools, and said that she recognizes and supports the many needs in the community such as fire, police and social services. She asked the Board to keep the changing face of Albemarle in mind as they deliberate the budget.

Ms. Brooks Wellman addressed the Board and stated that she is before them on behalf of Lighthouse Studio, Virginia's only nonprofit youth filmmaking center, with 60% of their students coming from Albemarle schools. Ms. Wellman stated the studio teaches students ages 8-18 self-expression and leadership skills through the art of filmmaking, and this year won Dominion's Art Stars regional "Shining Star" award, presented by Virginians for the Arts, for the best youth arts education nonprofit. She said that last year, the studio served 878 students in the region, and although their program started in 1999 the studio is new to the ABRT process because it has been growing significantly over the past five years. Ms. Wellman stated that Lighthouse was rated "solid" by the ABRT team and recommended for just over \$14,000 in funding, and while she understands the County's commitment to holding the line and not funding any new programs, she asked that they consider even a small amount of funding because strategically it gives the studio the opportunity to not be considered a new program.

Ms. Audrey Kocher addressed the Board, stating that she is a County resident and does not support a 2.5-cent tax rate increase, as this is on top of increased assessments and car registration fees. Ms. Kocher said that a successful referendum in November would increase taxes by 3.5 cents, and property assessments in the new year would immediately follow. She asked how taxpayers are supposed to plan, because all of these increases will come within a relatively short amount of time. Ms. Kocher said the current County debt is about \$168 million, and \$8.1 million is paid per year on that; if the referendum is passed, it will add another \$35 million and push the total over \$200 million, which is greater than the operating budget for Albemarle County. She stated that although she supports education and good schools, she is concerned about the inclusion of funding for an addition to Woodbrook School, and the \$15 million for the referendum, if it is included, will expand the school further, and she does not feel the need justifies spending that amount of money. Ms. Kocher stated the school projections presented to Woodbrook on February 10 showed that 103 students will be over capacity in 2017, and building a school in 2018 will not be in time to deal with that. She said that projections of overcapacity are about 138 in 2018 and 2019, and drop to 78 students in 2020 and 2021, and long-range planning documents through 2025 do not show expanding enrollments. Ms. Kocher stated that she worries about where these additional students will come from, and said that from the meeting at Woodbrook she learned that Cale is included in the urban schools, and a kindergartner starting at Cale one year will move to Greer; when Woodbrook opens, Greer students will move to Agnor-Hurt and Hollymead; and Agnor-Hurt and Hollymead students will move to Woodbrook, which is a huge reshuffling of children. Ms. Kocher stated that young children from Cale will go to Greer, to Walton, and then to Albemarle High School, which does not make sense, and she feels the County should go back and look at the redistricting plan for Greer that was previously discarded.

Mr. Chris Cochran addressed the Board, stating that he moved to North Garden with his family three years ago after traveling the country for three years and looking for a community to call home. Mr. Cochran stated the communities he saw that he would consider good places to live invested in their schools, parks and libraries. He said that as a father, he wants to make sure the school budget is fully funded, particularly the Red Hill Elementary School and the capital improvements there. Mr. Cochran stated that as a mobile tech workforce representative, he feels these types of investments in the community have the potential to bring other 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs to the area, and other young families looking for places to live are looking for these same types of qualities.

There being no further public comment, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Sheffield asked Ms. Allshouse to comment on what \$1 million in debt equates to in terms of debt service. Ms. Lori Allshouse, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, said she would defer to Mr. Letteri on that.

Mr. Bill Letteri, Deputy County Executive, stated that it varies depending on the interest rate, but currently a factor of about 1 in 10 is used, so about \$100,000 for \$1 million.

Ms. Palmer asked about the speaker's comment regarding the addition of 3.5 cents on the tax rate if the referendum is passed. Mr. Foley responded there is nothing at all that staff has calculated that would be anywhere near that range, and currently based on what the schools might put forward, that would be closer to 1.5 cents, but it depends on what the Board would want to put on the referendum.

Mr. Dill asked what the interest rate is the County can currently borrow on for new long-term debt. Mr. Letteri responded that Albemarle is AAA so they get the best rate available, and the recent issue was about 3%, and this varies depending on whether this is a 10-year or 30-year issue.

Mr. Dill asked about the \$100,000 to \$1 million ratio. Mr. Letteri explained that it is based on a 4% rate, as that was used in their models.

Ms. Mallek said she had asked where the restorative justice amount would come from if it were put back in, and she cannot recall the cost of that remaining program. Ms. Allshouse responded that the amount is \$7,000.

