

Virginia: At a Special meeting of the Essex County Board of Supervisors: Outside Agencies Budget Requests held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Meeting Room, 109 S. Cross St., Tappahannock, Virginia:

Board of Supervisors Present: Robert Akers, Jr., Chairman  
Ronnie G. Gill, Vice Chairman  
John C. Magruder, Supervisor  
Edwin E. Smith, Jr., Supervisor  
Sidney N. Johnson, Supervisor

County Administration Present: Michael Lombardo, County Administrator  
April Rounds, Assistant County Administrator, Deputy Clerk

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Akers called the Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors Budget Session of March 2, 2022 to order.

### **ROLL CALL**

The Deputy Clerk called out the roll for the Board of Supervisors; a quorum was met.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS**

Chairman Akers stated that he will call out each of the Outside Agencies to present their budget request to the Board of Supervisors and will entertain questions posed by members of the Board.

#### **Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission/Merrimac Center**

No representative and no questions.

#### **Office on Youth**

Requesting level funding for the upcoming budget year.

#### **Tappahannock-Essex Volunteer Fire Department**

Joey Reinhardt, President, is requesting level funding. He reported that fuel costs are the wild card. ATL money represents 1% homeowners pay for homeowners insurance and is disbursed by the State to the fire departments annually. The department has a new fire truck on order which was paid for by a \$299,000 grant with the rest being financed over time. Delivery for the truck is expected in April 2023.

#### **Peninsula EMS Council, Inc.**

No representative and no questions.

#### **Virginia Department of Forestry**

No representative and no questions.

#### **Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center**

Requesting level funding for the upcoming budget year per Chairman Akers.

#### Middle Peninsula Local Probation and Pretrial Services

No representative. Supervisor Smith asked why the Essex County percentage is higher than other localities.

#### Three Rivers Health District/Essex County Health Department

Brenden Rivenbark, Chief Operating Officer, requested level funding except for mandated salary increases for staff. Chairman Akers requested a five year revenue average of fees set by the State.

#### Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Services Board

Linda Hodges, Executive Director, requested a 5% increase as the State requires a 10% match. She reported that employees from Essex County cost the Board \$1.9 million. The staff total is 425 of which 150 are part time employees. Supervisor Magruder stated that he is glad that Community Services is headquartered in Essex County, however, it is pulling Essex County Law Enforcement away to serve patients from other locales. He said that Sheriff Holmes indicated other local law enforcement is not staying with the patients. He asked Ms. Hodges if the County can keep track of the officers' time and use it as a donation in kind. Chairman Akers asked how the budget was derived and Ms. Hodges answered that it is divided equally per capita. He asked Ms. Hodges to bring up the matter of Law Enforcement time before the Community Services Board. Vice Chairman Gill asked to see the calculations the Community Services Board uses to determine cost.

#### Bay Aging

Tinsley Goad, Chief Financial Officer, requested level funding to obtain the 10% match required by localities. He stated that Bay Aging served 2,000 citizens last year. Ken Pollock, Bay Transit Director, reported that ridership has increased even though capacity had to be socially distanced due to the COVID pandemic. He stated that 18,375 rides had been furnished in FY21 and river ride has increased 30%. They also provided 202 rides to Richmond during the same period. The Transit will be reinstating fares beginning April 1, 2022. Bay Transit is requesting a 3% budget increase. The fares will bring in \$140,000 in revenue from all 12 counties. CARES money covered the revenue loss for the COVID years. The local match represents 35% of the total cost. The State matches 15% and the Federal government 50%.

#### Rappahannock Community College

No representative and no questions.

#### Essex Youth Football Association

Mr. Brown, President, asked for an increase of \$5,000 to help cover the cost of 100 helmets \$13,500, 100 uniforms \$7,200, and referees \$4,800. The registration for participants is \$80. Whatever shortfalls occur are made up by fundraisers and donations.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Essex Little League

Vice Chairman Gill requested level funding and the fireworks will be held in Essex this year.

