

Minutes
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2020

Members Present: Morgan Phenix, Chairman At-Large
D. Keith Guzy, Jr., District 1
Allen Louderback, District 2
Jeff Vaughan, District 5

Absent: Mark Stroupe, District 3
Larry Foltz, District 4

Staff Present: Amity Moler, County Administrator
Regina Miller, Assistant County Administrator
Nathan Miller, County Attorney
Janeena Zalipski, Office Aide

Call to Order:

Chairman Morgan Phenix called to order the regular meeting of the Page County Board of Supervisors on February 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Page County Government Center, 103 South Court Street, Luray. The Call to Order was followed by the Invocation given by Kenneth Boyd followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion: Supervisor Vaughan moved to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Guzy seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Aye: Phenix, Guzy, Louderback, Vaughan. Nay: None. Absent: Stroupe, Foltz.

Public Hearings:

Budget Amendment:

Chairman Phenix opened the Public Hearing on the Budget Amendment at 7:02 p.m. Dennis Click, Director of Finance, read the amendment as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BUDGET AMENDMENT
PAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On February 18th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., the Page County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing at the Page County Administration Building, 103 South Court St., Luray, VA, 22835, for the purpose of considering an amendment to the fiscal year 2020 budget. The aggregate amount of the amendments exceeds one percent of the fiscal

year 2020 budget and the public hearing is required by Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia.

REVENUE:	Local Funds	\$ 733,086
	State Funds	297,567
	Federal Funds	378,443
EXPENDITURE:	Page County Sheriff's Department	391,914
	Page County Commonwealth Attorney	3,000
	Page County Clerk of Court	16,438
	Page County Capital Improvement Projects	646,826
	Page County Public School	289,009
	Page County Animal Shelter	10,909
	Page County EMS	50,000
	Page County General Properties	1,000

There were no public comments during the hearing. Chairman Phenix closed the hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Budget Changes:

Dennis Click, Director of Finance, reviewed the budget changes and said the Page County Sheriff's Department requested appropriation of state revenues in the amount of \$13,358.08; Page County Emergency Medical Services requested appropriation of local revenues in the amount of \$50,000; Page County Public Schools requested appropriation of local donations in the amount of \$5,000 and federal revenues in the amount of \$178,443; and, Page County Capital Improvement Fund requested appropriation of state funds in the amount of \$210,000 and local funding in the amount of \$300,000. He recommended approval of the appropriations totaling \$756,801.08.

The Page County Sheriff's Department requested \$13,558.08 in-state revenues related to Compensation Board salary changes and guard duty reimbursements. The Page County Emergency Medical Services requested appropriation of \$50,000 in funding related to revenue recovery, to be used for salary changes related to EMS personnel. The Page County Public Schools requested appropriation of local donations in the amount of \$5,000, which will go towards Tech Center activities, and \$178,443 in federal revenues related to the 21st Century Learning Grant (\$143,043) and a school improvement grant (\$35,400). The Page County Capital Improvement fund requested appropriation of state funds in the amount of \$210,000, to be used towards Next Generation 911 deployment, and \$300,000 in local funding for the recently approved Courthouse Renovation project.

Supplemental Appropriations Requests:

Department	Description	Revenue Source	Expenditure	Total
Sheriff	Comp Board Position Increase	Comp Board Revenues 101-000-323.02-01	Departmental Salaries 101-3121-431.11-03	\$3,962.00

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Sheriff	Comp Board Position Increase	Comp Board Revenues 101-000-323.02-01	Departmental Salaries 101-3310-433.11-03	\$4,145.00
Sheriff	Comp Board Position Increase	Comp Board Revenues 101-000-323.02-01	Departmental Salaries 101-3310-433.11-03	\$3,000.00
Sheriff	Comp Board – Guard Duty	Comp Board – Guard Duty	Overtime	\$2,251.08
EMS	Salary Changes	Ambulance Billing 101-0000-316.04-02	EMS Salaries 101-3240-431.11-03	\$50,000.00
PCPS	21 st CCLC Grant	21 st Century Grant 501-0000-333.02-80	Purchased Services 501-6101-511.30-38	\$143,043.00
PCPS	Anderson Foundation Grant	Donations 501-0000-318.99-30	Purchased Services 501-6101-511.30-38	\$5,000.00
PCPS	School Improvement Grant	Other Federal Funds 501-0000-333.02-90	Purchased Services 501-6101-511.30-38	\$35,400.00
Capital Projects	NG911	NG911 Reimbursable Revenues 301-0000-XXX.XX-XX	NG911 Deployment 301-XXXX-XXX.XX-XX	\$210,000.00
Courthouse Project	Courthouse Renovations	Local Transfer In	Courthouse Renovations	\$300,000.00
Total				\$756,801.08

