

At a budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, February 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room/Emergency Operations Center of the Pulaski County Information Technology Offices located in the Maple Shade Plaza, 89 Commerce Street, S.W., in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Andy McCready, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Joseph Guthrie, Ranny O'Dell and Dean Pratt.

Present from county staff were Peter Huber, County Administrator; Karen Thompson, Assistant County Administrator for Management Services; Diane Newby, Finance Director; Josh Tolbert, Emergency Management Coordinator; Tammy Safewright, Human Resources Specialist; Brad Vaught, Staff Accountant and Ashley Edmonds, Clerk to the Board.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. McCready called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and County staff.

2. Overall Budget Picture

A. Health Insurance Renewal

Mrs. Safewright reviewed the proposed health and dental insurance rates as well as the renewal report prepared by Wells Fargo. Mrs. Safewright explained there was a .7 increase in the health insurance premiums and .6 decrease in dental premiums this year with a total medical increase of approximately \$53,000. Additionally, Wells Fargo proposed holding premiums steady, with no increase. Mr. McCready asked if employees were made to pay into the dental plan last year and Mrs. Safewright explained it was an 80/20 split with the employee paying 20%. Mr. McCready asked if there was discussion last year regarding continuing to bring the employer's portion down further and the questions was asked about the number of employees participating in the dental plan and Mrs. Newby responded with 128 employees. Mrs. Newby stated less than \$20,000 was saved in the general fund by having the employees pick up the 20%. Mr. Guthrie remarked that he did not want for the employees to bring home less money by paying more into benefits and asked Mrs. Safewright for her recommendation. Mrs. Safewright recommended not passing an increase onto the employees and holding the amounts paid by employees level. Mr. McCready advised the Board would need to wait until the General Assembly finished its work on its budget regarding pay raises for teachers and state employees before a decision could be reached, as a local match is involved. The Board asked for the cost to the County for funding the entire increase in health insurance costs. Mrs. Safewright expressed the importance of setting rates prior to open enrollment set for April 2016. Mrs. Safewright also discussed with the Board problems encountered with the County's current HSA Administrator and the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to be sent out.

3. Action Items

A. Hiwassee Fire Truck

Mr. Huber and Mr. Tolbert relayed the request of the Hiwassee Fire Department to use funds from the sale of a brush truck purchased by the Department to buy turnout gear for its ill equipped members. The truck is titled to and insured by the County. The County is replacing this brush truck with a new vehicle. The Board asked for the skid unit placed on the brush truck remains in the ownership of the County and the sale of other department owned equipment to be applied toward cost overruns for replacement vehicles purchased by the County.

On a motion of Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, the Board approved the sale of the truck with authorization of the County Administrator to sign over the title and for the Hiwassee Fire Department to use of the proceeds to purchase turnout gear with the skid unit to remain in the ownership of the County and the sale of other department owned equipment to be applied toward cost overruns for replacement vehicles purchased by the County.

Voting yes: Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Pratt, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Bopp.

Voting no: None.

The Board also asked Mr. Huber and Mr. Tolbert to notify the fire department of the County's desire to put in a sealed bid and if the County were to secure the truck it would remain in the County's property with the County providing the funds for the turnout gear.

4. Items of Consent

A. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2016, Regular Board Meeting

On a motion of Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the January 25, 2016, regular Board meeting as presented.

Voting Yes: Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Pratt, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Bopp.

Voting No: None.

5. Governor's Statement on Biennial Budget Proposals

A. Governor's Statement on Biennial Budget Proposals

The Board members were provided and received copies of Governor McAuliffe's statement on biennial budget proposals via the February 29, 2016, Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session agenda in BoardDocs.

5. Overall Budget Picture

B. Revenue from the Use of Money and Property

The Board reviewed the per capita comparison of revenue from the use of money and property.

C. Regional Comparison of Per Capita Expenditures / Regional Jail

The Board reviewed the a table providing a per capita comparison of Pulaski County expenditures compared with similar and adjacent localities, a statewide comparison charts regarding general categories and charts of regional jail use by the County and other member jurisdictions. Mr. Huber provided an overview and members of the Board expressed concern of Health and Welfare costs and Mr. McCready described the impact on localities when the State leaves its prisoners in the regional jail.

D. Overall Budget Revenues and Expenditures

Mrs. Newby and Mr. Huber reviewed the budget revenues and expenditures with the Board. Mr. McCready provided an update regarding the County Garage agreement and Joint Services Board meeting. There will be an adjustment in County garage cost to show a three-cent per gallon surcharge and \$55/\$65 charge for mechanics' labor. Mr. McCready asked about mounting network costs and asked for Tim Barnes to review options to reducing costs. Mr. McCready also asked for administrative staff to review the time spent on PSA services and ask the PSA to contribute more funds for administrative costs. Mr. Huber will ask staff to review time spent on PSA duties. The Board also requested draft capital needs from the School Board and ADM numbers from school staff.

6. Other Matters

Mr. McCready read a letter of appreciation from the Library System of Trustees thanking the Board for regarding the safety of County employees and citizens by closing County Offices due to inclement weather events in January and February 15, 2016. Mr. McCready also advised the Board of a recent conversation he had with the Chairman of the Board in Appomattox County, extending the County's services due to recent weather events and plans to contact Sussex County.

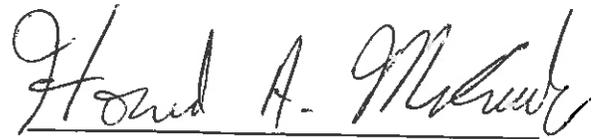
On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. O'Dell and carried, the Board adjourned its budget work session. The next meeting of the Board is to be held on Monday, March 7, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with said meeting to be held in the IT Training Room located at 89 Commerce Street, SW in the Town of Pulaski. The Joint Services Oversight Board will meet on Monday, March 14, 2016, at 5 p.m. at the IT Training Room. A meeting of the Joint Boards will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 6p.m. at the IT Training Center. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, March 28, 2016, beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., with said meeting to be held at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, Board Room, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Voting yes: Mr. Guthrie, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. McCreedy, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: None


Peter Huber, County Administrator


Howard A. McCreedy, Chairman

