

March 9, 2021

County of Greene, Virginia

THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MET ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021, BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M. BY ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED ON MARCH 24, 2020 TO PERMIT PUBLIC BODIES OF GREENE COUNTY TO ASSEMBLE ELECTRONICALLY, TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES, TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES, AND TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISASTER

Present were: Bill Martin, Chair
Marie Durrer, Vice Chair
Steve Bowman, Member
Dale Herring, Member
Davis Lamb, Member

Staff present: Mark B. Taylor, County Administrator
Kelley Kemp, Assistant County Attorney
Patti Vogt, Deputy Clerk
Melissa Meador, Director of Emergency Services
Tracy Morris, Director of Finance

RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mrs. Morris said the School has asked for \$216,831 in new local money. Funds in the amount of \$104,711 for the School Resource Officer will be moved to the Sheriff's Office. The School Division has asked to keep those funds. The net of the request for new local money less the funds for the SRO is \$112,120.

The Compensation Board is providing a 5% salary increase for positions they fund and constitutional officers themselves. Constitutional officer staff follow the County pay plan. There are County funded positions in those offices also. For all employees to receive a 2.7% increase, it will cost an additional \$240,000. Mr. Taylor said this is not a recommendation and he does not see the potential for a 2.7% salary increase for all employees.

No additional information on CARES Act funds at this time.

Ms. Karen Davis, JAUNT Chief Operating Officer, and Ms. Robin Munsun, JAUNT Chief Financial Officer, were present. Ms. Davis said all funding from federal and state governments are based on the local match. Tried to keep the budget along the same amount as Greene paid in the past. All existing services have been transferred and stabilized and a commuter route has been discussed. A survey of current riders and community members was just completed and the results

and planning for the future will be discussed. Ridership numbers are greatly reduced due to the pandemic.

Ms. Munsun said the budget request is similar to the 2019 budget. A 4% raise is included for employees. Capital expense includes new work stations over the next two years. The budget request is \$380,399 and revenue is estimated at \$41,667. Some CARES Act Funds are factored in. Ms. Davis said federal monies will fund half of the total operating expenses. Federal funds received in FY 2019 was \$594,000 with the rest matched by State and local.

Mr. Taylor said JAUNT did provide ridership data which was distributed to Board members. He noted the effect of the pandemic on the transit system.

Ms. Davis said there is demand in Greene and increasing capacity by placing additional buses on the road has been considered.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the approach used to balance the FY2022 budget which included the careful review of projected revenue estimate; review of proposed expenditures, line by line; review of projected recurring costs items; identify and plan to mitigate the unforeseen; a contingency fund sufficient to address emergencies; and the smallest increase possible in the tax rates to support maintaining a healthy general fund.

The biggest challenge in the remainder of the current fiscal year and into FY 2022 will be the loss of the facility fee. Over Greene County's objection, Orange and Madison eliminated our facility fee on water EDUs last July. Their action imposed a loss on Greene County of just under \$3,500 per day. The loss to date is \$1,042,000 and additional projected loss this fiscal year is \$420,000 for a total of \$1,462,000. This loss must be covered. Greene County must also plan to make the VRA debt payment, estimated at \$1.6 million, that will be due in November. There is a VRA debt payment of \$308,000 due April 1st. Funds generated from facility fees were exhausted with the debt service payment to VRA last fall. In fact, much of that payment was made using general funds because the facility fee had been shut off.

The County has sued RSA for breaching agreements and we seek to leave RSA. The County is represented by Greg Habeeb and Greg Haley of Gentry Locke. Attorney fees to date total \$173,783 and the estimate for future fees for litigation will be another \$250,000 for a total litigation budget of \$423,783.

Mr. Taylor said the County is working with Orange and Madison to negotiate a solution that will end the dispute and change the future of Greene's relationship with RSA. That may or may not be successful. The \$250,000 is our legal counsel estimate for the cost of finishing litigation if and when Greene County says proceed with litigation as we are unable to resolve the situation amicably. This is a best estimate at this time.

These impacts total \$1,885,783 and equals 8.26 cents worth of real estate tax revenue. Filling this hole dominates our FY 2022 budget. Our water supply project is our number one priority. We have already spent \$14 million on this project to date and are ready to build infrastructure. Each year, 7.5 cents of real estate tax go to our water project and projected funding this year is \$1,713,660. The facility fee is essential to fund our water project.

