

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on February 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting was adjourned from February 16, 2018.

PRESENT: Mr. Ned Gallaway, Ms. Ann Mallek, Ms. Diantha H. McKeel, Ms. Liz A. Palmer and Mr. Rick Randolph.

ABSENT: Mr. Norman G. Dill.

OFFICERS PRESENT: County Executive, Jeff Richardson, County Attorney, Greg Kamptner, Clerk, Claudette Borgersen, and Senior Deputy Clerk, Travis O. Morris.

Agenda Item No. 1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., by the Chair, Ms. Mallek.

Agenda Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item No. 3. Moment of Silence.

Ms. Mallek announced that Mr. Dill had a family emergency and will not be joining the meeting, but will be listening in. Ms. Mallek then introduced the presiding security officer and County staff present at the dais.

Agenda Item No. 4. **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive comments on the County Executive's FY 2018-2019 Recommended Budget. (*Advertised in the Daily Progress on February 12 and February 18, 2018.*)

Mr. Richardson stated that staff presented an overview of the recommended budget on February 16, noting a few drivers such as a strong local economy and strong revenue. He stated that this is a "bridge year," and this is year two of a process that had included planning and implementation of Board initiatives. He said that after this hearing, there will be a number of work sessions over the following eight weeks – culminating in consideration of a tax rate and adoption of the budget in mid-April. Mr. Richardson commented that this is a starting point to understand how decisions in the coming fiscal year would bridge into FY20.

Mr. Richardson reported that the proposed budget reflects no new tax increase for the second consecutive year, due primarily to a strong local economy in which the County has been able to implement strategic priorities and respond to previously unplanned emerging needs and issues. He stated that the budget reflects maintaining current levels of service to the community across all County departments, and also includes some strategic reinvestment of savings in both this year's and next year's budget.

Mr. Richardson explained that the recommended budget is \$428,500,374, as shown in the graph presented that reflects all local, state, federal, and borrowed revenue. He stated the General Fund comprises \$290,361,314, with the majority coming from general property taxes at 65%, other local revenues at 20%, and smaller revenue sources making up the remainder. Mr. Richardson stated that School Division expenditures represent 45% of General Fund revenue, public safety takes 15%, health and welfare represents 8%, CIP transfer and debt take 9%, the revenue sharing agreement comprises 6%, and the remainder is smaller pieces.

Mr. Richardson stated that major budget drivers include robust real estate growth over the past year with new construction, as well as market increases; strong personal property tax growth; strong consumer-driven activity such as sales tax growth at 10%; and business-driven revenue increasing by \$1.4 million. He said that these sources total approximately \$12 million in new revenue out of local taxes, reflecting a strong local economy for the second consecutive year. He reported that the budget continues to emphasize the County's shared commitment with the schools in providing learning opportunities – not just through direct funding but also through agency and departmental partnerships that support the school system.

Mr. Richardson reported that three additional areas of focus include sustaining a quality organization, including support of the operations budget – services provided to citizens; staffing, with some additional positions proposed for FY19; advancing strategic priorities, including 8 high-level items from the Board along with 22 action objectives. He commented that staff feels they have moved forward over the past year and believes the County will continue to do that in the coming year. Mr. Richardson noted that the third area of focus includes maximizing emerging opportunities, which gives them the ability to reserve organizational capacity for needs and opportunities that may arise over the year that may not have been contemplated in the strategic planning process.

Mr. Richardson stated that staff is recommending to the Board that the County cover all of its obligations and mandates, keeping an eye on state and federal government and acknowledging economic uncertainty; consider strategic investment in both FY19 and FY20 that will emphasize the County's capital program; and monitor staff capacity across service delivery departments to seek opportunities to redesign process and maximize technology, all with an eye to customer service. He said that staff is looking at FY19 as an opportunity to move things forward, setting the stage for the Board to have long-range planning consideration for upcoming capital needs in the 2020 timeframe. Mr.

