

An adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on April 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia. The meeting was adjourned from April 3, 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 6:00 p.m., by the Chair, Mr. Gallaway.

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

Mr. Gallaway introduced security officers present, Sgt. Maeve Overton and Officer Bryce Arritt, and County staff at dais.

Mr. Gallaway said that prior to beginning the meeting, he would like to congratulate the UVA Men's Basketball team and Coach Bennett for winning the NCAA Championship.

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Agenda Item No. 4. **Public Hearing: FY2019-FY2020 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets.** To receive comments on Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2019-2020. *(Advertised in the Daily Progress on March 10 and March 11, 2019.)*

Mr. Richardson introduced Mr. Andy Bowman, Budget Manager, with the Office of Management and Budget, responsible for managing the budget. He also introduced the presence of other County Departments Heads and staff that were present.

Mr. Richardson reported that local revenues remain strong, with real estate revenues increasing by \$11.5 million, or 7.5%; personal property revenues increasing by \$2.0 million, or 7.4%; and business and consumer-driven revenues each experiencing about 5% growth. He stated that these are indicators that the local economy is strong across multiple sectors.

Mr. Richardson stated that the Board of Supervisors has worked diligently over the last six months in identifying nine top priorities for the FY20-22 Strategic Plan, with staff working to align budget resources to these strategic areas and generate a positive impact on the community's quality of life.

Mr. Richardson said that approximately 70% of voters approved the County's 2016 bond referendum, authorizing up to \$35 million in school projects -- including the renovation and expansion of Woodbrook Elementary, as well as modernization and security projects for other schools throughout the community. He stated that the Board also worked on the FY19-23 Capital Improvement Plan and expressed a desire for a capital plan that could possibly include up to \$59.1 million in support for projects that address additional school space needs in High School Center II, capital needs for existing schools, and quality of life projects such as parks, bicycle and pedestrian access, and other infrastructure needs.

Mr. Richardson said that due to strong revenue growth, the projected tax rate increase that has been tied back to the 2016 bond was deferred in 2017 and 2018 -- and with the 2020 recommended budget, there is a recommended 1.5-cent tax rate increase, which would all be dedicated to the CIP.

Mr. Richardson presented a chart as an overview of the recommended FY20 budget and the 5.8% recommended increase over FY19. He stated that with the General Fund, total revenues and recommended expenditures are just over \$306 million, a 5.2% increase over FY19. He noted that the General Fund is where the Board has the most discretion over expenditures and guiding discretionary revenue, with only 10% of revenues out of the total budget coming from state and federal sources -- which means the County is heavily reliant on local revenue streams for support, with two-thirds coming from property taxes. He said that the budget is grounded in Albemarle County's vision of exceptional public education, a thriving economy, and protection of the natural and built environments. He stated that the budget directs resources to reinforce the foundation of the organization, government services; and it invests in 21st century infrastructure need to further the County's vision.

Mr. Richardson presented a slide that highlighted how the proposed budget was different from the recommended budget introduced in February. He said that both budgets are balanced at a tax rate of 85.4 cents/\$100 assessed value, an increase of 1.5 cents over the current year. He stated that the budget included funding for Biscuit Run Park development, the Crozet Connex JAUNT route, a Housing Generalist position to manage the voucher program, a Fraud Investigator position in Social Services, a Police Officer position, and an upgrading of Assistant to the Clerk position from part-time to full-time. He noted that the proposed budget was balanced on the same tax rate assumptions as the recommended budget, with the new positions achieved with revenue related to the additions and making adjustments to the reserves originally included in the FY20 budget.

Mr. Richardson stated that a thriving economy also needs transportation alternatives, affordable housing, public works, equity and inclusion, planning, and broadband, all of which works to make this a destination community. The budget provides funding to enhance access to new and existing natural areas, including parks and river access projects, and also addresses global environmental issues such as climate change, along with solid waste, recycling and conservation.