Mr. Taylor said Senator Hanger introduced SB1355 to help Greene County get out of RSA, but the bill was unsuccessful this year. We need to leave RSA and create our own water and sewer program. Orange and Madison must agree with our leaving RSA.

The recent reassessment is a help. Mr. Taylor reviewed assessed values of real estate in the County which shows a 4.79% increase. The equalized tax rate is 76.75 cents. This is the tax rate necessary to generate the same amount of revenue generated by real estate tax in the prior year. This number will not meet the needs in front of the Board, address the loss of the facility fee and associated legal costs. The difference of \$0.0525 on the real estate tax rate generates \$1,199,562 in revenue.

Priority staff positions for consideration in the FY 2022 budget includes:

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| • 1 grant writer/public safety training coordinator | - | 88,878 |
| • 1 general government IT support position | - | 74,151 |
| • 550 additional hours for Victim Witness Services | - | 9,346 |
| • 1 dispatcher – E911 | - | 59,668 |
| • 1 medic – Emergency Medical Services | - | 70,378 |
| • 1 Social Services Family Services Specialist | - | <u>64,142</u> |
| | | \$ 366,563 |

Mr. Martin said the budget discussion would continue later in the meeting.

RE: CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Kemp read the proposed resolution for closed meeting.

Upon motion by Davis Lamb, second by Marie Durrer and unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the following:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Greene County desires to discuss in Closed Meeting the following matter(s):

- Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body concerning RSA case.

WHEREAS, pursuant to: §2.2-3711 (A)(1) (A)(3) (A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Greene County does hereby authorize discussion of the aforestated matters in Closed Meeting.

Recorded vote:	Bill Martin	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Steve Bowman	-	Yes
	Dale Herring	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

Motion carried.

RE: OPEN MEETING

Upon motion by Davis Lamb, second by Marie Durrer and unanimous roll call vote, the Board returned to open meeting.

Recorded vote:	Bill Martin	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Steve Bowman	-	Yes
	Dale Herring	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

Motion carried.

By unanimous roll call vote, members certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirement and only such matters as identified by the motion to enter into closed meeting were discussed.

Recorded vote:	Bill Martin	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Steve Bowman	-	Yes
	Dale Herring	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Chair opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. Mr. Martin said the Board of Supervisors is operating under Greene County's Continuity of Government Ordinance which allows for meetings to be held digitally.

RE: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Dale Herring, second by Davis Lamb and unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

Recorded vote:	Bill Martin	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Steve Bowman	-	Yes
	Dale Herring	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

Motion carried.

RE: UPDATE ON COVID-19

Ms. Meador said there are 588,129 COVID cases in Virginia and 9,790 COVID related deaths. The Blue Ridge Health District reports 13,530 cases and 188 fatalities. Greene County has 1,028 COVID cases, 54 hospitalizations, and 14 COVID related deaths. A testing clinic was held today and another clinic is scheduled in April. There were 8 fatalities at the nursing home and those are counted in County fatality total. Greene County has 3,662 individuals who have received their first vaccine dose and 2,188 who are fully vaccinated. A vaccination clinic was held this past Saturday and 100 individuals received their first dose. Expect vaccination clinics to continue on a weekly basis.

Indoor gatherings remain capped at 10 people. Our board room is not capable of handling 10 people with appropriate social distancing. Ms. Meador felt it may be appropriate to open meetings to the public in a larger space with safety measures in place. Any decision should have

input from Dr. Bonds. We need to continue doing things that we know are working: masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing.

Mr. Lamb said he heard 4H camps will be open this summer and Ms. Meador said she will check on that. Mr. Bowman had concern about notification from the State and data bases. People who have already been vaccinated continue to receive phone calls. Ms. Meador said she will check on the number of people allowed at local government meetings. Mr. Martin suggested a plan be drafted for the County to hold public meetings. Other localities are having public meetings as is the Greene County School Board. Mr. Herring suggested Board of Supervisor meetings could be held at the schools.

RE: EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Ms. Meador presented the quarterly update for the Emergency Services Department. Dr. Debra Perina, OMD (Operational Medical Director) and Mr. Aaron Anderegg, EMS Supervisors, were also present. Mr. Anderegg gave an overview of Pit-Crew CPR and the Infection Control Officer. Dr. Perina and Mr. Anderegg provided information on ultrasound machines (used for the early detection of critical conditions), RSI (Rapid Sequence Intubation) kits, ventilators and pumps.