#### Essex County Little League, Inc.

Michael Clark, Vice President, requested an increase of \$10,400. The registration fee is \$75 per child. A golf tournament has been scheduled to help raise funds. Chairman Akers cautioned against capital improvements on land one does not own. Mr. Clark indicated he is trying to obtain a long term lease on the land. Vice Chairman Gill noted that the ball field property is the only access to public roadways that the owner has. Chairman Akers remarked that the County owns 700 acres in the Poor House tract. Mr. Clark stated that Essex County is the only county that doesn't have lights at its ballfields.

#### Essex County Museum & Historical Society

Meg Hodges, Executive Director, requested an increase of \$8500 to the budget mainly due to the construction of the courtyard. She is asking the Town of Tappahannock for more money too. Supervisor Magruder stated that the County already paid for a HVAC system a few years ago. Ms. Hodges will look into that. He also pointed out that the County pays more than the Town, but the Town gets more of the benefit. Supervisor Gill asked Ms. Hodges how much the County and Town paid last year. Her reply was \$23,000 from the County and \$7,500 from the Town.

#### Tappahannock Main Street

Beth Sharpe, Executive Director, is requesting an increase of \$9,750 to the budget for a part time clerical worker. She is in the middle of administering four grants and needs to devote her time to those as well as other important matters. She will be asking the Town of Tappahannock for an additional \$5,000 to assist in paying for the clerical worker. She will be asking the Rotary Club for money also. Ms. Sharpe reported that TMS was profitable last year with the Farmers' Market being the largest sustaining revenue source.

#### Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

No representative and no questions.

#### Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District

No representative and no questions.

#### Legal Aid Works

Ann Klockner, Executive Director, is requesting level funding. She stated that Legal Aid Works provides legal representation in civil legal matters. Eligibility for services is determined by income. 1,191 citizens in Essex County are eligible for services. They helped 86 Essex County citizens last year. The location on Prince Street will be opening for walk-ins soon.

#### Ledwith-Lewis Free Clinic

No representative. Is requesting level funding.

#### Healthy Harvest Food Bank

No representative. Vice Chairman Gill stated that they have asked for a significant increase over the budgeted amount. He asked if other Counties are getting increased and how much. The County Administrator will research the matter for the Board.

#### The Haven

No representative and no questions.

Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board, Inc.

Jackie Davis, Executive Director, stated that the Bay Consortium Workforce is one of 14 Workforce Boards in the State. It oversees 16 jurisdictions. They have just opened a center in Warsaw, however, they are servicing more Essex County residents than Richmond County. They do offer on the job training.

The DAW Theater Foundation

Dana Bartholomew, President, asked for additional funds plus \$10,000 for façade improvements. The Foundation is asking for an abatement on their County real estate taxes. They haven't asked the Town of Tappahannock for an abatement yet. Chairman Akers said he is not in favor of tax abatements as they can set precedents. Supervisor Magruder asked if the Historical Society can help financially. Ms. Bartholomew answered that she did not know of any more grants, however, the feasibility study may flush out additional grants. Supervisor Smith asked if the seats were still intact. Ms. Bartholomew answered that the facility repairing the seats burned down as did the seats.

Essex-Tappahannock Youth Association

No representative and no questions.

Rappahannock River Basin Commission

No representative and no questions.

Rappahannock Recreation Association

Angela Jett, President, requested \$10,000 to repair the old St. Margaret's tennis courts and the pool. Chairman Akers asked her if she knew that the school is planning to build their own tennis courts. He asked her to send the repair quotes to the County Administrator. Supervisor Magruder stated that the schools have \$5 million in ESRA funds that can be used for recreation and suggested that it would be better for Ms. Jett to talk to the School Board with regard to the tennis court and pool repairs as the schools utilize the pool as well.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Akers indicated that the Board will take a closer look at revenues during their Work Session next Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Chairman Akers closed the Work Session of March 2, 2022.

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Chairman

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Clerk of the Board