

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Date: 3:00 PM — Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

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

MEETING #12—March 2nd, 2023

At a Budget Workshop (#5) of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 2nd at 3:00 PM in the Admin. Building Auditorium:

PRESENT: R. Clay Jackson, Chair
Charlotte Hoffman, Member
Dustin Dawson, Member
James Jewett, Member
Carty Yowell, Vice-Chair
Jonathon Weakley, County Administrator
Kimberly Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant/ 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 Hoffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Jackson opened the floor for public comment. With there being no public comment, the public comment opportunity was closed.

FY 24 BUDGET WORKSESSION

The County Administrator gave a brief explanation regarding the plan for the Budget Meeting.

1. Review school's operations and school's capital request:

Anna Graham and Tina Cropp were present and presented on behalf of the Madison County School System's budget request.

- Ms. Graham started with an overview of their summary sheet.
 - The General Assembly has not yet approved their budget, so the school's budget reflects closely with the House's budget because it was the most conservative budget.
 - There is a 7% raise for all employees, which is \$800,504.00 in state funding and \$394,505 would be their requested amount from the county.

- *Supervisor Yowell mentioned the school's original total requested amount was different than listed on the school's summary sheet, but it was close.*

Ms. Graham stated that was correct.

- The school system would like to cover the entire 10% increase for health insurance for their employees.
 - The Prep Services budget line is a part of a regional program for special education children. There was a \$50,000 increase in the cost for those services.
 - The school system is requesting \$100,000 to continue with an after-school tutoring program for the students. The last two years they received an ESSER Grant to fund this program and now the grant is ending.
 - The school system is increasing their summer school funding requests. It is increasing from \$75,000 to \$120,000 due to the learning gap from Covid.
 - The school system is requesting an increase of \$500 per coach, per season.
 - There is an increase in their budget for substitute teachers. They would like to increase from paying \$12 an hour to \$14 an hour.
 - The school system would like to fund the SSO position. They have applied for a grant but would need \$23,120 to fund the rest.
 - There has been an increase in utilities and fuel.
- *Supervisor Yowell handed out a form that he created that gave an overview of the school's request. Supervisor Yowell mentioned that Chairman Jackson and himself attended the School Board's Budget Workshop this past Saturday. Supervisor Yowell explained how taxes would be increased if they approved the school's requested budget. Supervisor Yowell handed out another sheet he created that represents his proposed school budget. Supervisor Yowell had employees absorbing 80% of the 10% health insurance increase. Supervisor Yowell took off the \$100,000 for the after-school program and he took out the increase in summer school funds, which both were funded last year by Covid relief funds. Supervisor Yowell took out the SSO position funds because the schools have SRO positions. Supervisor Yowell took out the coaches' increase stating it was not needed. The "Skinny Budget", that was approved by the General Assembly, will be returned money. Supervisor Yowell believes the Governor will give the needed money to the schools because it was a large part of his campaign. On the CIP Budget, Supervisor Yowell took off the Alternative Education's structure amount.*
 - *Chairman Jackson stated the Board just granted a Supplemental Appropriation at another meeting that week.*

Ms. Graham stated that was correct and the money would be used for the air handling units, which are quite expensive. Ms. Graham stated that for health insurance, the school feels there is such a discrepancy in what the school employees pay versus what the county employees pay. Ms. Graham stated there needs to be further conversation regarding being on the same plan and the difference in coverage.

- *Chairman Jackson stated that the county adjusted their coverage last year, but in previous years, the school covered more than the county did. Chairman Jackson believes there needs to be some parallel between the two, but it has been out of bounds for a while and when they consider making changes, they need to consider both sides.*

The County Administrator mentioned that he handed out a packet to the Board that has both the school's health insurance coverage and the county's coverage so the Board can compare them. The County Administrator also stated that at the previous budget meeting, the Board discussed giving county employees a 7% increase in pay, but not picking up the 10% insurance increase.

- *Supervisor Yowell compared the fringe benefits, and he believes the percentage of fringe has a lot to do with health insurance.*

Ms. Cropp discussed the schools' VRS benefit percentages.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated that when you have a total compensation package that takes a dollar and multiplies it by 1.4097 it is not bad, and he does not see how anyone can argue how they should not participate in an increase.*

Ms. Cropp stated she can agree with Supervisor Yowell about passing some on, but the disparity right now between the county and the school is a hard sell for the school's staff.