Dr. Perina said the program that provided for the exchange of drug box with the hospital is being eliminated. This means each EMS service will have to maintain their own drug box and purchase their own drugs. This presents an opportunity to expand the number of drugs at the crew's disposal to better help patients. Mr. Anderegg said there is storage space in the new building for drugs.

Ms. Meador provided information on the EMS Department as follows:

- Total call volume from October 14, 2020 to February 28, 2021 – 905
 - Average of 6.5 EMS calls per day
 - Average mobilization time – 2.03 minutes
 - Average response time – 9.30 minutes
 - Longest response time – 45 minutes
 - Number of incidents with a 20 minute or longer response time – 18
 - Average on scene time – 22 minutes
 - Average turnaround timeframe from emergency department – 24 minutes
- Budget request for fiscal year 2021/2022 includes:
- Increase of administrative position to full-time
 - Emergency response vehicle
 - Additional staffed ambulance - six (6) requested new positions
 - 12-hour power shift ambulance
 - Alternative option – two or three medic positions to staff emergency response vehicle

Ms. Meador said she is extremely pleased with the work of all staff members and recognized the roles of the EMS Supervisor and OMD. The Department will continue to grow and continued support at the County level is critical. Staffing increases and equipment will be necessary.

Mr. Martin thanked Dr. Perina for her role as OMD for Greene County. The Board will be considering budget requests and will do what they can.

RE: CARES ACT UPDATE

Mr. Taylor said the EMS building should arrive on March 23. The new Parks and Rec Office at the Community Park is waiting on internet service and should be open soon. Mr. Taylor said he did not have any new information on the next round of relief funds.

RE: MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Marie Durrer, second by Steve Bowman and unanimous roll call vote, the Board approved the following item on the consent agenda:

- minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting
- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---|-----|
| Recorded vote: | Bill Martin | - | Yes |
| | Marie Durrer | - | Yes |
| | Steve Bowman | - | Yes |
| | Dale Herring | - | Yes |
| | Davis Lamb | - | Yes |

Motion carried.

RE: REQUEST FROM GREENE COMMONS GROUP – PLACE STORAGE SHED ON COUNTY PROPERTY

Mr. Taylor said the Greene Commons Group has requested permission to place a storage shed in back of the County Administration Building. The Art Guild of Greene is donating the building which was constructed by students at the Technical Education Center.

This request will be on the agenda for action by the Board of Supervisors at their March 23, 2021 meeting.

RE: AMENDED MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2019 MEETING

Ms. Kemp said the approved minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting included Attachment “C” – An Ordinance (0-2019-01) Granting a Special Use Permit (SUP#10-001) to Sandra S. Emery for Tourist Lodging at Tax Map Parcel 37C-(22)-1-13 located at 279 Pine Bluff Road. The wrong version of the ordinance, imposing conditions on the Special Use Permit, was attached to the approved minutes for that meeting. Motion made by Michelle Flynn was to approve the Special Use Permit without any conditions. Ms. Kemp and staff have reviewed the recording of the May 28, 2019 meeting and verified that the motion by the Board was to approve the Special Use Permit with no conditions.

This is the first review and it will be on the March 23, 2021 agenda for action by the Board of Supervisors.

RE: CONTINUATION OF BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Taylor continued his presentation with review of additional positions included in the proposed budget. The AS400 computer system, which is outdated, is also in need of replacement. Replacement of phone system is also needed.

Mr. Taylor Reviewed tax rates for past years and the budget schedule. The Board will need to decide on the tax rate for advertisement by Thursday evening.

Mr. Herring asked if Board members could possibly meet in person with staff during a budget work session. The meeting would be live streamed for the public. Mr. Taylor felt it was doable and information could be shared more easily. Mr. Martin asked if the two Board members who join the meeting by phone could be in the Board Meeting Room in order to easier view information such as the budget spreadsheet.

Mr. Martin questioned an amount for staff salary increase. Mr. Taylor said the Compensation Board 5% salary increase will equate to a 2.7% increase in FY 2022. A 2.3% increase was provided in the current year. The 2.7% increase for all employees will cost approximately \$240,000. An increase of 1 cent on the real estate tax levy equals \$228,000.

Mr. Herring asked if the IT position was in the budget books provided to the Board. Mr. Taylor said an increase in hours for the current contract was included in prior information. There are changes in the organization currently providing IT services and staff is looking at options. At some point, having in-house IT makes more sense. Mr. Herring said he did not disagree with what Mr. Taylor was saying. There is a company in Charlottesville that has provided services to the County previously. His concern was about the late addition of this position to the budget.

