

2/21/19 CBAC Meeting Notes

Committee Members Present: Bill Gleason, Gene Johnson, Chip Hughey, John Hilliard, Leah Mills

Committee Members Absent: Chris Eudailey, Steve Mulroy

County Staff Present: Meghan Coates, Director – Budget and Management; Joni Robinson, Automation Analyst

The meeting was brought to order at 9:03am.

1. Welcome and Organizational Topics:

- a. Mr. Gleason motioned to approve the January 31, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Hughey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

2. FY2020 Operating Budget Proposal:

- a. Mrs. Coates provided the committee with information about the County recycling. The cost of recycling will increase, and the County is working through options. Decades ago, there were no private providers within the County, therefore the County began providing recycling services.
- b. Mrs. Coates discussed information about the preliminary 5-year plan. With the significant focus on education, the school division is slated to receive \$7.7M in additional local funding for FY20. Based on the Governor's proposal, the funds dedicated to Schools would cover their baseline needs and state mandated items.
- c. The County has budgeted for a 3% merit increase this year. This will be the first time in 10 years that the County will a merit of this scale.
- d. The officer retention plan that Police have put in place is to encourage officers to stay with the County longer. The starting salary has already increased, bonuses have been implemented for the recruits who excel to a certain level of academy and a special retention plan is planned for FY20. The intent for the Police Service Aide position is to attract and recruit interested (likely younger) citizens into public safety. No other surrounding area has this program in place.
- e. Fire has budgeted for their career development plan. Mr. Hughey asked if the Fire department was requested to provide information on details of their plans to improve overtime? Mrs. Coates stated yes, the Fire department has been asked to provide information.
- f. Ms. Mill asked would the Election worker stipends correct the issue that recently happened during the last election? Mrs. Coates stated yes, we did receive approval to split five precincts to help with the issues that happened last election. We realized that it took a longer amount of time for citizens to be checked in. New poll books have been ordered and the County has worked with Schools to ensure parent/teacher conferences, meetings and schools are not scheduled on election day. As well, shorter shifts will now be available for election workers.
- g. Ms. Mills asked about the consulting services for the Planning department. Mrs. Coates stated that the consulting services would help the County to rewrite ordinances or to craft special area plans.

- h. Mrs. Coates added that increasing the Building and Grounds staff of the General Services department would ensure day-to-day capacity to keep the buildings operational.
- i. Mrs. Coates shared that the tax relief program for the elderly and disabled is a tiered program based on the citizen's income and net worth, excluding their home. The tier is prorated and does not escalate yearly. The program is administered by the Commissioner of the Revenue.

3. Committee Recommendations/Memo to the Board:

- a. Mrs. Coates asked the committee to provide their recommendations for the Board by the week of March 18, 2019. Mr. Hilliard will present to the Audit and Finance Committee on March 29, 2019. Mr. Hughey suggested to have the committee begin providing suggestions via email. Recommendations will begin with highlighting the following:

 - i. Expectations of the Fire department investments.
 - ii. Consideration of the tax relief program.
 - iii. The next referendum relative to the capital plan.
 - iv. Purpose/recommendation for school funding.

4. Meeting Wrap-Up:

- a. Mrs. Coates asked that Ms. Robinson send out upcoming dates for County and School Budget meetings to the committee. Mr. Hilliard asked that the next meeting be scheduled at a time that each committee member can attend due to the items that need to be covered.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.