



WORK SESSION AGENDA
BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BEDFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MARCH 19, 2018

5:00 P.M. WORK SESSION

- a. Budget discussion regarding the General Fund, Operating, Vehicle Replacement Fund, and Capital Improvement Plan budgets
 - *Staff Presentation by Deputy County Administrator Reid Wodicka, Fiscal Management Director Susan Crawford, and Assistant Fiscal Management Director Sherrie Goodwin*

Board of Supervisors: Bill Thomasson, Chairman, District 1; Tommy Scott, Vice-Chairman, District 5; Edgar Tuck, District 2; Charla Bansley, District 3; John Sharp, District 4; Andy Dooley, District 6; and Kevin Willis, District 7

County Staff: County Administrator Carl Boggess, Assistant County Administrator Reid Wodicka, County Attorney Patrick Skelley, Human Resources Director Dawn Fields, GIS Manager Carl Levandoski, Public Works Director Sheldon Cash, Fiscal Management Director Susan Crawford, Assistant Fiscal Management Director Sherri Goodwin, and Executive Assistant Brigitte Luckett

Chairman Thomasson called the work session to order, and then turned the meeting over to Deputy County Administrator Reid Wodicka.

Dr. Wodicka noted the items that would be discussed in this meeting, and began his presentation with a review of the projected revenues; throughout his presentation, he took clarifying questions from the Board. He stated that staff is anticipating relatively flat funding for most items, but there are a few projects that we also need to accomplish. Staff is recommending maintaining the tax rate at the current level, with anticipated revenues totaling \$101.8 million. Dr. Wodicka clarified that \$2.1 million of this is an anticipated increase over fiscal year 2018, with only \$600,000 of this amount being discretionary

revenue. He noted the areas where staff is anticipating small revenue increases such as the real estate tax, personal property tax, and public assistance from the State, etc. (the full breakdown and other documentation related to this presentation are on file for public review in the County Administration office).

Dr. Wodicka stated that two areas of concern are the recordation taxes and the building permits, which have a projected reduction for next year. It is not yet certain if this will be a long-term trend, or just where we are in the cycle for this year based on current information. Dr. Wodicka concluded this portion of his presentation with a breakdown of the General Fund revenue

The presentation then moved into expenditures, beginning with innovative initiatives through pilot program projects such as school-based foster care and School-Within-A-School Public Day program. Additionally, staff has been working through Emergency Management Services to provide services to adults in the County that currently utilize EMS/911 inappropriately. Dr. Wodicka stated that an experimental project has been created to address these individuals' true needs, and works to get them to the services and resources they require to resolve their problems.

Dr. Wodicka addressed personnel costs adjustment, noting that staff is not recommending a pay increase for employees, but they are recommending that the health insurance increase be shared with the employees. Due to several Supervisors voicing their support for the County absorbing the health insurance increase instead of splitting that cost with employees (as no raises being budgeted), Dr. Wodicka said he would have the figures for that cost available for the Board's review at the next budget work session. He described each of the five new positions proposed in the budget draft: one for Tourism, one school-based Foster Care Prevention Worker, one Adult Protective Services/EMS System Worker, two EMS positions, and a part-time Special Operations Command Chief for a total estimated cost of \$236,000. Supervisor Dooley commented that, with regard to the Tourism position, the County could benefit from more sports marketing.

Dr. Wodicka then moved on to a review of the School Division's budget, which included \$1.6 million in requests over last year's budget. He said that while the County cannot afford to fulfill all of the School's requests, County staff is recommending funding their budget at \$24,664 over last year for a total of \$35,649,174 (which reflects the \$450,000 previously used for the Middle School that has now been reallocated to the CIP). The most important incentives addressed included pay for substitute teachers, teacher staffing levels, and employee compensation. There followed a brief discussion between Dr. Wodicka, School Superintendent Doug Schuch, School Chief Financial Officer Randy Hagler, and members of the Board.

Dr. Wodicka stated that while we have received a number of requests from external agencies for increased funding, staff is recommending these all be level funded. Out of all the new requests received for funding (which have been distributed to the Board for consideration), staff is only recommending

approval of the request from Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest for \$25,000 due to the lack of park area in Forest. He noted that staff will need guidance from the Board on this issue before finalizing the budget.

For vehicle replacements, staff recommends using \$200,000 from the Vehicle Replacement Fund Balance, plus \$497,760 from the General Fund. This would cover 12 new deputy patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's office, two sedans and one compact SUV for Social Services, one one-ton dump truck for Solid Waste, and one vehicle for Economic Development. Dr. Wodicka noted that if these vehicles are funded, there will be nothing left in the Vehicle Replacement Fund; this means either fewer vehicles will be replaced next year, or a larger transfer from the General Fund will be required next year to meet vehicle requests. A discussion followed between Dr. Wodicka, Public Works Director Sheldon Cash, and the Board regarding more accurate tracking of vehicles, especially patrol vehicles, to better judge when vehicles need to be replaced. The Board requested a detailed report showing when vehicles are replaced and what happens with the vehicles - whether they are sold, utilized by other departments, etc.

Dr. Wodicka then listed the changes that have been made to the CIP since it was last discussed in February. He stated that the E-911 Center furniture and the A&E for New London Park have been removed, but several information technology-related items were added based on needs identified by the new IT Director. Among these identified needs was another redesign of the County website. Dr. Wodicka stated that the vendor who was chosen for the redesign of the County website a few years ago has not worked out, the plan in general was not well executed, and we have many issues with the site. It is time to scrap the current site and start over with the right vendor in place to bring this project to fruition; Mr. Boggess commented that those responsible for these issues are no longer with the County.

Other changes in the CIP include reduced spending for Fire & Rescue air pack replacements, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Rescue/Ladder replacement, and a changed scope in New London from site grading to the development of a shell building. These changes should result in spending approximately \$80,000 less than previously anticipated.

Dr. Wodicka concluded his presentation by noting the line item changes he had already distributed to the Board, and asked that the Supervisors contact him prior to Monday so that at the next meeting he could provide them with answers to any questions they may have. Dr. Wodicka, Mr. Boggess, Dr. Schuch, Mr. Hagler, and Dr. Duis (Chief Operations Officer for the School Division), then took questions from the Board clarifying various aspects of the presentation.

The Board asked that Megan Lucas from the Lynchburg Regional Alliance address the Board at the next meeting regarding the benefits her agency has provided to Bedford over the past year. The Board gave its consensus to advertise the tax rates with no increase.

Supervisor Dooley requested an amendment to the Board's bylaws at the next meeting that will enable Supervisors to call in to Board meetings when they cannot attend in person. Attorney Skelley said he would have the documentation ready at the next meeting.

There being no further discussion, the work session ended at 6:40 pm.