Mr. Herring asked if the EMS administrative position going from part-time to full-time would include grant writing. The Engineer position in the current budget has not been filled. Can we look at removing the engineer position and put that money elsewhere? Sheriff had requested 5 deputies. Could any unexpended legal fees be used elsewhere? Mr. Herring felt all the positions are needed but questioned timing.

Mr. Taylor said departments were asked what was most important in their budget request. Ms. Meador said the Medic position was the highest priority for her department. The grant writer/training coordinator position was the highest priority for public safety as a whole.

Mr. Bowman said school employees are getting a pay raise and he felt the Board should do something for county employees. We have a lot of critical important needs. He believes the Sheriff needs additional deputies and 911 needs additional personnel. The reason we're in this position is because of the ongoing situation with RSA.

Mrs. Durrer questioned if the grant writer position would make the current EMS position full-time. Mr. Taylor said the current position in the EMS Department is a half-time administrative position. The proposal is to keep that position at half-time for FY 2022 and add a full-time position of grant writer/training coordinator. Mrs. Durrer asked if the half-time position could do all three duties. Mrs. Durrer agreed that the Sheriff needs at least 2 additional deputies and an additional dispatcher for 911. She also agreed with a pay raise for county employees and that RSA has put the County in the position we're in.

Mr. Lamb did not have any comments at this time.

In response to comments by Mr. Martin, Mr. Taylor said the Engineer position will definitely be needed as the County moves forward with the water impoundment project. The grant writer position will bring in many times more than their cost. Adding additional duties to the position will effectively "hobble" efforts. Coordinating training activities can be planned over time.

Mr. Martin asked how much is in the budget for IT support now. Ms. Morris said \$31,332 is currently noted in the budget book. Mr. Martin agreed with comments about providing 2 deputies for the Sheriff's Department; thinks we will need an Engineer; agreed with pay increase for county employees; a Medic for EMS Department; additional position for Social Services; and additional hours for Victim Witness. He thought everyone had agreed with the grant writer position at one

time. Mr. Martin said the County has been damaged by decisions made by RSA leadership. We are all paying the price for it right now and this is the reality we're facing.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue the budget work session to Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Board members also agreed to meet again on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. if necessary.

There was discussion about having Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Durrer actually attend the meeting in the County Meeting Room. Ms. Kemp was concerned about having three Board members in the same building for a meeting. Mrs. Durrer and Mr. Bowman both said they could receive emailed documents and did not feel it necessary to come to the office building.

RE: BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Bowman said the School Board met on February 24th and has another meeting on March 10th. The Planning Commission will meet on March 17.

Mr. Herring said the TJPDC met last Thursday and heard presentations on the Ride Share Work Program, the Rural Transportation Work Program, and the Route 29 North Corridor Study. Greene's portion of the Ride Share Program is being covered by a reduction in staff hours. Ms. Christine Jacobs has been appointed as Interim Director of TJPDC. The EMS Board will meet next Tuesday.

Mr. Martin will attend the next RSA Board meeting a week from Thursday.

RE: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Mr. Taylor did not have any additional report.

RE: OTHER ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

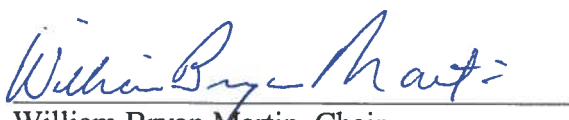
Mrs. Durrer asked about the Fire Study. Mr. Taylor said he spoke with Mr. Jones today regarding some outstanding items.

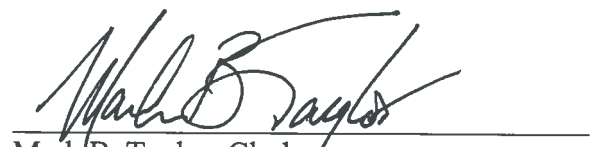
RE: ADJOURN

Upon motion by Dale Herring, second by Davis Lamb and unanimous roll call vote, the Board Meeting was adjourned. The budget work session was continued to Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. and to Monday, March 15, 2021 if necessary.

Recorded vote:	Bill Martin	-	Yes
	Marie Durrer	-	Yes
	Steve Bowman	-	Yes
	Dale Herring	-	Yes
	Davis Lamb	-	Yes

Motion carried.


William Bryan Martin, Chair
Greene County Board of Supervisors


Mark B. Taylor, Clerk
Greene County Board of Supervisors