Richardson summarized by stating that the County is continuing to urbanize in the development areas, which provides a heightened demand for service delivery – but it also remains a rural county and a destination community that offers amenities other communities do not have, including high quality of life in both urban and rural areas. He stated that the community expects a high quality of life here, and the budget looks in a balanced way across the organization and tries to advance Board priorities with due consideration.

Mr. Richardson stated that there are a number of work sessions scheduled throughout the budget process, and he noted the presence of Andy Bowman and Lori Allshouse of the budget office to answer any technical questions.

Ms. Mallek asked Ms. Allshouse and Mr. Bowman if they have presentations or are available to respond to questions. They indicated that they do not have presentations but are available to answer questions.

Ms. Mallek opened the public hearing.

Ms. McKeel stated that speakers would have three minutes each to speak, and she reviewed the guidelines for addressing the Board.

Ms. Janie Pudhorodsky addressed the Board on behalf of IMPACT, stating that she is a County resident and attends Incarnation Parish. She stated that IMPACT represents 27 congregations in the area totaling approximately 15,000 people, and the organization seeks to identify serious community problems and seeks solutions from people who have the power to address these issues. Ms. Pudhorodsky reported that IMPACT has been doing this for 10 years, and three years ago identified problems that seniors face – finding that housing is especially a struggle for them. She stated that IMPACT supports creation of the recommended \$600K housing fund but urges the Board and County Executive to ensure it is a permanent, well-funded, affordable housing fund that prioritizes seniors and low-income citizens. Ms. Pudhorodsky noted that there are 2,000 seniors in the County who earn less than \$11,000 annually; 2,800 senior households struggle with housing, with 933 of those households paying more than 50% of their income toward housing. She added that there are not enough affordable housing units for those who need them, and last year there was a wait list in the County of over 160 people for affordable housing. Ms. Pudhorodsky noted that this problem will undoubtedly grow, as one-quarter of the population will be over age 65 by the year 2024 and stated that affordable housing aligns with the County's strategic objective to revitalize aging urban neighborhoods and its commitment to establish and implement an approach to consider age-friendly community needs and initiatives as part of County planning. She said that IMPACT has a lot of questions about the housing fund and looks forward to sitting down with Mr. Richardson to discuss it with organizational leaders.

Ms. Jessica Maslaney addressed the Board and stated that she is the Executive Director of the Piedmont Family YMCA and is present on behalf of the Y's childcare program at the Jefferson School City Center. She stated that the Board had received a letter from the Y's Board Chair, along with photos of children in the childcare program. Ms. Maslaney said the YMCA had submitted an application through the County's Agency Budget and Review Team, which had included a \$30 thousand request to Albemarle County and \$40 thousand request to the City to continue to operate the program. She stated that the childcare program is a full-day year-round licensed program for children ages six weeks through pre-K, and it offers a high-quality early education and school readiness program with a mixed delivery program of subsidy assistance and self-pay participants. Ms. Maslaney noted that as identified by the ABRT, the YMCA Childcare Program is strongly aligned with the County's strategic plan to provide support for early childhood development and learning, early intervention strategies, and pre-K learning. She said that currently the program serves 48 Albemarle County children and families out of 107 children currently enrolled – and of these children, 75% receive subsidy to attend, which includes funds from DSS, YMCA scholarships, and United Way scholarships. Ms. Maslaney stated that in total, the Y facilitates upwards of \$350 thousand in subsidy assistance and reimbursements each year for children to receive care to enable parents to work. She said of the 107 children, 61% are on free and reduced lunch through USDA guidelines, and this composition demonstrates a strong need for affordable childcare and the Y's commitment to serving the underserved.

