

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Date: 3:00 PM — Thursday, March 16th, 2023

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

MEETING #15—March 16th, 2023

At a Budget Workshop (#7) of the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 16th 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.

Chairman Jackson advised of the following changes to today's agenda:

1. [Emergency Service Tower](#)

Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 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 being brought forward, the public comment opportunity was closed.

FY 24 BUDGET WORKSESSION

1. [Emergency Service Tower](#)

- *Chairman Jackson stated that the Balloon test took place today, and it is very visible. Chairman Jackson suggested looking further into the other possible tower sites. Chairman Jackson did not like the Douglas Coppage site and the Jimmy Ryder site due to the location.*
- *Supervisor Yowell stated he talked to Robin Wright who informed him that Jimmy Ryder and Brian Gordon were at the site and saw a spot down the hill from the original site that*

might work better. Supervisor Yowell recommends talking to Brian Gordan to get more information on this location.

The County Administrator inquired about the location of the site Supervisor Yowell was discussing.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated it would be in-between 231 and Old Rag.*
- *Chairman Jackson felt that any site in the Champe Plain Valley would not work. Chairman Jackson also mentioned that it is a giant orange balloon, so it is very noticeable. Chairman Jackson stated he feels they need to stop looking at those two sites and go investigate the others. Chairman Jackson stated that one of these sites is contingent upon Fiber availability and the other one will work without Fiber. Chairman Jackson asked if they would be shorter.*

The County Administrator stated that one would be shorter and the other would be closer to 170 or just under 170. The County Administrator stated he believed the one site is about 120.

- *Chairman Jackson stated the reason he wants to bring it up today is because he knows that time is of the essence.*
- *Supervisor Hoffman stated that she feels people will not pay attention to the tower after it is built.*
- *Chairman Jackson agreed and stated that the Aylor tower sites would be better sites because they would be shorter, tucked in, and would have road access.*
- *Supervisor Jewett asked Chairman Jackson to email him the pictures from the balloon test.*
- *Supervisor Yowell stated that since they were late getting up and running, it will run past later.*

The County Administrator stated that it was a six-hour window and would close at 5:00 pm.

- *Chairman Jackson mentioned he agreed that once it is up, he doesn't feel people will notice or pay much attention to it, but also stated that the orange balloon was very noticeable.*

The County Administrator stated that when they run the microwave test on the other tower sites, they can get more accurate numbers. The County Administrator stated the tower will need to be able to get back to the Blakey tower or the Hoover Ridge tower. The County Administrator recommended looking at those numbers to see if it has microwave paths before setting up a balloon test.

- *Chairman Jackson agreed but reminded the Board that time is of the essence, and they need to stay on this project to ensure it can start on time.*

2. Final Draft Budget Presentation

The County Administrator thanked each Board member for their time to come in separately to discuss surrounding localities and state agencies moving toward a 5% COLA projection. The County Administrator gave an update on where the General Assembly was regarding their budget process. The County Administrator mentioned that he sent the Board the Comp Board information and questions he sent to the legislative representative to get answers regarding what is not in the “skinny budget”. The County Administrator feels confident that they should be moving back to the 5% COLA. The County Administrator stated that the School Board has also moved to the 5% COLA rather than the 7% COLA. The presentation for today’s budget meeting represents moving away from a 7% and toward a 5% COLA. Due to this change, the presentation also has the county covering 50% of the 10% health insurance increase.

The Finance Director gave an overview of the presentations stating it would cover the fiscal year 2024 goals and priorities, overview and highlights, outside agency funding, the revenues and expenditure summary, and final remaining steps for the budget process.

The County Administrator reviewed the Goals and Priorities.

1. Improve access to broadband services.
2. Complete major capital projects
 - a. Public Safety Radio System
 - b. Financial Software Replacement
3. Complete a facilities inventory and needs assessment.
 - a. Plan for a new EMS facility
 - b. Dispose of surplus real estate
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.
 - a. Develop incentive program and public safety pay scale.
 - b. Provide and encourage adequate training and certifications.
7. Comprehensive Plan Update

The Finance Director stated that most spending is allocated for education and public safety. The Finance Director stated that the budget numbers reflect the 5% COLA and the county paying 50% of the 10% health insurance increase. The Budget is balanced and does not require a tax increase, and the use of the fund balance is totaling \$1,205,676 for general fund and \$2,685,294 for Capital Fund.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated that if they do not have to spend the contingency funds then the general fund would have a large decrease.*

The County Administrator stated that \$287,820 is the 1% policy.