Ms. Mallek said her recollection of the CSA program was that it pertains to judge-ordered treatment, and asked if it has been expanded since Mr. Foley had mentioned special education and some other items. Ms. Allshouse responded that it has always included more than the judge mandates, such as school items, placements and foster care prevention.

Mr. Foley commented that nothing has really changed in terms of who is being served with that.

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Agenda Item No. 8. **Discussion:** April 5<sup>th</sup> Budget Work Session.

Mr. Foley said that staff wants to understand any issues or questions from the Board so they can prepare for the April 5 budget work session.

Mr. Sheffield asked if the comments garnered from the public budget meetings are posted online. Ms. Lee Catlin, Assistant County Executive, explained that there are links to the audio and video from most of the programs, but staff can also put up a written summary to go along with that.

Mr. Foley said that staff has tracked it and would just need to compile it and put it up.

Ms. Mallek stated that the written comments via email would also be helpful to include.

Ms. Palmer stated they would be talking about the Commonwealth Attorney's office funding as there has been some questions about that, and perhaps they can also talk about the Legal Aid Justice Center funding.

Mr. Sheffield suggested that it be talked about outside of the budget process, as he does not want to confuse what the discussions are about.

Mr. Foley noted the Board has taken an action on that already and put it in the proposed budget with one-time monies, so it will not be available for more than one year, and the Board can talk about it now or wait until next year.

Ms. Palmer said the question is whether it fits into the ABRT process, so that conversation can happen any time over the course of the next year.

Ms. Mallek stated that it would be helpful to have it sooner, as they always tend to forget about individual items.

Mr. Sheffield suggested that it come back to the Board in May with staff's assessment of whether it should be included in the ABRT process.

Mr. Foley stated it is already slated to come back in June, as part of the budget debriefing done every year.

Ms. Palmer asked if staff is going to send out a list of the items the Board has been asking about, as Mr. Foley has said staff has been following and tracking those things, for the discussion on April 5. Ms. Allshouse stated that staff is open to any kind of discussion they want to have.

Mr. Foley responded there are a few items, like the Commonwealth Attorney's item, that needs to have a decision, and beyond that staff has sent the Board four or five emails to follow-up questions specifically, so the assumption is that the Board will ask any further questions.

Ms. Palmer suggested that Board members send any follow-up items to staff within the next 48 hours.

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Agenda Item No. 9. From the Board: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Ms. Mallek said she would like to find out when they can talk about the recognitions because in the past there were things already written and prepared by Board members, and were not held to the items requiring a four-week process and possibly a lot of follow-up from Ms. Jordan.

Ms. Palmer stated that she has raised this issue today because of concern about the four recognitions on the Board's next agenda, and Ms. Mallek had reminded her that Board member items do not require the four-week process. She said this is a bit of a concern to her because when people have come to her and suggested recognitions, she has told them to follow the regular four-week process. Ms. Palmer stated the question is whether or not they want to continue with this process, and how many recognitions they want, because they may not want to take up the first hour of the meeting with them.

Ms. Mallek responded that many of the items are very brief, and people do appreciate it.

Ms. Palmer said they also have a film coming up related to a recognition, so this is something the Board should discuss.

Ms. McKeel stated they have guidelines on recognitions and proclamations, and perhaps they should go back and review it.

Ms. Mallek noted the only times they have had pushback on this in the past was related to certain members not wanting to recognize certain groups, and said that she will just find another way to recognize groups and individuals who have been doing this work.

Ms. Palmer stated that her concern is a question of time, and perhaps Ms. Jordan can circulate the rules again so the Board can discuss it, and maybe they just need to limit the number of them per meeting.

Ms. Mallek commented that making all of these rules makes it impossible to function, and it is already in the Board process as adopted.

Ms. Palmer apologized if she is incorrect about this matter and said that it can be up to the Board to decide.

Mr. Davis stated the existing Board rules and procedures provide that there needs to be a four-week notice, and adding it sooner than that would require a majority vote of the Board.

Ms. Mallek asked if Board members want to hear a recognition of Tennis Day in Crozet on April 14.

Mr. Dill said if it relates to an event with a date, it seems silly to have items coming out after the day has passed.

Mr. Sheffield stated they have done it before.

Ms. Mallek said that she can just bring it up under Matters from the Board.

Ms. Palmer suggested that Board members send an email if they want something approved.