Motion: Supervisor Vaughan moved to approve the appropriation of carryover, local funding and donations, state funding, and federal funding in the amount of \$756,801.08. Supervisor Louderback seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Aye: Guzy, Louderback, Vaughan, Phenix. Nay: None. Absent: Stroupe, Foltz.

Presentations, Proclamations and Awards:

No Kill Shelter Designation:

Mrs. Moler said that for the second year in a row, Page County Animal Shelter has received the No Kill Shelter Designation for maintaining a euthanasia rate of less than 10% for 2019, with an overall save rate of 94.6%. She introduced the staff, Jami Cooper, Shelby Jewell, Hail Emmons, Courtney Zitek and Danika Wilson. Chairman Phenix presented the staff with a certificate of recognition. Jami Cooper, Shelter Manager, thanked her staff, Page Paws, Cat's Cradle and all the rescue groups they work with. She said it could not have been done without them.

Jail Study:

Sheriff Chad Cabbage introduced Gary F. Cornelius, retired Deputy Sheriff of Fairfax County to explain his findings during his study of the jail.

Mr. Cornelius explained that Captain Williams invited him to look at the Page County Jail to advise them on jail matters. He said his opinions and recommendations are based on his observations over several days in June and July 2019, including conversations with many deputies.

Mr. Cornelius stated that the staff appearance and performance of their duties shows a professional staff. The personnel are constantly “dropping” what they are doing, going to a post or addressing a task that needed done, then picking up where they left off. One veteran deputy described a shift as being in “constant crisis”. When jail staff is tired, mistakes can happen. Nevertheless, as hard-working and short staffed as the jail is, the staff has such a level of professionalism that an audit of standards from the Virginia Department of Corrections showed 100% compliance.

The Page County Jail opened in 1969. The average daily population from January to July 2019 was 72. Many inmates are housed in other jails throughout the Commonwealth. There is one booking deputy per shift. Besides booking in offenders, the booking deputy has several other duties as well such as answering phones, fingerprinting, and drug testing. This is a critical post and if problems are not handled with an adequate number of deputies, there may be serious repercussions, such as inmate and staff injury. He observed that the booking deputy is constantly working, with no “down time”. Additional deputies assigned to booking could help with controlling combative inmates, classification, observation and searches.

A corporal supervises the kitchen as well as assists the jail deputies in operations and in the event of a serious incident, the kitchen is shut down, delaying meals to the inmates.

He stressed that there is a potential for liability. If a special needs inmate engages in self-harm, incurs a medical problem, etc. and it was shown in civil court that he/she was not frequently checked, this could prove very costly to Page County.

He expressed concern with transportation due to the safety factor of both staff and inmates. The standard practice is to have two deputies per transportation run. Short staffing increases the possibility of contraband being picked up or inmates escaping. The deputy is also at risk of serious physical harm.

Regarding medical, there is one full time nurse and four part time nurses on call, which are areas of concern. Deputies are taking vital signs of inmates, and in some cases having to account for the medications, and at times medical supplies, such as needles.

Presently, he said there are two full time deputies assigned to the courts. The concern here is the proximity of the public to the inmates when they are escorted to and from the courts. Families may see offenders entering or leaving the courthouse and an incident may occur and people can slip contraband or aid an inmate in an escape.

