

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on February 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting was adjourned from February 15, 2019.

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

ABSENT: None.

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 6:02 p.m., by the Chair, Mr. Gallaway.

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

Mr. Gallaway introduced the presiding security officers, Officer Sam Thomas and Officer Clayton Clarkson, Board members and County staff at the dais.

Agenda Item No. 4. **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive comments on the County Executive's FY 2019-2020 Recommended Budget. (*Advertised in the Daily Progress on February 11 and February 17, 2019*)

Mr. Richardson said he would provide a brief overview of the recommended budget for the benefit of the public. He thanked the Board for its hard work, and recognized the hard work that lay ahead in the coming weeks.

Mr. Richardson presented a slide with a list of desired outcomes for the meeting:

- review of major drivers
- overview of recommended budget
- recommended investments
- next steps

Mr. Richardson reminded the Board that they attempt to align budget resources with the Board's strategic priorities to sustain a high-quality organization and to save capacity within the budget for emerging opportunities -- especially those that were transformative in nature.

The next slide contained data that reflected changes from 2017 to 2018.

- Assessment Values: +4.0%
- Residential Dwelling Permits: +23.5%
- Population Estimates: +0.87%
- Student Population: +1.8%
- Unemployment Rate: -0.7%
- Bond Rating (S&P, Moody's, Fitch): AAA

Mr. Richardson remarked that the County's unemployment rate was at 2.2%, below national and state levels, and the AAA bond rating was due to strong internal organizational management.

The next slide listed drivers of local revenues:

- Real Estate: + \$11.5 million +7.5%
- Local Personal Property: +2 million +7.4%
- Business Driven: +0.71 million +4.9%
- Consumer Driven: +1.3 million +4.8%

The next slide contained a list of local expenditure savings/stabilization:

- Children's Services Act: -\$0.3 million - 13.6%
- Health Care Fund: +\$0.43 million +7.7%
- Revenue Sharing: -\$1.5 million -9.5%

Mr. Richardson presented a slide with a list of the nine highest priorities identified by the Board for the FY20-22 Strategic Plan: Climate Action Planning, Outdoor Recreational Parks and Amenities, Economic Development Program, School Space Needs, Infrastructure Planning, Aging Urban Neighborhood Revitalization, Court Complex Expansion/Upgrade, Rio/29 Area Redevelopment, and Broadband Expansion.

Mr. Richardson suggested that the Board review resources and align them with strategic priorities. He stated that Supervisors expressed a desire to have a capital plan that considered up to \$59

million in support of projects that address school space needs, the High School Center II, capital needs for existing schools, and quality-of-life projects that addresses needs for parks, bicycle, and pedestrians, which he termed "21st Century infrastructure." He previously reminded the Board that bond referendum projects were overwhelmingly approved by County voters in 2016, up to \$35 million, for improvements to Woodbrook Elementary and modernization and security projects at schools throughout the community. He noted that the tax rate increase that had been projected to support debt service was deferred in 2017 and 2018 due to strong revenue growth; however, he recommends that the rate be increased by 1.5 cents in 2019, with the entire increase dedicated to the Capital Improvement Program.

The next slide presented contained FY19 and FY20 pie charts of shared resources with categories represented: CIP/Debt Service, General Government School Division. He emphasized the significant increase in projected CIP/Debt Service (16%) for FY20 that would result from the tax increase. He reminded the Board and public that the CIP/Debt Service was for both General Government and Schools.

The next slide contained pie charts of revenues and recommended expenditures. Mr. Richardson noted that the total County budget was projected to be \$456,843,311, a 5.7% increase from the previous year. He said the General Fund was \$306 million, representing a 5.2% increase from FY19, and pointed out that the state portion of revenues was about 8%; federal revenues was about 2%; and local revenues represent 90% of the budget.

The next slide listed FY20 budget highlights:

- balanced on a recommended tax rate of \$0.854 per \$100 assessed value, an increase of 1.5 cents in Calendar year 2019, dedicated to the capital program – looking in three areas: excellent education, strong economy while honoring the environment
- sustained economic growth, balanced against an uncertain outlook
- invests in 21st Century infrastructure to further our vision
- reinforces the foundation of government services

Mr. Richardson remarked that the budget supports investments in learning environments that prepares kids for the 21st Century economy, for a second high school center, and for maintenance and modernization projects, which have been articulated by the School Division.

Mr. Richardson noted that the County's vision called for a thriving economy, which means strategic investments in time, dollars, and partnerships that have supported access to broadband in underserved rural areas, have spurred revitalization in aging, industrial center areas, and have facilitated local employers to grow and invest in their companies and workforce.

Mr. Richardson emphasized that a thriving economy needs all the pieces to make the community a great place to live so that employers continued to grow in the County. He listed resources that furthered this effort: bike and pedestrian infrastructure, transit, affordable housing, and reliable broadband. He listed important factors as public works, maintenance of the build environment, and the ability to plan for future development while creating an inclusive and equitable environment. He noted that the budget provides funding for access to new and existing natural areas and supports global environmental priorities such as climate action planning and solid waste management.

The next slide was entitled "Investing in Our Foundation," which Mr. Richardson explained supports critically important work of providing good, quality government service and support of investments to further the County's vision. He emphasized the importance of public safety and welfare, with a budget emphasis on public safety departments, key agencies, and volunteer organizations. He said the budget invests to ensure that business processes are optimized for the 21st Century and include integration of project management to complex projects, provides more robust workforce training, enhanced leadership depth, centralized technology procurement, and maintains a competitive position in the employment market.

Mr. Richardson continued that the budget provides support for the broader community with recommended funding for partner agencies that support public safety, education, health and welfare, and cultural offerings. He listed the following partners: Rivanna Solid Waste Authority, Regional Transit Partnership, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, and the Emergency Communications Center. He said the budget recognizes that through cooperative partnerships, they achieve common goals that benefit the entire community.

Mr. Richardson concluded and remarked that the County's vision was ambitious for exceptional education, a thriving economy, and a protected and accessible environment, all of which are emblematic of what helped Albemarle County enjoy national acclaim as a top community in which to live. He noted that the budget prioritizes public education and shares limited financial resources in a balanced way to support the local economy, enhance the environment, and continue to invest in core County operations as a foundation piece to continued success. He emphasized that these are all important and interconnected, and they believe the budget shares resources in a way to move the Board's Strategic Plan forward for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Richardson reiterated his support for a 1.5-cent tax rate increase to 85.4 cents, which was projected to generate \$2.95 million of additional annual revenue and would primarily be devoted to public schools, parks, and bike/pedestrian infrastructure. He said this would create the necessary capacity to keep pace with the County's increasing list of capital infrastructure challenges.

Ms. Lori Allshouse, Director of Office of Management and Budget, presented a slide with a list of upcoming budget work session dates:

- Thursday, February 21: 1st Work Session – Revenue & Expenditure Overview; School Board's funding request
- Tuesday, February 26: 2nd Work Session – CIP and General Government
- Thursday, February 28: 3rd Work Session – Revenue Update and General Government
- Monday, March 4: 4th Work Session – Finalize tax rate for advertisement
- Tuesday, March 26 and Thursday March 28: Placeholders for future work sessions, if needed
- Tuesday, April 9: Public hearing on tax rate and Board proposed budget
- Tuesday, April 16: Board adopts tax rate and FY20 budget

She noted that the budget document was 300 pages and was available on the County's website. She reviewed the dates and topics of the upcoming budget work sessions.

Mr. Gallaway commented that at the March 6 and March 20 Board meetings, there could be some opportunities for budget discussions and would allow for comments from the public.

Mr. Gallaway then opened the public hearing on the County Executive's recommended budget.