- *Supervisor Yowell inquired how they budgeted for training and certification opportunities for employees.*

The Finance Director stated it was looked at department by department. The Finance Director also stated that Supervisor Yowell was correct, if they did not have to use the contingency line items the \$1,205,676 number would go down significantly. The Finance Director stated she expects to have money left over from fiscal year 2023 that will fall under the Fund Balanced line items.

- *Chairman Jackson stated most departments return money at the end of the budget year.*
- *Supervisor Yowell agreed and stated they are pretty good about not dipping into the contingency fund.*
- *Chairman Jackson inquired how often they have dipped into the contingency fund.*

The Finance Director answered that they did for the mower for Parks & Recreation that week and one other time for a position in the Sherriff's Office. Overall, she thought they had dipped in around \$40,000 to \$45,000.

- *Chairman Jackson mentioned using the end of the year money for larger request for the fiscal year 2024 request, like the two new buses.*

The Finance Director stated there were a couple of line items of revenue that were increased for fiscal year 2023 that is helpful. The Finance Director then gave an overview of the capital budget. Next, the Finance Director gave an overview of the outside agency fund. The Finance Director went over the breakdown of revenues. The Finance Director then went through the expenditure breakdown.

- *Supervisor Yowell inquired about the Virginia Public Assistance, VPA and asked for examples.*

The County Administrator stated this was social services expenditures.

The Finance Director shared a pie chart that broke up expenditures that make up the proposed budget. The next steps for the budget would be to advertise for the public hearing which would take place on April 11th, the adoption of the budget on April 25th, and then the appropriation resolution on June 13th.

The County Administrator added that he put in the adoption of the budget for April 25th because he feels this is a safe date if the General Assembly doesn't do anything drastic. On this date, the tax rates would be set, even though they are not changing tax rates. The County Administrator stated that the school will receive \$85,000 of new monies and the contingencies stays with the

County. The County Administrator stated he knew the school's budget had a higher number, but he was using what the Board of Supervisors said.

Ms. Hart-Brooks inquired about the difference in the contingency amount the school had listed versus what the county had listed if the state money did not come through. Ms. Hart-Brooks asked if the lower number on the county side was meant to be the contingency number.

The County Administrator stated the School Board can approve their budget, and in their budget, they had supplemental if needed from the county.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated the answer to Ms. Hart-Brooks questions was yes it was sort of like an olive branch.*
- *Chairman Jackson inquired how the School Board approved their budget with revenues that the Board of Supervisors did not approve.*

The County Administrator stated he would check with the County Attorney regarding if they can approve their budget if it does not match with what the Board of Supervisors is providing.

- *Chairman Jackson stated the school added the contingency amount if the state does not fund them as an insurance policy, but their contingency amount does not match what the county agreed on. Chairman Jackson stated the school will have to come back before the Board if they need more money and justify that the amount is needed.*
- *Supervisor Yowell stated they should have taken the county line and changed it to the state line.*
- *Chairman Jackson stated that is what they should have done, but it is not what they did.*

The Supervisors agreed to give the school \$85,000 new monies to the school with \$144,192 as contingency if needed.

- *Chairman Jackson thanked the Finance Director for her presentation and how clear it was.*
- *Supervisor Jewett agreed and stated he really appreciated the hard work that was put into the budget.*

The County Administrator gave an overview of the next meeting and the topics they will be discussing. The County Administrator thanked the Finance Director and the Board for their hard work and patience during the budget process.

- *Chairman Jackson inquired about the EMS renovation process.*

The County Administrator gave an update on where they stood and explained the next steps. The County Administrator stated he would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

- *Chairman Jackson mentioned his worry regarding the time of the year they would be putting the bid out for the renovation.*
- *Supervisor Yowell inquired about the timeline for construction.*
- *Supervisor Dawson mentioned it will be quicker since they are using the Virginia Existing Code, as long as they are making the building safer.*
- *Supervisor Yowell asked if it worked in their favor that it was an indoor project during the winter months.*
- *Supervisor Dawson stated it could be a good thing.*
- *Chairman Jackson stated the worst thing that could happen is the bids are too high and they prolong the renovation to get a good price. Chairman Jackson stated the EMS building lease works in their favor if this happens.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURN

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