In summary, he said the Page County Jail is understaffed, but morale is high. Deputies at all ranks help each other. The inmate jail population is overall well behaved, but they know how understaffed the jail is and will take advantage of it. It is clear, he said, that deputies take pride in their work and are genuinely concerned about the welfare of the

inmates in their custody. Over time, the stress level due to the “constant crisis” of any given workday will take its toll. Additional deputy positions at the squad and booking levels can relieve much of this pressure. To their credit, the deputies are “jacks of all trades”, are cross trained and “jump in” where they are needed. However, the workload inside the jail is always increasing. If short staffing, stress, and crisis management in the daily workload continue, there is a potential for liability. Depending on the incident, this can become quite costly financially. In addition, if more staffing is afforded, this will significantly decrease overtime expenditures. He recommended hiring of additional positions as follows:

- Booking: 2 positions
- Transportation: 2 positions
- Jail nurse: 1 position
- Extra deputies: one per squad 4 positions
- Kitchen supervisors 1 position
- Escort deputy (floater): 2 positions
- Court deputies: 2 positions

Chairman Phenix said he did not understand the meaning of “constant crisis”. He said he has been to the jail and felt it was quiet and calm. Mr. Cornelius defined constant crisis as getting pulled off assigned duties to help in other areas or staff overtime to fill in where needed.

Supervisor Guzy said this is a manpower study; what we need is a jail.

Supervisor Louderback expressed that the taxpayers cannot handle the burden of a new jail. He indicated that some of the sentences for inmates are too harsh while others don't need to be incarcerated.

The Board thanked Mr. Cornelius for his presentation.

Update on the New Lord Fairfax Community College Luray-Page County Center:

Dr. Kim Blosser, President of Lord Fairfax Community College, thanked the Board for their support. She said all the initial site work has been completed and construction will begin at the end of March. The College Board has voted to approve the loan, with Blue Ridge Bank as the primary lender in conjunction with Pioneer Bank. The College Foundation has raised about \$2.7 million. The building will be two stories, with about 13,000 square feet. Dr. Blosser highlighted the programs that will be offered, once they are in the new building. She said they are guaranteed completion by December 25, 2020. Lastly, she said there is a new financial aid package for students called the G3, which will have a very positive impact in Page County.

Presentation of Original Print of Luray Inn:

Mike Uram, Councilman for the Town of Stanley, presented the Board with an original framed print of the Luray Inn that burned to the ground many years ago. He also presented the Board with a copy of a framed newspaper article about Page County being one of the top 10 healthiest places to live.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

There were no speakers during Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Action Matters

Board and Commission Appointments:

Mrs. Miller reviewed the Board and Commission appointments as follows:

Economic Development Authority:

A vacancy exists on the EDA for District 1. An individual needs to be appointed to fill the seat for an unexpired term through January 31, 2022.

A vacancy exists on the EDA for District 3. An appointment is needed for a four-year term through January 31, 2023.

A vacancy exists on the EDA for the Town of Shenandoah representative. The EDA voted to remove Ian Rudolph from the EDA because if a member is absent more than three consecutive meetings they are considered inactive. The Town of Shenandoah is aware and is seeking someone to serve. The term would be for a four-year term from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2024.

No names were given for consideration. The appointments were deferred until the March meeting.

Planning Commission:

A vacancy exists on the Planning Commission for District 1. A new term would begin immediately and expire on January 14, 2024.

Motion: Supervisor Guzy moved to appoint Catherine Grech (District 1) to the Planning Commission for a term through January 14, 2024. Supervisor Louderback seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Aye: Louderback, Vaughan, Phenix, Guzy. Nay: None. Absent: Stroupe, Foltz.

Massanutten Regional Library Board:

A vacancy exists on the Massanutten Regional Library Board. An appointment is needed for a three-year term through September 30, 2022. The Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday of every other month, at 7:00 p.m., at the Central Library in Harrisonburg.

No names were given for consideration. The appointment was deferred until the March meeting.

Northwestern Community Services Board:

One seat on the Northwestern Community Services Board is currently vacant. An appointment is needed for the vacant seat, with a term through December 31, 2022.