Mr. Richardson stated that the budget prioritizes investments in public safety and welfare, includes support for public safety departments and agencies, and volunteer organizations. He stated that the budget also provides support for the broader community with recommended funding for partner agencies that support public safety, education, health and welfare, and cultural offerings. He said that partners include the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority, Regional Transit Partnership, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, and the Regional Emergency Communications Center. He commented that through cooperative partnerships, they achieve common goals that would not be possible for the County to do alone.

There being no questions for staff, Mr. Gallaway opened the public hearing.

Mr. Henry Chin and Ms. Grace Holloway came forward to address the Board. Ms. Holloway stated that she would speak for both of them and thanked the Board for letting them participate in the process. She said that their high school group recently explored affordable housing issues in the County, with information gathered from the Jefferson Area Board for Aging, Habitat for Humanity, IMPACT, and affected senior community members about the obstacles the elderly face on a daily basis to maintain their quality of life. She stated that many seniors have little to no income and face age-related costs such as the need to modify their homes or seek services that accommodate mobility limitations -- and this combination makes finding affordable and accessible housing very difficult.

Ms. Holloway stated that her group believes that an excellent way to address this issue and the affordable housing crisis in general is to increase funding for the creation and maintenance of affordable housing. They appreciate the commitments the County has made thus far in furthering affordable housing efforts, such as the Southwood redevelopment, but are concerned about the limited investment reflected in the FY20 budget. She stated that knowing there was a consistent fund available for affordable housing initiatives would be reassuring to many community members, especially low-income seniors. Ms. Holloway said that her group urges the Board to keep these concerns in mind when it comes to allocating resources in the near future.

Mr. Jay James addressed the Board, stating that he is a City resident but represents the Bridge Ministries Substance Abuse Treatment Program that addresses the opiate abuse issues in the County. He said that his program has participated in the ABRT funding process, and although they did not get awarded anything in the last round, they met with County staff and received positive feedback. Mr. James asked the Board to consider discretionary funding of \$15,000 to \$25,000 to help the program, which is an 18-month residential program on a 17-acre facility. He stated that the program works with the Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. Robert Tracy's, office to help identify candidates for the program, who are court ordered by the Albemarle County Circuit Court to receive addiction treatment, and they also have a memorandum of agreement with the Regional Jail Board. He noted that the cost per individual served is \$37,000 -- versus more than \$55,000 in jail costs, and there is a collaborative effort to prevent recidivism, with 81% of participants succeeding in that regard.

There being no further public comment, Mr. Gallaway closed the public hearing.

Ms. Palmer commented that regarding an affordable housing fund, there are other funds being used that are not specifically earmarked for that -- but the Board would be looking at this more closely in the coming year. Mr. Randolph agreed.

Ms. Mallek stated that there was concern for limited income taxpayers and their resilience in terms of ability to pay for housing along with their other expenses.

Mr. Dill complimented the budget process and staff's work.

Ms. Palmer said that this was the feeling of the entire Board.

Ms. McKeel stated that she has visited the Bridge Ministries site and was impressed with the work being done there. She suggested other Board members visit the site

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Agenda Item No. 5. **Public Hearing: Calendar Year 2019 Tax Rates.** To receive comments on Proposed Tax Rates for CY 2019. (Advertised in the Daily Progress on March 31 and April 2, 2019.)

Mr. Gallaway opened the public hearing on the 2019 tax rate. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

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Agenda Item No. 6. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Ms. Mallek mentioned events around during the Tom Tom Festival around the community in the coming few days.

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Mr. Gallaway reported that the Regional Housing Summit would be held on April 19, 2019, as an all-day event, with information available on the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission website. Ms. McKeel commented that the event starts at 8:30 a.m.

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Agenda Item No. 7. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Richardson commented Friday, April 11, 2019, is a County and City holiday, with offices closed.

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Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn to April 16, 2019, 3:00 p.m., Lane Auditorium.

At 6:26 p.m., the Board adjourned its meeting to April 16, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Lane Auditorium.

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Chairman

Approved by Board
Date 07/03/2019
Initials CKB