

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Date: 3:00 PM — Thursday, February 9th, 2023

Location: Admin. Building Auditorium, 414 N. Main Street

MEETING #06— February 9th

At a Budget Workshop (#2) of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, February 9th at 3:00 PM in the Admin. Building Auditorium:

PRESENT: R. Clay Jackson, Chair
Carty Yowell, Vice-Chair
Charlotte Hoffman, Member
Dustin Dawson, Member
James Jewett, Member
Jonathon Weakley, County Administrator
Kimberly Turner, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Sean Gregg, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Jackson called the Board to order.

DETERMINE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jackson advised that a quorum was present.

Supervisor Hofman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe May: Joe May stated that he feels nonprofits should be required to show a 990 form.

The County Administrator stated that this was a requirement this year, like years past. It was not included in the agenda packet due to a request from the Board last year to condense the information presented.

FY 24 BUDGET WORKSESSION

The County Administrator went over the FY24 Goals and Priorities updates from the previous meeting.

1. Improve access to broadband services.
2. Complete major capital projects
3. Complete a facilities inventory and needs assessment.
4. Establish and maintain an ongoing CIP.

5. Negotiate an optimal exit of Greene County from RSA and review and discuss future RSA plan and policies.
6. Increase human resource support and employee assistance.
7. Comprehensive Plan Update

The Board of Supervisors participated in a budget workshop involving presentations made by various outside agencies and County Departments.

Econ-Dev & Tourism, Tracey Gardner: There was not a lot of change added to her budget. One small change was they put \$7,500 under advertising for economic development. Last year, they used the County Administrator's budget to purchase various advertisements.

- *Supervisor Yowell inquired about the ARPA Grant funds. He was asking if they would be in the budget for the departments they come out of or will there be a separate fund for it.*

The Finance Director responded that the Tourism Department budget has an ARPA section because they are able to keep it separated out. However, the other ARPA funds, they do have a separate fund for. The Finance Director also wanted to clarify to the Board that the change on advertising line was only \$5,703.

DSS, Valerie Ward: Valerie went over their numbers and how many people in the community received resources from DSS. DSS is asking for an increase in \$48,295 in local funds. This is reflected in administration fees related to compensation due to being fully staffed. The increase also reflects their new HVAC system as well as an increase in cost for legal services related to cases within Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

CSA, Tiffany Woodward: CSA has seen an increase in meth and domestic violence cases which causes an increase in funds to aid these families. There has also been an increase in funds when it comes to the services they offer families due to providers increasing their costly rate.

- *Chairman Jackson asked for clarification on the total reductions from the County.*

Ms. Woodward explained how much money they have spent locally and how much has been state funded. Ms. Woodward then went to explain that the CSA need funds to help with Medicaid funded services for various needs. For example, they are seeing an increase in children who are rehomed out of state and Medicaid does not cover all their expenses.

- *Chairman Jackson stated how much the DSS data has improved in Mrs. Woodward's time at DSS.*

Skyline CAP, Simon Fiscus:

- *Supervisor Yowell requested not to comment on this presentation due to working for Skyline CAP.*

Skyline is requesting almost \$50,000 for new funding. Most of their funding is through Grants, but to receive these said Grants, they must receive a match. Simon stated that Skyline CAP is filling apartments, conducting home repairs, and offering housing counseling. They run the Head Start Program which has increased in need. They have low staff turnover and gave thanks to the Board for the funding to make that happen. They also have many other services that they are not requesting money for such as: offering services to DSS, services to new moms, providing safety supplies an education to families, and a Project Discovery Program that helps students with their studying skills and career development.

- *Supervisors Jewett is on the Board of Skyline CAP and can attest that it is very impressive and spoke highly of Simon.*
- *Chairman Jackson thanked Simon for his clear presentation.*

Board of Supervisors, County Attorney, County Administration, and Rappahannock River Basin, Jonothan Weakley:

The County Administrator covered a few topics. The first one being the Board of Supervisors which was requesting level funding from last year. Next, he discussed that the County Attorney has a slight change due anticipating usage of legal services coming soon. There is a slight increase for hiring a new attorney due to the current attorney leaving this year. There may be some overlap where both may be onboard for training purposes. Next was the County Administration's budget, which has a slight increase. This is reflected by a fuel increase and an increase in health insurance. Next was the River Basin and they are requesting level funding from last year which is \$1,000.