Mr. Rex Linville, of the Piedmont Environmental Council, addressed the Board. He reported that Albemarle now has over 100,000 acres of private land that was permanently protected under conservation easements, the second most in the state behind Fauquier County. He acknowledged the continued commitment the County has made to land conservation through the budget process with its allocation of \$500,000 annually to the ACE Program. He noted that almost 20,000 acres under conservation easement represents County-owned land. He said he was excited that bike and pedestrian infrastructure are prioritized in the budget with a \$6 million allocation, which he characterized as quality-of-life improvements for residents. He said their work on community engagement and development of the Jefferson Area Bike/Pedestrian Plan, in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, has revealed a huge need and desire for this type of investment. He expressed support for the Board's ongoing commitment with a new greenway planner position. Mr. Linville stated that the 2018 Recreational Needs Assessment indicated that the community already has an overabundance of remote, rural parks that are accessed by driving, with Hedgerow Park being an example. He remarked that when coupled with the intense demand for urban infrastructure, they are disappointed that Hedgerow was prioritized with a \$2 million appropriation -- though no capital was allocated for Biscuit Run Park. He noted that Hedgerow would be duplicative of existing park resources and said the funds would be better spent on Biscuit Run, which could be directly connected to residents in the urban area. He encouraged the Board to consider making a change of allocation.

Ms. Robin Mattern, resident of the White Hall District, addressed the Board. Ms. Mattern said that she and her husband have two children who attend Meriwether Lewis Elementary and Henley Middle schools. She expressed support for the inclusion of funds for an upgrade of Darden Towe Park in the FY20 budget, including the installation of synthetic turf and lights. The 2018 community needs assessment identified athletic fields as a high priority. She represents thousands of families and young athletes who strongly support this initiative. The County has greater youth athletic participation than other areas. She said the grass fields are saturated from Sunday night's rains and so her kids are playing soccer in a parking lot. She said that the facilities are crowded, overused, worn, and often unsafe.

Ms. Mattern remarked that they are experiencing more rain than ever as a result of climate change and global warming, which was causing the athletic fields to deteriorate and making it almost impossible to maintain them to allow for safe play, and practices for various sports are often cancelled. She emphasized that synthetic turf and lights would allow practices to be held year-round. She acknowledged that local sports organizations do their best to provide fields, build new facilities, and rent fields from high schools, UVA, and ACAC -- but City and County help was also needed. She described the fields at Darden Towe as being "in atrocious shape," though with the infrastructure in place, it has the potential to be an amazing multi-sport facility. She remarked that she often travels to other localities to see her boys play soccer and they have synthetic turf fields and lights and could host tournaments that bring in revenue to the community.

Mr. David Deaton, resident of the White Hall District, addressed the Board. He said he represents the Charlottesville Alliance Football Club, a nonprofit soccer organization. He expressed his endorsement for the funding in the budget of sports infrastructure improvements to Darden Towe Park. He emphasized that these improvements would not only increase the quality of life through active lifestyle, but also foster economic growth and positive social change. He noted that soccer has the highest youth participation rate of any sport in the County at 20%, but the infrastructure was grossly behind. He noted that the County has nine public lighted tennis complexes, with none for soccer. He said that seven organizations offer soccer programming, the County was missing out on potential revenues, and sports bring disparate groups of people together. He remarked that playing together as kids lead to building together as adults.

Mr. Robert Hogue, resident of the Samuel Miller District, addressed the Board. He said that a tax rate increase hurts a lot of people, including those who could barely make ends meet, when rents and the cost of home ownership go up. He noted that those saving for retirement are not able to save as much. He commented that parks should only be funded through user fees; parks are for entertainment. He advocated that those who participate in drug treatment programs should be required to pay back some of

the costs; nonprofits, including the Senior Center, should not receive tax dollars. He said school sports and activities should be fully funded by parents and suggested that those over the age of 50 who have not had children should receive a tax reduction and not be punished financially for not having children. He stated that back taxes should be collected from the sale of the property after the deaths of residents who have received real estate tax relief for the elderly. He asked the Board to make cuts to the budget and to not raise the tax rate.

Mr. Brian Corby, resident of the Rio District, addressed the Board. He noted that his two kids play soccer and lacrosse and he belong to a soccer club sponsored by Aetna, the firm he works for. As a long time County resident and taxpayer, he asked the Board to support infrastructure improvements to Darden Towe Park.

Mr. John Martin, a resident of Free Union, addressed the Board. He expressed disappointment that more time was not allowed between the release of the budget and the public hearing. He said he has observed that the Board agonizes to find an alternative to a tax increase over many work sessions and thanked them for this. He noted that a tax increase would raise \$2.95 million. In prior years, one-time money has been used to pay the bond debt. This year \$3.2 million has been proposed as one-time money to be conveyed to the Economic Development Fund. He suggested that this money be used to delay a tax increase for another year and that would give the Economic Development Fund \$250,000 added to its existing \$1 million.