No names were given for consideration. The appointment was deferred until the March meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Motion: Supervisor Guzy moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Financial reports for the periods of January 1-31, 2020:
- Accounts payable checks, payroll checks, payroll direct deposits, and payroll tax related electronic fund transfers totaling \$1,758,595.11 for the month of January 2020.
- Minutes of January 14, 2020 and January 21, 2020.
- Coyote claims totaling \$650.

Supervisor Vaughan seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0. Aye: Vaughan, Phenix, Guzy, Louderback. Nay: None. Absent: Stroupe, Foltz.

Old Business – DEQ Environmental Permit Reissuance/JP Salyards

Transportation:

Chairman Phenix informed the Board know that DEQ has received several calls concerning the DEQ environmental permit reissuance for JP Salyards Transportation. He said he feels very strongly about this and does not want Mr. Salyards to be able to sell credits to other localities to dump their wastewater here. He plans on attending a hearing if DEQ has one.

New Business:

Supervisor Guzy suggested that the Board members take time to meet with their Planning Commission and EDA appointees.

Supervisor Louderback said he would give his comments at a later date about restructuring economic development.

Supervisor Vaughan said he and Woody Brown met with the Shenandoah Rescue Squad. He said he feels they are close to reaching an agreement.

In addition to Supervisor Vaughan's comments, Supervisor Guzy said he and Supervisor Louderback, along with Mr. Brown, met with Luray Rescue Squad. He said they are

missing EMS calls and felt that this cannot be salvaged, and it needs to have a new start. He said their EMS supplies are expiring before being use, due to not answering calls.

Open Public Comments:

Jeb Buracker said he sent in a Resolution to the Board on January 13, 2020, about forming a Page County Militia Emergency Corp. He indicated that they will have the proper training on firearms and self-defense to secure our County and to backup law enforcement, if ever needed, during emergency situations. He said they can be an asset to EMS and could assist with search and rescue missions. When the militia is needed, the Board can call them up. He said they are not looking for any money, but just want help with the training. He asked the Board to bring this up at a meeting. He said he already has about 300 people interested and thinks this will help bring people together.

Jeremy Hilliard commented on a County militia. He said that this has been researched he asked Supervisors Guzy and Louderback to bring up this matter. He indicated that they are looking to assist the county and forming a militia is being discussed all over the Valley.

Randolph Bunch said Morgan Phenix made a comment about the jail, being built in 1960, but looks like it was built in 1920. Sounds like the obvious solution would be to build a new jail; it should have been done a long time ago and we would not be in this situation we are in now. We have built schools, and an administration building and no one has said anything about the jail. Now Sheriff Cabbage is on the hot seat, because it has not been taking care of; I think this is a priority.

David Cain said he supports the idea of a militia in the County. A militia is not all about guns or shooting. Tyranny is raising its ugly head at a very fast pace. The government is trying to disarm the citizens of this nation, as well as Virginia. The idea of a militia to respond quickly is a very beneficial thing we should have.

Patricia Long expressed excitement about a militia and thinks it's about people helping people. It will help the County grow stronger and be independent. She ask the Board to make the right decision when comes up for a vote.

Administrator's Report:

Mrs. Moler said Woody Brown, Director of Emergency Services, was going to apply for a grant for an ambulance for the County, but was not able to, due to the fact that there are currently 14 ambulances within the County. She reminded the Board of the upcoming budget meetings. She said she has only received one letter from an agency who will be receiving new radios on their choice of systems. She added that she has sent the Board the most recent information on the coverage for the new radio system. The cost for the RSW Regional Jail will be increasing to \$37 per inmate, per day. Next year, it will increase

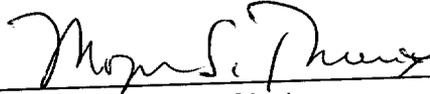
to \$40 per inmate, per day. Lastly, she noted that the jail assessment by Moseley Architects will be presented to the Board in March.

Supervisors Time:

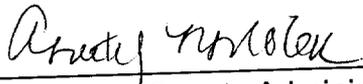
All Supervisors thanked everyone for coming out.

Adjourn: 8:49 p.m.

With no further business Chairman Phenix adjourned the meeting.



Morgan Phenix, Chairman



Amity Moler, County Administrator