Ms. Maslaney said that from 2012 to 2017, the YMCA Childcare Program received a grant from the Blue Moon Fund totaling \$118,560 each year, but that grant expired December 1, 2017 – with the rent at the Jefferson School increasing to market rate at \$22-23 per square foot at the conclusion of the current lease ending September 30, 2018. She stated that given their student composition, the Y is not in a position to pass these fees onto participants and is seeking multiple funding streams, with the ABRT being a primary source. Ms. Maslaney emphasized that without the funding, it is highly likely the funding at the Jefferson School would be forced to close in September – making 107 children go without care and access to quality education, as well as leaving their families without daytime care and causing 25 staff members to be unemployed. She noted that the ABRT gave the YMCA the highest possible "solid" rating for a new applicant and further recommended initial funding at a solid funding, if available, but is not reflected in the proposed FY19 budget. Ms. Maslaney stated that the Y urges the Board to include the program in the ABRT funding or discretionary funding for FY19.

Mr. Robert Hogue addressed the Board, stating that he is a resident of the Samuel Miller District and commenting that he is against any additional funding for social programs. He stated that social programs are failures because they do not encourage people to take responsibility – with transitional housing becoming permanent housing. Mr. Hogue said that environmentalists are telling people to stop at two kids, and if you cannot take care of two kids, why have four or five more? He stated that when

parents do not take responsibility, their kids learn not to – which is why there are generations of families on welfare. Mr. Hogue stated that JAUNT has expanded from its original intent and will now take riders to church and other destinations, with taxpayers subsidizing the cost. He said that County parks should only be funded with user fees, which should also pay for stormwater runoff and whatever is done with Biscuit Run. Mr. Hogue emphasized that athletic fees for school sports should be increased to pay for the cost of the sport. He stated that back taxes should be collected from the sale or transfer of property in cases of tax relief for the elderly, after the death of the program's utilizers. He stated that each person's share of the national debt is now over \$60,000, and one thing always tied to the lowering of national debt was reduction in entitlement programs – with the next recession predicted to be worse because of the national debt. Mr. Hogue stated that a person over 50 years old who has never had children deserves a tax break because their impact on schools and the environment are less than those who do.

Ms. Brooks Wellman addressed the Board, stating that she is a resident of the UVA Grounds and is Director of Giving at Lighthouse Studio, which is located in Downtown Charlottesville. Ms. Wellman stated that she is before the Board to request their funding of the organization's community programs based on ABRT's recommendation of initial funding for Lighthouse for FY19 at the "solid" level – with the proposed budget not providing any funding for them. She explained that Lighthouse equips young people with the skills and confidence to tell their stories and build community through filmmaking, aligning with the County's goals of providing lifelong learning opportunities and providing services to improve employability. Ms. Wellman explained that they do this by providing year-round, award-winning filmmaking workshops that teach young people transferable workforce skills, including exposure and instruction in a range of digital and software technologies. She noted that the workshops are in-depth and hands-on, led by experienced professional filmmakers and giving students access to cutting edge equipment. She stated that Lighthouse also intentionally builds soft skills such as creativity, teamwork, and confident self-expression, through mentor-led instruction and collaborative projects. Ms. Wellman added that they also offer students workforce development via the "freelancers program" that pairs student filmmakers with local organizations, and teen freelancers are paid to plan, shoot, and edit professional film projects that they can include on their resumes for future job applications – providing learning opportunities and improving employability for Albemarle residents. She noted that the previous year, Lighthouse taught 1,200 students, with nearly half being County residents; and 76% of students attend at free or reduced cost.

Ms. Vicky Bravo addressed the Board and stated that she lives in the City, but is before them to represent IMPACT and to speak about the housing fund. Ms. Bravo stated that IMPACT wants to strongly support the housing fund, but at the same time wants the Board and County Executive to support the fund in the ways that Ms. Pudhorodsky had outlined, specifically focusing on the most vulnerable citizens. Ms. Bravo said that recently, about 10 members of IMPACT met with Ms. Mallek and Mr. Dill, as well as Ron White, Mark Graham, and Doug Walker of County staff. She noted that also joining that meeting was a person who spends more than 50% of their income on housing; and a person who lived at Woods Edge senior living until it became expensive – with her two subsequent apartments having stairs. Ms. Bravo said this person has been moving from place to place, but her current home runs out in a few months and her current home is not available for several months after that. She stated that another individual indicated that he had to move on short notice as his building was being repurposed, and another congregant mentioned survival on a small disability check.