- *The Supervisors agreed that the River Basin is a great project with a strong group supporting it.*

Building, Jamie Wilks:

Mr. Wilks stated they had a few changes this year. He would like to add the Fire Department to the exemption line because in years past, they have done so when the need arises. They would like to attach a fee if people do not start projects with permits for building and erosion and sediment control due to the challenges they face if they start those tasks before receiving permits. They would like to start charging based on square footage for plumbing and HVAC systems.

The County Administrator asked if Mr. Wilks had anything specific to bring forward on their budget. He thanked Mr. Wilks for covering the fees and stated they would be covering them during the revenue portion.

- *Chairman Jackson asked for Mr. Wilks to go over any increases in the budget.*

Mr. Wilks stated it was due to the new position.

The Finance Director agreed that the new position was a large reason in the change in the budget and a fuel increase along with additional training needs.

- *Supervisor Yowell inquired about how many staff were qualified for E and S.*

Mr. Wilks explained who all was certified and who was currently working on their certification.

Zoning, Ligon Webb: Mr. Webb is asking for a \$1,000 increase for advertising and had a few slight decreases in other areas.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked if the advertising fee is for signs.*

Mr. Webb explained they already purchased the signs he was referring to and explained what the advertising needs were.

ECC & MCVFD, Brian Gordon: For ECC, Mr. Gordon did have a net increase of \$11,000 but also had a few decreases. Some increases for ECC were for onboarding training and testing. One specific training is to complete licensing for the power phone program (giving CPR medical instructions over the phone) Mr. Gordon would also like to license not only EMS, but law enforcement dispatch and fire services dispatch. There is also an increase for the Geo-Con tracking improvements. Next, Mr. Gordon spoke for the Fire Department. He did not have anything to add to the budget. He shared that the Fire Department recently put a roof on last year and recently paid a truck off.

- *Chairman Jackson inquired about new membership numbers.*

Mr. Gordon stated that they had 4 new and active members.

Circuit Court, Leeta Louk: There are several Grants that will reimburse the county. Currently, Mrs. Louk is not sure what the Legislature is going to decide regarding the jury's money. Mrs. Louk is also requesting \$4,000 for a storage and network device.

- *Supervisors Yowell asked why the Judge's Secretary position was not budgeted in the last budget.*

The Finance director explained the MOU and stated it would be in the new budget.

The Conty Administrator explained the MOU expectation for Madison now that Greene County is no longer apart of the MOU.

- *Chairman Jackson asked why Greene County backed out of the MOU.*

Mrs. Louk explained that this is due to their current judge not traveling to Greene like the previous judge. Mrs. Louk expressed her concerns for the Jury fees and the unknown possible changes.

The Finance Director explained to the Board how the number is established for health insurance purposes and how it may be different for the different departments.

At 4:00 pm, a few departments and outside agencies' presenters were not here and the Board was ahead of schedule. The Board took a pause on presentations to cover other items to allow time for the presenters to arrive.

The County Administrator went over the upcoming budget schedule.

The Finance Director went over the Fund Balance Report.

The County Administrator touched on a few pages in the Board's Audit booklet, that refers to the financial policies, and encouraged them to look over them for the remainder of the budget process.

The Board returned to presentations at 4:23 pm.

Juvenile Probation, Darlene Lewis, and Megan Hood: Mrs. Hood stated that one main change on this year's budget request was looking at office supplies. Due to inflation, there has been an increase in supply cost. The state has pulled some of their state vehicles, so they have access to two less vehicles for transportation needs. This has increase mileage they must pay which is why they will need additional funding.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell asked why they spent more time in Madison than Greene County.*

Hood responded that they have been down a staff in Greene and the Madison employee had only been lending a hand in Green.

Commonwealth's Attorney & Victim Witness, Clarissa Berry: One of the biggest changes is the reimbursements for the conferences. Finance requested Ms. Berry to put the total cost down. In the past they would put a minimum cost, use it, and then reimburse it.

The Finance Director agreed and stated in the future she would like true reimbursements to not be added to the budget, but the financial policies would need to change to do so.

Ms. Berry stated that they are currently down an attorney and would like a new one budgeted. Ms. Berry stated if they do not get a new one, then they will not be able to prosecute misdemeanors. Ms. Berry requested pay increases for other positions that she feels are not paid adequately.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell asked if other counties must abide by the Compensation Board as Madison does.*

Ms. Berry agreed but stated that other localities choose to supplement comfortable salaries to Commonwealth Attorney's Offices. Ms. Berry also stated that the County pays for most of the Commonwealth Attorney Office, not the state.

