

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
Budget Work Session – Meeting #2
April 1, 2020

Members attending by conference call were: Brenda R. Sutherland, Kenneth R. Belton, John S. Fant, Michael S. Hash and Thomas R. Revels.

Staff attending in person: William L. Shepley, Mitchell L. Smith and Leesa A. Gayheart

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Fant inquired about the minutes of the prior work session and Mr. Shepley responded they will be available at the April 9, 2020 meeting. Supervisor made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Supervisor Hash. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Shepley opened with an update of COVID-19 noting that April will be a very critical time and we want everyone to stay safe, work together and help each other out. Mr. Shepley thanked the volunteers that have stepped up and also thanked staff for their hard work. We still need to be cautious and stay home. Supervisor Belton thanked the staff for their hard work as well.

- Mr. Shepley noted Administration has worked very hard on the budget and now have a balanced budget.
- Supervisor Fant requested to start with the revenue page (\$23,325,577) and noted concerns regarding COVID-19 along with revenue collections. Tax bills will be going out next week when many no longer have a job along with a potentially higher rate of late payments or no payments.
- Mr. Shepley pointed out that we don't know what is coming and timing of personal property taxes which includes a proposal that will be addressed at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.
- Supervisor Belton led through the pages of the budget. Mrs. Gayheart noted that the Commissioner of Revenues budget will be adjusted in the furniture/equipment from \$10,000 to \$3,000.

- Supervisor Fant asked about the 2% bonus and Mrs. Gayheart explained that our personnel policy mirrors the State and we follow what the State does; just because it's included doesn't mean it will happen – it all depends on State approval. Supervisor Sutherland commented that the Constitutional Officers are included in with the State. Supervisor Fant noted he's against planning for a bonus since we don't know what the affect of the declared emergency will do on the budget – he suggested moving the bonus money to a separate line item to protect that money in case the bonus can be done in December/January.
- Consensus of the Board is to move the 2% bonus to a contingency line item in personnel. Supervisor Revels wanted to know who is covered under the County insurance plan and Mrs. Gayheart responded that anyone who works 29 hours are more is eligible which includes all department but part of the Library staff – the school is separate. Supervisor Revels asked about an insurance increase and Mrs. Gayheart explained actual cost plus 10% increase.
- Supervisor Fant inquired where the Broadband money would be, and Mrs. Gayheart noted it will be in Economic Development until the end of the year and then it will be placed into its own fund.
- Supervisor Fant asked about part time hours for Emergency budget, Mr. Smith explained this budget is a work in progress with more to come.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about hiring a Building Official, Mr. Shepley suggested using the Interim Building Official for the next 10 months and Mrs. Gayheart will update the health insurance cost.
- Supervisor Fant and Supervisor Revels inquired about the Animal Control and why is it separate from the Sheriff's budget – Mrs. Gayheart explained savings to the county and the contract on the Animal Shelter
- Supervisor Revels asked about the increase on salary on refuse collection – Mrs. Gayheart explained this is a request from the Director for employees. Supervisor Revels pointed out the good benefits for employees and to they understand the value of what they have – Mrs. Gayheart explained that HR does try to cover this at sign-up.
- Supervisor Fant recommended moving \$23,000 to HR line item with the other HR line item for contingency personnel.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about tipping fee for solid waste – Mr. Smith explained increase from \$52/ton to \$55/ton – first increase that Mr. Smith ever remembers
- Supervisor Revels inquired as to where Mt. Rogers School was regarding maintenance – Mrs. Gayheart noted that it's included in general maintenance
- Supervisor Revels asked about the Gate Center and operations – Mr. Smith explained the Extension Office and the County will work together on scheduling to finish the kitchen work and County Administration Office will handle the scheduling of the conference rooms.
- Supervisor Revels inquired about CSA funds and a decrease and the associated risk. Mr. Shepley noted that he would look into this again.

- Supervisor Revels stated his thoughts on paying our portion of education cost along with his findings from the Weldon Cooper Center. Mr. Shepley noted that he appreciates the comments.
- Supervisor Fant commented about how do we right-size education but still take care of the teachers, etc.
- Supervisor Revels stated he wants to think about 1.4 recommendations ADM going down, ability to pay decreases. Also inquired about debt service being \$40,900 higher than what was projected. Supervisor Fant inquired as to why the 1.4 request is in this place. Supervisor Revels inquired about ADM – Mr. Shepley noted 1496 and Mr. Smith noted this budget is built on 1450. Supervisor Fant noted the Weldon Cooper Center has project 1447. Supervisor Fant asked about the debt service and ability to renegotiate the loan – is now the time to borrow money to do some bigger projects with low interest loans – Mr. Shepley noted he will look at it. Supervisor Revels asked how we get to the final recommendation above LRE – Mr. Shepley noted he would like to see Supervisor Revel's calculations. Supervisor Revels noted he has some additional numbers to send to the Weldon Cooper Center. Mrs. Gayheart expressed concerns on taking in consideration for teachers pay steps, etc. Supervisor Fant noted that he didn't fully understand Mrs. Cassell's email today and restoring the steps – Mrs. Gayheart will reach out to Mrs. Cassell for explanations. Supervisor Belton recommended getting more information regarding the school and discuss at the next budget meeting.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about the cut to Industrial Development – Mr. Shepley explained his plan for the EDA and the associated money.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about the plan for the hiring of an Ag Economic Development person and Mr. Shepley noted the plan may be extended 6-8 months due to all that's going on.
- Supervisor Fant recommended a partnership with VDACS on insurance so we don't lose employees – Mrs. Gayheart will check into this.
- Supervisor Revels commented about tourism not reflecting enough for a budget – Mr. Shepley explained we have a person totally dedicated to Tourism along with the EDA becoming involved financially.
- Mrs. Gayheart addressed where local support is listed in the budget.
- Supervisor Hash asked if the Town of Fries made a request and Mrs. Gayheart said they did not.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about the \$50,000 for the Tri-Area expansion - Mr. Shepley explained that is correct, \$50,000 has been set aside for the Tri-Area expansion.
- Supervisor Fant inquired about Feeding America Southwest Virginia – Mrs. Gayheart stated she will send the Board a copy of their request. Mr. Smith noted this is strictly for Grayson County. Mr. Smith noted it's for 2 locations – Providence and Whitetop, which is the distribution points for Grayson County. Supervisor Hash asked if there could be a distribution at Elk Creek – Mr. Smith he has spoken with them but the County would need to put more money into it.

- Mr. Smith will check into this possibility and let the Board know. Supervisor Revels stated it would be worth pursuing.
- Supervisor Belton recommends discussing the requests for Independence and Elk Creek to the next budget meeting.
 - Supervisor Hash mentioned the hard times for everyone that there will be a food distribution from The Hands of Grace at the old Elk Creek School tomorrow and every 3rd Thursday of each month and is for anyone in need from Grayson County.

IN RE: NEXT BUDGET MEETING

Consensus of the Board is to meet on April 15, 2020 for the next budget meeting and if another meeting is needed, will hold it on April 20.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Supervisor Revels made the motion to adjourn the meeting; duly seconded by Supervisor Sutherland. Motion carried 5-0.