Mathews County Board of Supervisors

Special Called Budget Public Input Meeting
Historic Courthouse
17 Court Street, Mathews, VA 23109

Chairman Hudgins called this Special Meeting to Solicit Input on the FY23 Budget, as follows:

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ingram called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board of Supervisors Members Present:	Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair Melissa Mason, Supervisor Dave Jones, Supervisor Mike Walls, Supervisor
Board of Supervisors Members Absent:	Paul Hudgins, Chairman
Staff Present:	Mr. David Schlosser, Interim County Administrator Mrs. Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk Mrs. Judi Green, Deputy Clerk/Office manager

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: On Motion of Dave Jones, seconded by Melissa Mason, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0-0 as follows: Melissa Mason, Jackie Ingram, Dave Jones, Mike Walls - aye; None - nay; to approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye
Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair - Aye
Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye
David Jones, Supervisor - Aye
Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye

5. REMARKS BY INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. Revised FY23 Budget Adoption Schedule

Interim Administrator Schlosser stated that this meeting is starting the budgetary process involving outside agencies and departments, noting that this is a complicated process. He thanked the Administration staff for their assistance. Mr. Schlosser stated that staff has gathered information from entities requesting funding, is starting to crunch numbers, and taking a deeper review of past practices. He stated that he is working with the Commissioner of the Revenue, Les Hall, to get his revenue projections and noted that once we are a little further along in the process, staff will take a deeper dive and start providing recommendations to the Board. Referring to the revised Budget Adoption Schedule, he stated that a meeting would take place with the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Nancy Welch, School Board Chair Linda Gerhold-Hodges and Chairman Hudgins to discuss the School Division request. He noted that this is a large chunk of the budget requires a separate dive than other requests. Mr. Schlosser stated that on March 8th the draft budget would be released with an ad sent to the Gazette Journal to fulfill the required notification of the public hearing scheduled for March 28th, and that there would be two work sessions, on April 4th and April 11th, with the Board. He further stated that the goal is to adopt a strong budget on April 26th.

Mr. Schlosser stated that this evening is scheduled to solicit comment from various agencies and departments in support of their request for inclusion in the FY23 Budget. He noted a time limit of 5 minutes per agency, and further noted that most information has already been collected, but that this would be an opportunity to address the Board. He asked the speakers to be concise because all the information gathered is critical.

6. AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS *(Time limit of 5 minutes per agency)*

Mr. Schlosser asked speakers to speak clearly into the microphone and to introduce themselves. The following people spoke in support of their FY23 Budget request:

Mr. Les Hall, Commissioner of the Revenue, stated that salary changes over the past year and inflation as reasons for his additional request. He noted that vehicles are 37.3% higher in value for used autos and trucks and that this will impact all citizens. Mr. Hall stated that he has been Commissioner for 10 years and that the Tax Relief for the elderly has remained the same. He stated that the income threshold is $35,000 and only covers $1,000 in real estate tax. He stated that the real estate tax could probably remain where it is, but he would recommend the income threshold be increased to $45,000.

Mr. Ricky Wiatt, representing Mathews Little League, reminded the Board of an old agreement to partner in lighting costs and asked that the Board continue their support of level funding. He stated that participation had increased. Supervisor Jones questioned enrollment numbers pre-covid. Mr. Wiatt stated that travel ball is their biggest competition but noted that over 80 children participated in t-ball this past year.

Ms. Shannon Kennedy, President of Rappahannock Community College, thanked the Board for Mr. Mike Beavers. Mr. Beavers stated that Rappahannock Community College is the best bargain the Board pays for every year. Ms.Kennedy stated that they are requesting $7270, or level funding. She noted that this is the third consecutive year requesting level funding and thanked the Board for their support. She further noted upcoming capital projects that will require local funding. Mr. Beavers stated the need for a CDL instructor.

Mrs. Wendy Stewart, Treasurer, requested a new employee due to COVID. She stated that she met with Supervisor Jones this week and that her door is always open if anyone else wanted to meet. With the exception of additional staff and adjustments in a few line items, she stated that her budget is similar to last year. Supervisor Jones asked if the addition of a kiosk could help offset the need for additional staff. Mrs. Stewart stated that it could and offered that the new position be considered part time or seasonal.