- *Supervisor Hoffman inquired about the third attorney's duties.*

Ms. Berry went over the duties and task the third attorney would be responsible for.

- *Supervisor Hoffman asked if someone, who was not an attorney, could be hired to watch the video footage, which is one the main duties of the third attorney.*

Ms. Berry stated that she could have someone watch it and flag items, but an attorney would still have to go back and watch it. Ms. Berry also brought up the Grant that provided funding for the position is a possibility, but they are waiting on the General Assembly.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked how the grant money with the general assembly will affect things if approved.*

Ms. Berry stated that it wouldn't go into effective most likely until FY25.

- *Supervisors Yowell asked who decided that the County was going to prosecute misdemeanors.*

Ms. Berry responded that she didn't think it was decided by the Board, but that it was a need in the County that the Commonwealth Attorney's Office saw was important to prosecute misdemeanors.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if Ms. Berry knew if we would still have the grant that they previously used to pay the third attorney.*

Ms. Berry does not know because they are not activity paying anyone from the Grant.

- *Supervisor Dawson asked who prosecutes misdemeanors if a new attorney is not hired.*

Ms. Berry said she does not know for sure regarding the outcome. Police officers can do some smaller cases and the General Office may be able to do some.

- *Supervisor Jewett stated it he thinks it very important to not let misdemeanors go without being prosecuted, because that will increase felonies. Public safety is a number one priority for him and the Board.*

Ms. Berry also discussed the Victim Witness request for this year. They are asking for an increase to salaries to compare with nearby jurisdictions.

- *Chairman Jackson: asked the other supervisors what they would like to do about the third attorney at this time.*
- *Supervisor Dawson asked if they could advertise for the position as a temporary position.*

Ms. Berry stated that it would not be helpful to post a temporary job below the pay rate of surrounding counties until the Board decided what they plan to do.

Legal Aid Works, Ann Kloeckner: Mrs. Kloeckner would like to request to restore receiving money again from the county. The county stopped paying them after a lawsuit many years ago. They do not have the resources to serve all requests they receive due to serving other counties. She knows that the county may worry that they will be sued by them, but it is a need for the citizens of the county.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell asked how a Madison County Citizen can be referred to them.*

Mrs. Kloeckner responded that a citizen can call them without a referral, DSS, the court system, and SAFE can also refer them.

RRRC, Patrick Mauney: Mr. Mauney had two requests. One being housing and homelessness and the other is the per capita rates. RRRC works with the county departments like DSS to provide a network of resources to the County. Their second request enables them to serve as a regional coordinator of programs and projects.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell stated that RRRC made it possible for Skyline CAP to purchase one of their houses.*

➤ *Chairman Jackson complimented Patrick and his team and feels they are a good organization to fund an investment in.*

Foothill Child Advocacy, Cynthia Hurst: Foothill Child Advocacy helps children who have experienced abuse in some way. Children come to them from the Sheriff's department, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and DSS. They are asking the County for funding for one child.

RRCSB, Jim: RRCSB is asking for the continuation of the last year's funds with a 5% cost adjustment.

TJEMS, Peppy Winchel: Asking for an increase from last year, but a decrease from the year before that. Training is a focus this year. Other reasons for the increase are regional plans and health and wellness improvement plans.

➤ *Supervisor Hoffman asked how often they meet with our EMS Director.*

Mr. Winchel answered at a minimum, every two months.

Aging Together, Ellen Phipps: Aging Together is a partnership organization who helps with the older generation. There are a lot of organizations for the elderly in our county but Aging

Together finds the gabs in resources for the older generation. One area of need they found is finding information and resources. They created a directory to share that information with the older adults. They also run programs for older adults and their caregivers. This year, they are asking for the same funding. The funding helps them have a presence in Madison County.

Madison County Learning Center, Frances Lacey:

- *Carty Yowell is on this Board and will not contribute to this conversation.*

Mrs. Lacey is asking for funding this year due to staffing challenges. Due to these challenges, they are not able to enroll as many children, which means they are not receiving as much revenue for enrollment fees.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if they are asking for fund just this year or if they are hoping for it to be reoccurring.*

Mrs. Lacey, said she would love to be able to receive each year, but this year is more substantial due to their staffing needs.

The Finance Director asked about specific capital needs that they may have.

Mrs. Lacy gave examples of items they have had to replace recently and how they would like to renovate their floors, but it wasn't at the top of their priority list this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Smith requested that BOS take into consideration the citizens/ taxpayers when considering the Fund Balance.

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURN

With there being so further business to conduct, Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Yowell. **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**