Ms. McKeel recognized Brad Sheffield, former Rio Supervisor, who is present at the meeting.

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

Ms. Mallek stated that the Board's first budget work session will be held on February 22, and she thanked speakers for attending.

Ms. Palmer asked when the Board will discuss the ABRT process. Mr. Randolph responded that it is split up by category.

Mr. Andy Bowman, Senior Budget Analyst, stated that it is planned for the work session to be held on February 26, and Ms. Gretchen Ellis, who coordinates that process, will be available for detailed questions.

Ms. Mallek noted that the programs for which people are speaking at this meeting are primarily new programs. Mr. Bowman confirmed that they are and are not currently funded, acknowledging that it is more difficult for them to get in.

Ms. McKeel commented that they usually need two years of a history.

Ms. Mallek said it is also a high threshold because they had not been previously funded. Mr. Bowman confirmed this, stating that part of the initial application process is for those agencies or programs to have been in existence for at least two years – a criteria that the programs tonight have met.

Agenda Item No. 5. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Ms. Palmer stated that during the Board's retreat, one of the things that has been discussed to be on the agenda is having a review of their meeting procedures. Since that will not occur until May, she would like them to consider keeping speaking times at three minutes for public hearings, as it seems reasonable to her and that is what the Board is there for.

Ms. Mallek said the Board had discussed at a meeting the previous week HB1148, a bill before the legislature regarding sharing of information regarding revenue-sharing funds – and whether it would apply to Albemarle in terms of actual expenditures per their agreement, since they had been in the works for so many years. She stated that Delegate Steve Landes and Legal Services in Richmond felt that it did and also had shared an amendment that removed the lack of clarity. Ms. Mallek asked fellow Supervisors if they would be interested in a letter from the Board on this issue.

Ms. Mallek asked Mr. Kamptner if he has anything to add. Mr. Kamptner responded that he did not. Ms. Palmer said she has no objection to sending it. Other Supervisors agreed.

Ms. Mallek stated that a draft would be distributed, adding that she does not know when it would come before the Senate.

Agenda Item No. 6. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Richardson stated that staff was able to solidify May 2 and 3 for the Board's retreat, and he would be working with the consultant on a draft agenda, as well as working with the Clerk's Office on logistics.

Ms. McKeel stated that she and Mr. Sheffield had visited the General Assembly the previous day to talk with representatives and/or their aides regarding transit funding, noting that there is a funding cliff that would be hit in FY19 for capital funding around transit. She stated there does not appear to be anything to address this in the current state budget, except for Northern Virginia for Metro funding, and legislators indicated that there is no "crisis" currently.

Mr. Brad Sheffield of the Rio District addressed the Board and stated that Albemarle is one of the only areas out of 41 transit systems that spoke up about the impact of the capital cliff, other than larger metropolitan areas such as Richmond.

Ms. McKeel noted that after removing the very large metro areas, Albemarle/Charlottesville was second only to Richmond in terms of size of system – although they do not often consider themselves to be a big player at the state level.

Ms. Mallek thanked them for attending.

Agenda Item No. 7. Closed Meeting. *(if needed)*

At 6:34 p.m., Mr. Gallaway **moved** that the Board enter into a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under Subsection (8), to consult with and be briefed by legal counsel and staff regarding specific legal matters requiring legal advice relating to 1) the February 6, 2018 decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals to approve a variance; and 2) the Entrance Corridor Overlay District. Ms. Mallek **seconded** the motion.

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

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

Agenda Item No. 8. Certify Closed Meeting.

At 7:25 p.m., Mr. Gallaway **moved** that the Board of Supervisors certify by a recorded vote that to the best of each Supervisor'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. Palmer **seconded** the motion.

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

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

Agenda Item No. 9. Adjourn to February 22, 2018, 3:00 p.m., Room 241.

At 7:26 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Mallek adjourned the Board to February 22, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 241.

Chairman

Approved by Board
Date 07/05/2018
Initials CKB