Ms. Palmer stated the Board has been having a lot of discussion about fire and rescue, and in speaking with Mr. Sheffield, he has suggested having a strategic planning session that focuses on fire and rescue, considering the comprehensive plan and land use in that discussion.

Mr. Sheffield stated the comp plan laid out the vision for 50 years of what the community will look like, and fire/rescue is one of the largest investments the County will make, so it is important for them to understand how they are aligning properly, either getting on board with it or changing the direction. He said it is critical with the comp plan because it identifies residential, and hopefully by the time they have the strategic plan, they will have a better idea of where target economic areas are.

Mr. Foley and Ms. McKeel commented that this is a great idea.

Ms. Mallek commented that she would support the idea as long as there are specific questions being addressed rather than response times, which is what the comp plan talks about, so it is the way the vision is being implemented that needs to be discussed.

Mr. Sheffield said the growth expectations of the comp plan are his primary concern, and the growth being laid out is what he wants brought to the table, and the plan that fire and rescue has put together over the years including what it looks like in terms of dollars approved. He noted that he also feels that discussing police is important, but it would be too much for the same agenda.

Mr. Foley responded that staff understands this completely, which is why the fire and rescue funding was pulled into a separate fund, and they will bring back a comprehensive look. He stated that staff is heavy into planning the May strategic planning meeting, and there is too much to incorporate into one day, so they should plan to have a second day, perhaps with any carryover of issues from the first meeting.

Mr. Sheffield also suggested having questions and concerns about fire/rescue sent to staff ahead of time, so they will already have a framework prior to the strategic planning meeting.

Mr. Randolph commented that often police can arrive to an emergency scene more quickly than fire/rescue, so it may be worth exploring the possibility of having other trained professionals provide some of those services, including any additional training needed.

Mr. Foley stated that staff is looking to the Board for direction on public safety including fire/rescue, but another item on their strategic planning list is geo-policing as previously identified and through grant funding of a POP officer. He said there is a big cost driver with both of these areas if they move in that direction, so they can have one session on public safety as a whole, as this will be a big part of their budget.

Mr. Sheffield commented that he would not mind having a big public safety retreat, but he does not want to have too much of an information dump.

Ms. Mallek stated that she has not heard any comments other than very positive ones about geo-policing, and she is not sure they need to rehash that issue.

Mr. Sheffield said that it is more of a realigning of growth expectations, because outside of schools those are the two departments most feeling the pressures of growth, and approval of 1,000 units means 1,000 more homes that need to be protected and policed, and growth and resources are not headed in the same direction as he sees it.

Mr. Foley stated that a lot of the future will be driven by demands on growth and public safety, and while there has been support for geo-policing, the question is what it means and at what pace. He said the City has set a path of having a certain number of officers every year for the next three to five years.

Ms. Mallek stated the Board was also doing that.

Mr. Foley emphasized that the City is not doing it in isolation of whether they can balance their budget and accomplish it, so there will need to be thoughtful discussion about where the Board wants to get, in the context of priority-based budgeting. He said these are conversations they were going to have anyway, and if they want to get to the future that gets them to geo-policing, they may have to do something different in terms of working across the two public safety areas, as Mr. Randolph suggested.

Mr. Randolph stated the reality is the tip of the iceberg, and what is below the surface is social services, which work with police and fire/rescue, and the City, as well as educational components. He said they need to think comprehensively about what is driving the huge cost factors already being experienced, and what they want to avoid is a repeat of failing to look ahead with a degree of clarity and acuity.

Ms. Mallek commented that doing something different is important, not just doing what they did before.

Ms. Mallek also stated that she wants to make sure that "land use" is not what is being referred to in terms of changing approaches, because it is one of the first targets when finances are tight.

Mr. Sheffield clarified that he is talking about land use in terms of fire/rescue in the context of development, residential, etc.

Ms. McKeel stated that she would like an update from Colonel Sellers on the current state of the Albemarle County Police Department before he leaves his position.

Mr. Dill agreed that this is a good idea.

Mr. Foley also agreed, stating that staff will follow up with him.

Mr. Randolph recommended that Colonel Sellers provide that update in public session, not in a retreat setting.

Board members agreed.

Mr. Foley stated that it will be added on a Board agenda.

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Agenda Item No. 10. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

There were none.

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Agenda Item No. 11. Adjourn to March 31, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Lane Auditorium.



At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Mallek **moved** to adjourn the Board meeting to March 31, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.  
Mr. Dill **seconded** the motion. Roll was called and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

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

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Chairman

Approved by Board
Date: 07/06/2016
Initials: TOM