

March 4, 2025

County of Greene, Virginia

THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MET ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025, BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M. IN PERSON IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MEETING ROOM AND BY ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION

Present were: Steve Catalano, Chair
Marie Durrer, Vice Chair
Davis Lamb, Member
Tim Goolsby, Member

Absent was: Francis McGuigan, Member

Staff present: Cathy Schafrik, County Administrator
Kim Morris, Deputy Clerk
Jim Frydl, Director of Planning and Zoning
Melissa Meador, Director of Emergency Services
Dan Chipman, Finance Director
Cooper Lane, Senior Financial Accountant

RE: BUDGET PRESENTATION – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Schafrik provided a detailed overview of the proposed budget. She said that the budget is presented in a narrative format, providing information on each department, org charts, and performance measures. The theme is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." The budget presentation includes a QR code linking to a dedicated budget website with resources like the Citizens Guide, providing a one-stop shop for budget information. Ms. Schafrik explained the budget process, starting with department submissions in the fall, followed by funding decisions through a collaborative process with departments to balance priorities and limited resources. The budget aims to hit a "sweet spot" between expected and desired levels of service, with some critical services funded at higher levels. The budget must be adopted by July 1 as required by the state. Major budget themes include addressing aging infrastructure, promoting good governance, rural preservation, and economic development. Revenue and expenditure analysis shows a 3.89% increase in the general fund budget and a decrease in the school's budget due to less state funding. The revenue and expenditure analysis delved into details on real estate, personal property, and other revenue sources, as well as the general fund transfer to schools. The budget includes a 3% compensation increase for county and school employees. Ms. Schafrik explained that this is a reassessment year and said that residential tax bills will be based on the reassessment. The budget includes constitutional officers, some of whom are partially funded by the state, and projections show Greene County's population growth outpacing the states. Ms. Schafrik discussed the concept

of devolution, where higher levels of government may pass down funding responsibilities to localities, which could impact the county's budget. The budget is guided by principles like using one-time sources of revenue for one-time expenses and funding ongoing expenses with ongoing revenues. It also includes a proposed capital project reserve fund. Ms. Schafrik provided a comprehensive overview of the budget requests from various departments, including the Treasurer's Office's need for a part-time position to handle increased water and sewer workload. The Board discussed the importance of funding critical positions, managing the budget responsibly, and gathering ongoing public input throughout the process.

RE: BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE KIM TATE

Ms. Kimberly Tate, Commissioner of Revenue, said that her budget request is very basic. She said that the only increased areas are those where they anticipate incurring additional costs due to inflation. She said that they have also been able to reduce some areas such as postage costs by emailing as much as possible.

The Board thanked Ms. Tate.

RE: BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT ASHBY LAMB-GOMEZ

Ms. Ashby Lamb-Gomez, Clerk of the Circuit Court, said that her office operates with a bare bones budget and said that she has not asked for an increase from last year's budget.

The Board thanked Ms. Lamb-Gomez.

RE: BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY EDWIN CONSOLVO

Mr. Edwin Consolvo, Commonwealth's Attorney, stated that he appreciates the support the county has provided to his office over the years, but he has some specific budget requests he would like the Board to consider. He said that his top priorities are increasing the salaries for his administrative assistant/paralegal, Lisa Lewis, and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) prosecutor, Adam Rhea. Mr. Consolvo emphasized that Lisa Lewis is a key member of his team, with 10-20 years of experience in the criminal justice system, and her salary needs to be increased to retain her. Similarly, he believes the JDR prosecutor's salary should be increased, as the workload and responsibilities for that position have continued to grow. Mr. Consolvo noted that the General Assembly has been increasing the duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office without providing additional funding. He stated that his office has a great working relationship with the Sheriff's Office and the Clerk's Office, and he would ask the board to consider funding the requests from those offices as well. Mr. Consolvo acknowledged the Board's difficult task in balancing the budget, but he emphasized the importance of adequately funding the key positions in his office to maintain the high level of service they provide.

The Board thanked Mr. Consolvo.

RE: BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH TREASURER DAWN LOTTS MARSHALL

Ms. Dawn Lotts Marshall, Treasurer, stated that she was not notified that the part-time position she had requested for her office was not funded in the proposed budget. She only learned of this when she reviewed the budget materials. She explained that the Treasurer's Office has taken on additional responsibilities with the county taking over the water and sewer billing and payments, resulting in a 35% increase in workload. Ms. Lotts Marshall noted that the previous Treasurer had agreed to handle the water and sewer payments, but only on condition that a part-time position was provided to assist with the increased workload. She emphasized that state code requires the Treasurer to collect tax revenue, which is a critical function that funds the overall county budget. Lotts argued that not funding the requested part-time position could impact the Treasurer's ability to effectively collect this revenue. Ms. Lotts Marshall provided detailed data showing a 23% increase in transactions in the current fiscal year and a projected 28% increase in the next fiscal year, further demonstrating the need for additional staffing. She highlighted that the Treasurer's Office has not had a new position added since 2020, despite the significant growth in the county and the additional responsibilities taken on. Ms. Lotts Marshall presented performance measures related to the part-time position request, showing the impact on transaction processing and tax collection efforts if the position is not funded. She outlined the budget adjustments she has made to her own operating budget to try to accommodate the need for the part-time position but emphasized that it is still a critical request that needs to be considered.

The Board thanked Ms. Lotts Marshall.

RE: BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH SHERIFF STEVE SMITH

Sheriff Steve Smith said that he agreed with much of what Cathy Schafrik said in her presentation, but he emphasized that his department's budget has no "fluff" and is requesting only what is truly needed. The Sheriff's Office is requesting four and a half new positions - two deputies, two dispatchers, and making the victim witness position full-time. Sheriff Smith stated that the workload and responsibilities for his department have been increasing, and these additional positions are desperately needed to maintain service levels. He specifically highlighted the increased traffic and congestion issues in the county, noting that the intersections at Routes 33 and 29 are frequently backed up, which requires more law enforcement presence. The Sheriff acknowledged the Board's difficult job in balancing the budget, but he emphasized that the requests from his department are for essential needs, not wasteful spending. Sheriff Smith expressed appreciation for any support the Board can provide to fund the requested positions, as well as the need to also consider the budget requests from other constitutional officers like the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The Board thanked Sheriff Smith.

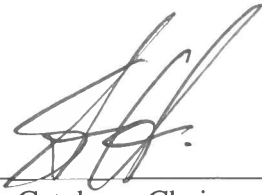
RE: GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Schafrik shared the additional departments and outside agencies that will be presenting to the Board at upcoming meetings.

RE: ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

Board of Supervisors
March 4, 2025
Sheet 4

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final flourish.

Steve Catalano, Chair
Greene County Board of Supervisors

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a prominent circular loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Cathy Schafrik, Clerk
Greene County Board of Supervisors