- *Chairman Yowell stated that they are two different employers.*

Ms. Cropp stated that the county and the school share the same plan, the staff are a part of the same county, and pay the same taxes.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if the school's staff receive the 7% pay increase and pick up 80% of the increase for health insurance, would it cut into the staff's take-home pay.*
- *Supervisor Yowell mentioned he created a spreadsheet for this situation. He stated that if someone has a family plan, picked up 80% of health insurance, and they make \$32,000 or less a year they would have a pay decrease.*
- *Supervisor Jewett stated that if all the school's requests were fulfilled, the county would be looking at a tax increase and they already had to have an increase this year. Supervisor Jewett stated that they have instructed other departments to streamline their budget request this year and the school wouldn't be any different. Supervisor Jewett stated they are in an unsustainable trajectory of spending in the county. Supervisor Jewett stated that the school's budget data is very aggregated, and he would like some clarification so he can make a better analysis on it.*
- *Supervisor Yowell stated the Madison Schools have less students than surrounding counties and have 10 administrators. Supervisor Yowell went through the average administrators' salaries for Madison and compared it to other school staff. Supervisor*

Yowell knows a Principal from Culpeper Yowell Elementary School who has eight hundred students, one assistant principal, and she is currently making \$96,000 and is about to receive the 7% COLA raise. Supervisor Yowell made a comparison of the pay for indirect staff to direct staff. Supervisor Yowell stated based on those numbers, he doesn't see how something cannot be done on the school's part.

Ms. Graham asked Supervisor Yowell if he had the Elementary Principal and Assistant Principal as indirect verses direct.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated that in his number he did classify them as indirect.*

Ms. Graham stated that they are meeting with parents, students, and scheduling meetings all day. Ms. Graham stated that they had 10 administrators because they have two at each school, one for Alternative Education, and one as the Athletic Director.

- *Supervisor Yowell led a discussion on past budgets based on student populations and how they account for the upcoming budget. Supervisor Yowell's calculations come out to be less than the school has budgeted.*

Ms. Cropp stated that 1.1 million is due to ESSER funding that's going away after fiscal year 2024.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated that the ESSER funding is not helping with the requested money. Supervisor Yowell inquired what the ESSER funding was being used for.*

Ms. Graham stated that they rolled 6 positions into the ESSER funding. They also wrote the companion grant to cover the School Boards' Building's roof and it is being used to cover the fitness facility for the kids.

- *Chairman Jackson stated that he does not see the value in the Public Information Officer. Chairman Jackson mentioned that he doesn't see him at the meetings and no one has met him. Chairman Jackson sees this position, along with the SSO, if the SROs are in place, as not needed. Chairman Jackson stated he would be willing to discuss the health insurance further, but feels those positions need to go. Chairman Jackson believed Supervisors Yowell's calculations are the right direction to go.*

Ms. Graham stated that at the end of the day, she wants the children to be taken care of in the county and knows it is difficult when they start talking about money. Ms. Graham stated that Madison is a great place to bring your kids and the administrators are doing good work and are worth every penny.

- *Supervisor Yowell shared a story from his past and followed up by stating that when an employee signs a contract and agrees to the salary and the benefit package, then they have agreed to that amount, and it was acceptable then and should be regardless of other factors.*

Ms. Graham asked if the Board had any questions regarding the CIP budget.

- *Chairman Jackson stated that Madison is lucky to have Dr. Timmons, the Supervisor of Facilities Management for the school system, and the CIP budget continues to get better. Chairman Jackson mentioned the Bureau Veritas and stated he values having a schedule for all the different mechanical and facility's needs. Chairman Jackson did feel that some of the numbers are a little high and went over the concerns he has for some of the numbers. Chairman Jackson stated it has been a long time since the school and the county employees did not receive a raise. Chairman Jackson feels the county does well as far as COLA and bonuses historically. Chairman Jackson feels the state put them in a tight spot this year due to the 7% COLA.*
- *Supervisor Yowell agreed with the statement that Supervisor Jewett stated earlier inquiring clarification on the aggregated data for the administrator budget line item. Supervisor Yowell stated the Supervisors do not have all the information to understand the job duties and responsibilities of the administration team.*

Ms. Graham asked Supervisor Jewett if it would be helpful to receive a form that included job titles and duties.