Mrs. Angie Ingram, Clerk of Circuit Court, stated that she is responsible for two budgets, Circuit Court and Clerk of Circuit Court. She stated that she requested an additional $220 this year, $20 for the landbook and $200 for postage.

Mr. Tom Bowen, Commonwealth Attorney, stated that he requested a $250 increase for computer software. He noted that the State pays 91% of his salary, 73% of his office administrator salary, and that the Victim Witness Coordinator is 100 percent grant funded. Mr. Bowen stated that his part time position is funded by the County.

Sheriff Barrick spoke in support of his budget request and the E911 budget request. Sheriff Barrick requested an increase $1250. Referring to the E911 budget, Sheriff Barrick stated that there is a significant increase directly related to his request for two additional dispatcher positions. He stated that his office is at a point now where there are many nights where he only has one dispatcher on duty and that his office cannot continue to function with only one dispatcher. He noted that the industry standard is that two dispatchers are on each shift. He cited long term illnesses, retirements, and additional mandated regulations as the reason for his request. Sheriff Barrick stated that he used figures based on the Compensation Plan to calculate salary and benefits. He stated that he used the high end of the Grade but that cost may be less depending on the qualifications of the people hired. Sheriff Barrick addressed vehicles being transferred from his budget to the CIP and noted that vehicles are the cost of doing business and should not be considered CIP.

Supervisor Jones stated that the Planning Commission is looking at that funding in the CIP to make sure that it goes into the budget on an annual basis. He stated that he did not agree with vehicles being in the CIP either and asked Sheriff Barrick if he would be agreeable to the Board moving forward with this in the CIP as long as he is getting what he needs. Sheriff Barrick stated that he does not care about the funding mechanism as long as he is able to purchase vehicles when he has a need. He noted that he did purchase two vehicles through the CARES funding. He also stressed the importance of providing a proper office for his staff, noting the long hours spent in the vehicles. Supervisor Walls questioned how Sheriff Barrick goes about deciding when to replace his vehicles. Sheriff Barrick stated that there is no one mechanism for replacing vehicles. That all depends on the age, wear and mileage.

Mr. Buzz Lambert of the YMCA provided background information on the programs offered at the YMCA and how those programs came to be. He noted a request for ARP funding for replacement of the HVAC system at the Boys and Girls Club. Supervisor Jones questioned the age of the HVAC system at the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Lambert stated that the building was erected in 2003 and the original system had never been replaced.

Mrs. Carla Faulkner, Voter Registrar, stated that her request is for level funding. Mr. Jeff Bohn, Electoral Board Secretary, stated that the Electoral Boards request is reduced by $5,000 this year. He noted that he does not anticipate additional unfunded mandates from the state, but that the June primary is an unknown at the moment along with the redistricting. Supervisor Walls thanked them both and stated his support for that office and the work they do.

Mr. Kenny Garret, representing the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department, provided background on how they arrived at the decision to purchase new trucks. He noted that he had a meeting with the Planning Commission as well to discuss the department's $100,000 increased ask. Supervisor Jones asked if the $100,000 increase was directly related to the replacement of the fire trucks. Mr. Garret confirmed it was. Mr. Garret also noted the need to replace Station 1, then Station 5. Supervisor Jones stated that if the additional request is for replacement of fire trucks, this request would be moved to the CIP because this request would be funded through the Meals Tax fund.

Mrs. Kim Browning-Logan, Deputy Animal Control Officer, requested an increase of $3,200 for a software program and two iPads that would streamline the work of the Officers and make their interactions with citizens more seamless.

Mr. Brandon Rivenbark of Three Rivers Health District stated that the request is an increase of $9,000 due to the implementation of the JLARC study of the cooperative agreement between states and localities which included an increase of 7.631% over 3 years, noting that the current year's increase was 2.54% which totaled $157,708.

Ms. Arlene Armentour of the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic, provided background on services her agency provides to Mathews County residents. She stated her budget request was for level funding. Supervisor Walls commented that in reviewing her request, it appears the $8,000 in funding is money well spent.