Mr. David Manka, resident of Charlottesville, addressed the Board. He expressed support for the funding of improvements to Darden Towe Park. He said he was a coach and parent of three young soccer players with the Monticello United Soccer Club. He has observed superior soccer facilities in other localities to which his club must often travel since the County does not have adequate facilities. He acknowledged that revenues would be generated if they could host games locally and it would foster a vibrant soccer community.

Mr. Don Long, resident of White Hall District and President of the Board for SOCA, addressed the Board. He commended the Board for allocating funds for improvements to Darden Towe Park and the athletic fields. He added that the economic benefits from outside visitors would result if they could host soccer tournaments.

Mr. Bill Mueller, resident of White Hall District, addressed the Board. He said he has worked for SOCA for 22 years and their biggest difficulty and priority has been to develop facilities. He said he was really excited that Darden Towe Park improvements are allocated in the budget as the existing fields are not able to support the thousands of players. He emphasized that they need more fields as well as better quality fields; synthetic fields could better withstand frequent use, and lights would allow for night play.

Mr. Matt Wilson, Executive Director of SOCA, addressed the Board. He reminded the Board that the 2018 needs assessment indicated that fields needed to be improved. The initial idea was to build a new complex; however, he said a better idea and the quickset and cheapest way was to improve Darden Towe Park with synthetic turf and lights. He noted that in addition to soccer, sports such as lacrosse, field hockey, and football would benefit. He added that they would be able to host more tournaments with improved fields, which would bring economic benefits. He thanked the Board for allocating these improvements in the budget.

There being no other comments from the public, Mr. Gallaway closed the public hearing.

Mr. Gallaway thanked all those who expressed their thoughts and noted there would be future opportunities for public comment during the upcoming budget process. He asked Supervisors for comments or feedback.

Ms. Palmer thanked those who expressed their opinions.

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

Ms. Mallek announced the following town hall meetings: March 7 at Broadus Wood School in Earlysville at 7:00 p.m., March 9 at White Hall Community Building 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and March 11 at Brownsville Elementary School.

Ms. Palmer announced that she would hold a town hall meeting April 4 at the North Garden Fire Department at 7:00 p.m., hosted by North Garden Ruritans.

Mr. Randolph said he has held meetings in Scottsville and at Wegman's. He announced that he would hold a town hall meeting February 20 at 9:00 a.m., on the fourth floor southside cafeteria at Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital. He said his full schedule was available online and on his Facebook page.

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

Mr. Trevor Henry, Assistant County Executive, addressed the Board. He acknowledged that a snowstorm was forecast for the following day and informed the Board they would have staff remain overnight to keep fuel pumps open at McIntire and to keep the 5th Street facility open. He said County staff would assess their facilities the following morning, and Mr. Walker would communicate with public safety and VDOT to assess area conditions, after which they would determine whether to delay or cancel the opening of County facilities. He invited questions.

Mr. Gallaway noted that if staff decides to shut the building the following day, then the Board meeting would be cancelled. He noted that they have sufficient room in the calendar to reschedule. He asked Supervisors for their opinions about holding the meeting tomorrow and whether it would be an inconvenience for them as well as for the general public to attend.

Ms. Mallek offered that the safety of staff and meeting attendees was the most important consideration.

Ms. Palmer agreed with Ms. Mallek, noting that many people live far away where roads may not be in good condition. She suggested that they err on the side of safety.

Mr. Henry emphasized that they would assess conditions across the County.

Mr. Kamptner recommended that if the building is closed, the Chair declare the meeting to be continued which would be continued to March 6, the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. With time sensitive closed meeting items, he suggested the Board add 15 to 20 minutes to upcoming budget work sessions to address those items so they can move forward.

Agenda Item No. 7. Adjourn to February 20, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium.

At 6:54 p.m., the Chair adjourned to February 20, 2019, 1:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium.

Chairman

Approved by Board
Date 06/05/2019
Initials CKB