- *Supervisor Jewett stated that it would be helpful.*
- *Chairman Jackson stated that Ms. Cropp and Ms. Graham are easy to work with and he felt confident that they would answer any questions the Board members had.*

Ms. Graham commented that the budget they have presented to the Board is not their original request and they have had to cut many things before bringing the budget to the Board of Supervisors.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated that based on the tax rate sheet he provided, approving all of their requests is undoable.*
- *Chairman Jackson stated that the capital budget is really hurting them this year.*

The County Administrator asked the Board if they would like him to collect and make a list of all their questions, work with the school, and get the information back to them. The County Administrator stated they are going to go over the Revenues Report next and asked if the Board would like Ms. Graham and Ms. Cropp to stay for those conversations in case the Board has questions for them.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if the school wanted to stay.*

The Finance Director mentioned that Ms. Cropp left very detailed notes with her if they did want to leave, which they did.

2. Review revenue estimates

The County Administrator stated there have been many meetings between the Finance Director, the Treasurer, the Commissioner of Revenue, and himself. The report for today is an overview of revenues for the fiscal year 2024's budget.

The Finance Director stated that the Treasurer's Office and the Commissioner of Revenue assisted in creating the report she is going to go over for today's meeting. The Finance Director went over a few highlighted items in the report that showed a significant increase.

Tax Item	Revenue Notes:
Real Property	Increase of \$172,000
Personal Property	Increase of \$200,000
Merchant Capital	Increase of \$45,000
Local Sales Tax	Increase of \$100,000
Restaurant Food Tax	Increase of \$100,000
Interest Income	Increase of \$132,000
Cigarette Tax	Increase of \$72,000

- *Supervisor Yowell asked if these numbers would go up more if there was a need to increase taxes.*

The Finance Director added that this report is a projection of what they think the Comp Board funding will be and they added an escalation of 5% because it is still an unknown.

- There were no large new grants added. They did remove the Virginia Domestic Violence Grant based on the Assistant Commonwealth Attorney position. The Clerk IVA Records Grant funding will be received this year, not the fiscal year 2024 so they took that off as well.
- They have received the funds this year and have zeroed out the American Rescue Plan Recovery funds (ARPA funds).
- The Opioid Settlement Funds have been earmarked to be used for the drug court match in fiscal year 2024.

The County Administrator commented on the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds (LATCF) in the report.

- Madison County was awarded \$100,000. Madison County participates in PILT, Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The county has over 30,000 acres of Madison land in Shenandoah National Park. The county received \$50,000 already, confirmed by the Treasurer, and anticipate the other \$50,000 to hit in fiscal year 2024.
- The grant for the SRO position was pulled out of revenue because this is the last year for the grant that is funding the position. The Sherriff's Office is reapplying for the grant as well as another grant for the new SRO position at the Middle School.

The Finance Director confirmed that the county budgeted about \$107,000 for the two SRO positions, but it was taken out of the Revenue Report. The Finance Director gave a summary report on the school’s revenues.

- \$400,000 for state fund decrease.
 - ESSER Funds decreased \$600,000.
 - They do not have any new revenue sources.
- *Chairman Jackson stated that the Revenue Report works in their favor and looks better than it did in the beginning.*
- *Supervisor Yowell inquired about the cause of the increase of \$100,000 for Restaurant Food Tax.*

The Treasurer stated that food trucks caused a lot of the increase. The Treasurer also stated that she feels confident in this revenue projection.

- *Supervisor Jewett inquired if the Mobile Home Fees disappeared or if they rolled into something else.*

The Treasurer stated they were merged into the Personal Property line item.

3. Review county’s operation and county’s capital request.

The County Administrator went over various department budgets that were presented in the County’s Operation Report.

Departments:	Budget Notes:
Madison County Sherriff’s Office	Budget went down this year due to taking off the TASERs. The Sherriff’s Office is looking for newer equipment that could be available next year. Next year the Board will have the option to pay for all five years, which is what the original number reflected, or pay the annual lease amount. They have a significant increase due to the 7% COLA increase and taking on the SRO positions fund due to the Grant running out.
EMS	Requested funding for a new operational type of funding and the rest is the 7% COLA. The County Administrator stated they did significant trimming to EMS’s budget. They flatlined the overtime request to what the fiscal year 2023 numbers were. EMS is going to bolster their part-time efforts. EMS now covers stand by events, and they may have overtime tied to it. EMS is going to be looking at downsizing the staff coverage to help with overtime but will still maintain enough staff to operate successfully.

Transfer Station	Significant increase due to the disposal rate to haul the trash to another facility going up 50%.
Emergency Operation Center (911)	Increase for 7% COLA.
Facilities and Maintenance	Cleaning supplies cost went up and the EMS cleaning supplies now comes out of the Facilities and Maintenance's budget. Increase for the 7% COLA.
County Attorney	Mr. Gregg announced that he will be retiring, and Hannon Wright will take his place. There will be a little overlap for that transitional time.
Building Official	Increase for the 7% COLA.
Commissioner of Revenue	A staff is retiring by March 2024 and there will be some overlap as they are hiring a new employee. Increase for the 7% COLA.
Circuit Court	Increase for the 7% COLA.
Treasurer Department	Increase for the 7% COLA and for postage.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell inquired about the Circuit Court increase.*

The County Administrator clarified that this is due to the judge's secretary that Madison and Orange County share.

Registrar	Increase was due to an additional election, ensuring proper staffing, and the 7% COLA
Economic Development & Tourism	Increase for the 7% COLA.
Planning and Zoning	The County Administrator stated he would have to go back and double check that number.
Victim Witness	Increase for the 7% COLA
Board of Supervisors	Level funded
Emergency Management	Increase for the Stop the Bleed Kits. The County Administrator stated they needed to check that number because he thought that line might be a flatline number. This budget will not have a salary line in the budget because that falls under the EMS salary budget.
Juvenile Probation	Slight increase for transportation needs.
Personal Property	Slight increase
Board Code of Appeals	Slight increase
Auditor	Level funded
Land Use Program	Level funded
Madison Combined Courts	Level funded
Examiner	Level funded
Commissioner of the Accounts	Level funded
Magistrate Office Supplies	Level funded

Confinement of Prisoners	Level funded
Board of Zoning Appeals	Reduction in budget
Finance Department	Reduction in budget
Planning Commission	Reduction in budget (Went from nine members to seven)
GIS	Reduction in budget
Commonwealth Attorney	Reduction due to not moving forward with the third attorney. The 7% COLA increase and the one adjustment to the deputy commonwealth attorney salary is reflected in the budget.
Information and Technology	Reduction in budget

The County Administrator then went through requests for outside agencies.

Outside Agencies:	Budget Notes:
DSS	Increase in budget
CSA	Decrease in budget
Central Virginia Regional Jail	Decrease in budget
Park & Recreation	Increase in the budget due to salaries, fuel, and electric.
Rappahannock Juvenile Detention	Major increase in budget
Madison Health Department	Slight increase in budget
CSB	Slight increase in budget
Madison County Library	Increase in budget
Madison County Volunteer Fire Department	Slight increase in the budget but this increase may be covered by grant funding.
Virginia Cooperative Extension	Increase in budget
Skyline CAP	Increase in budget
Drug Court	Increase in budget
Culpeper Soil Water Conservation	Decrease in budget
Regional Commission	Level funded
Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development	Level funded
Foothills Housing Corporation	Level funded
Regional Transit	Level funded
Germanna Community College	The Board funded \$4,000 of their request.
Aging Together	The Board funded \$1,000 of their request.
Foothill Child Advocacy	The Board funded \$2,000 of their request.
River Basin	Level funded
SAFE	Level funded
Boys & Girls Club	The Board funded \$1,000 of their request.
Madison County Fair	The Board funded \$500 of their request.
Career Works	Level funded
Legal Aid	The Board is not funding.
Piedmont Dental Clinic	The Board is not funding.

Thomas Jefferson EMS Council	The Board is not funding. (Based on staff recommendation)
Madison Learning Center	The Board is not funding.

- *Supervisor Yowell would like to cut the funding for the Boys & Girls Club due to the school offering the space they use.*

The Finance Director discussed the summary tab of the report after all the edits.

The County Administrator went through the CIP Report, which is a five-year plan, but they discussed just fiscal year 2024.

- Painting of the Court house roof.
- Various structure replacements.
- HAVAC systems at various locations.
- Paving and resurfacing
- The largest cost is the EMS Station renovation.

The Finance Director clarified the difference between rollover monies and new monies in the CIP Report.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked for clarification on why they do not use one of the columns in the report.*

The Finance Director stated the other columns are for the five-year plan, which comes from the facility study. There is another column for items that are not budgeted but were requested.

The County Administrator went back to going over CIP items.

- Parks & Recreation's Outdoor Recreation Center.
- Vehicles and Equipment
 - The Sheriff's Office is requesting four vehicles.
 - Emergency Management is requesting a generator for the High School for any large-scale event in an emergency.
- Technology has the fiber project which will have fiber going to county buildings and Hoover Ridge Park.
- Broadband (Committed Project)
- Radio Project (Committed Project)
- Tyler Munis Project, ERP implementations of phase 2 and phase 3.

The County Administrator stated they have money put away for the reassessment cycle and they will need to spend some of the money this year and some the following. The County Administrator stated that does not include the school's request of \$735,572.

- *Chairman Jackson reminded the County Administrator to subtract \$20,000 from the school's total CIP request.*

- The school requested two buses and various building needs.

The County Administrator stated that the fiscal year 2024 proposed Capital Budget total is 8.9 million.

The Finance Director stated that 2.7 million was new monies because they are going to be rolling over 6.3 million.

The County Administrator gave an update on the Board's Fund Balance standings. The County Administrator stated that he heard back regarding the scales at the Transfer Station, and they do not need to be replaced yet.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated he feels it is necessary to set money aside but is inquiring if the money they set aside is a part of the six-year reassessment cycle.*

The County Administrator stated he believed the last reassessment was 2018 and this money would place them in that cycle, but they would have to set money aside for the next 6-year reassessment cycle that Supervisor Yowell is referring to.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if they set separate money aside.*

The County Administrator stated they did, and they will spend some of that saved money in fiscal year 2024 and the rest in fiscal year 2025.

- *Chairman Jackson stated he feels they have made a lot of progress on the budget process and thanked the County Administrator and the Finance Director for their hard work.*

The County Administrator reminded the Board that the Radio project has an annual fee for fifteen years.

The Finance Director explained where those funds are found in the Capital Report.

The County Administrator notified the Board of the updated calendar and explained the timeframe that is needed to advertise for the public hearing for the budget. The County Administrator stated they need to start getting to a final number because the timeline is running out.

- *The Board of Supervisors agreed to have the County Administrator and the Finance Director plug in the numbers from Supervisor Yowell's sheet regarding the school's budget. The Board would like to have closer final numbers following week.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eleanor Montgomery: Ms. Montgomery thanked the Board for their hard work. Ms. Montgomery asked why the county's employees and the school's employees are not on the same health insurance plan.

The County Administrator stated the county and the schools are pulled together on one plan to get a better rate, but the school was referring to the difference in the contribution shares the school pays versus what the county pays. For years, there has been a difference between who covers more.

Chris Artale: Mr. Artale spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation's Outdoor Recreation Center. The Parks & Recreation Board has asked for funding to support Hoover Ridge. The requested number represents the engineering and permitting for the center. The important thing is getting the ball rolling. Mr. Artale thanked the Board for considering helping with the finances for the project.

Lindsay Vonherbulis: Ms. Vonherbulis, as parent who has a child in the community, requested the Board think about the areas they are cutting in the budget that affect children's activities like after-school tutoring, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Madison Learning Center. Ms. Vonherbulis stated the benefits these programs bring to the community are huge and will certainly be missed.

Stephanie Murray: Ms. Murray mentioned the passing of Edward Berry and asked everyone to keep him and his family in their thoughts.

Jerry Carpenter: Mr. Carpenter stated that regardless of what the Board decides with the funding for the Outdoor Recreation Center, Mr. Carpenter is requesting the Board write a letter giving Parks & Recreation the go-ahead to start fundraising. A lot of grants require approval from the County.

The County Administrator asked if the MOU that is in place worked or would they need an additional form.

- *Chairman Jackson stated that he feels this is something they can do but feels they should reach out to the County Attorney for further assistance.*

The County Administrator informed Chairman Jackson he found the information in the audit on page 29 regarding the money they set aside, which was discussed previously. The County Administrator stated that they need to take the money from assigned and put it in the capital and \$300,000 of that will be spent this year.

Ms. Carpenter asked the County Administrator what he needs to do regarding equipment they need at Parks & Recreation.

The County Administrator stated he took their equipment needs off the budget, but asked if they do not fund it, what does that mean for them.

Ms. Carpenter stated they need equipment including a mower and a drag machine to maintain the fields for the County.

The County Administrator had the request from Parks & Recreation put onto the projector screen.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked Mr. Carpenter what the school pays Parks & Recreation for lining and taking care of their fields.*

Mr. Carpenter stated it was \$5,000 a year.

- *Chairman Jackson stated they are putting a lot of money in the outside recreation center and this request will have to be postponed. He suggested if there is extra money, if the budget is favorable, at the end of the current fiscal year, to use that to purchase the equipment.*

The County Administrator stated he starts looking at the current budget in May and, if it is okay with the Board, he would like to take those requests and come back to them if they are favorable to budget.

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURN

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