Mrs. Linda Gerhold-Hodges, Executive Director of the Community Services Board, recognized the Mathews County citizen representative, Mrs. Edith Turner. She provided an in-depth report on services her agency offers, noting difficulties in attracting qualified applicants for vacant positions which led to the discontinuance of outpatient services for about 90 days. She noted that several employees are from Mathews and highlighted that those salaries are money spent locally.

Mr. Mike Freeman of Versability Resources, provided background on his agency's services. He noted difficulties with the onset of COVID and stated that his agency continued to provide services regardless. He noted that his agency serves six Mathews County residents at a cost of about $15,000 per person.

Mr. Tinsley Goade, Representing Bay Aging and Transit, requested level funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program and Aging services. He noted that more than 3,000 citizens have been served in Mathews. He stated that Mathews County Public Schools prepare the meals for the Meals on Wheels program. He stated that the Bay Transit request equals an increase of 3% due to struggling with ridership over the last two years. He stated that ridership is starting to pick back up, but noted increases in fuel, staffing issues, and paying overtime as continued challenges. Mr. Goade reported on the new Freedom Program which provides rides outside of the service area. Mr. Goade stated that the agency waived the local contribution in 2021 because of CARES funding. He recognized Mrs. Linda Smyth as the Mathews citizen representative.

Mrs. Bette Dillehay, Library Director, provided background on services provided by the Library. She requested an increase of $55,000 for additional staffing. She also stated the importance of recognizing staff for their accomplishments.

Ms. Pam Doss and Ms. Lisa White of the Bay School stated that the school was established in 1997, and has been in its current location since 2001. She noted that state funding decreased 40%, operating expenses have doubled. Ms. Doss requested an increase in funding of $10,000 and stated that if the Board could not fund the entire increase, that they consider a smaller increase.

Ms. Emily Allen, Executive Director of the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center (MCVIC), requested level funding. She stated that County support has been vital. She stated that in addition to the local contribution, MCVIC also receives pass-through funding for litter clean up. Ms. Allen stated that she has built their marketing budget and expanded it 150 percent using grants. She requested inclusion in the CIP to help with a project to restore the foundation of Sibley's General Store. She stated that she hoped the Board would consider funding the project if it is recommended by the Planning Commission, noting that she has secured an anonymous donor who will match the funding. Ms. Allen provided information about a strategic plan for tourism in Mathews.

Mrs. Judy Rowe, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Board, stated that her Board is scheduled to expire in 2025. She stated that it was created in June 2019. Mrs. Rowe stated that the Board's work was accomplished with the help of over 32 stakeholders. She thanked County staff for their assistance as well. Mrs. Rowe stated that her budget request is to maintain existing services. She reported on the Mifi project handled by the Library, noting that the services will run out in June. She requested funding to continue that service for another 12 months, and to continue service at the smart poles for another 12 months. Mrs. Rowe noted that as broadband services come online, these existing services will be repurposed. She noted that to date, the County has not provided any funding, although the Board has committed to matching the two VATI grants. Supervisor Walls thanked Mrs. Rowe and the Advisory Board.

Ms. Jackie Davis of the Workforce Development Board, stated that her services are mandated under the Federal Workforce Program. She provided background on the types of services her agency provides. Her request for funding is a new request in FY23. She requested the Board consider appointing a local representative to her Board.

A. Presentations Attached

7. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT *(One opportunity of 3 minutes per speaker)*

Mr. Sonny Fauver of Bavon, addressed some of the requests and asked that the Board consider lowering the personal property tax rate due to the economic increases in values as stated by Mr. Les Hall, and he requested that the Board consider an overall budget reduction of 5 percent. Supervisor Walls stated that he thanked the Board three years ago for not raising taxes. Supervisor Jones stated that the County is in desperate need of a procurement person and that he hoped that with that position, it would go a long way to reduce taxes.

8. REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no remarks by Supervisors.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On Motion of Melissa Mason, seconded by Dave Jones, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0-0 as follows: Melissa Mason, Jackie Ingram, Dave Jones, Mike Walls - aye; None - nay; to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote:
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye
Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye
David Jones, Supervisor - Aye
Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye

Paul Hudgins, Chairman

Mathews County Board of Supervisors

David Schlosser, Interim County Administrator

Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk