

April 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., at the Rockingham County Administration Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The following members were present:

- DEWEY L. RITCHIE, Election District #1
- SALLIE WOLFE-GARRISON, Election District #2
- RICK L. CHANDLER, Election District #3
- WILLIAM B. KYGER, JR., Election District #4
- MICHAEL A. BREEDEN, Election District #5

Also present:

- STEPHEN G. KING, County Administrator
- THOMAS H. MILLER, JR., County Attorney
- CASEY B. ARMSTRONG, Assistant County Administrator
- RHONDA H. COOPER, Director of Community Development
- PATRICIA D. DAVIDSON, Director of Finance
- KIRBY W. DEAN, Director of Parks & Recreation
- ANN MARIE FREEMAN, Director of Court Services
- JEREMY C. HOLLOWAY, Fire & Rescue Chief
- JENNIFER J. MONGOLD, Director of Human Resources
- TERRI M. PERRY, Director of Technology
- PHILIP S. RHODES, Director of Public Works
- KELLY S. GETZ, Zoning Administrator
- CARLEY A. STACKPOLE, Code Compliance Officer
- JESSICA G. KILBY, Deputy Clerk
- DONALD F. KOMARA, Residency Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
- C. BURGESS LINDSEY, Assistant Residency Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation

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CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION.

Chairman Chandler called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Chairman Chandler provided the invocation, and Finance Director Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On motion by Supervisor Kyger, seconded by Supervisor Ritchie, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; KYGER – AYE; RITCHIE – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 24, 2021.

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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

The Board heard Mr. Komara's report on the activities of the Transportation Department, including updates to recent bridge, road, and rural rustic projects.

Supervisor Breeden indicated he received concerns about speeding on Pineville Road (Route 672) and Lawyer Road (Route 655), and asked VDOT to make sure the speed limit is posted. Concerning Berrytown Road (Route 649), near the manufactured home park, where the speed limit was reduced to 45-miles-per-hour, Supervisor Breeden indicated signage cautioning curve ahead may be needed. Supervisor Breeden recalled several past safety improvements to the intersection of Island Ford Road (Route 649) and East Side Highway (Route 340), and asked VDOT to look into additional safety improvements for the intersection.

Related to the Lee Street (Route 259) bridge replacement project, Supervisor Ritchie asked whether the bridge replacement will improve the site distance looking west. Mr. Komara indicated the new bridge will be wider and will have a lower-profile railing, which will improve site distance.

Supervisor Kyger asked Mr. Komara to provide an update concerning Lady Bug Road (Route 749) when more information becomes available. He also reported that the entrance and exit ramps to Interstate 81 in Mount Crawford are in need of improvements.

Chairman Chandler recommended Iron Horse Road (Route 994) for future improvements.

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BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Dr. John A. Downey, President, Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC), reported that the College experienced a challenging year as a result of the COVID pandemic. The College operated primarily via online classes, with the exception of 15-percent of instruction which required in-person training. As a result, the College experienced a financial deficit because of the significant decline in enrollment during the pandemic. Dr. Downey was happy to report that Federal CARES Act funding helped the College to avoid layoffs. He indicated he expects additional Federal funds this year, which will help the College financially until full operations resume in the Fall of 2021. Dr. Downey reported that the State is providing extensive financial aid opportunities for students who wish to pursue in-demand career and technical programs. The hope is that the significant financial aid will incentivize young people to consider technical education careers, which will also benefit local employers.

Dr. Downey expressed appreciation for the County's continued support of improvements on campus. He indicated funding made several pending projects possible including a campus-wide door-locking system for added safety, an irrigation system for campus commons, necessary improvements to the campus water and sewer system, and maintenance improvements for parking lots.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S STAFF REPORT.

Administrator King commended Chief Holloway and County-wide staff for their outstanding efforts helping with COVID vaccine clinics.

He reported an advertisement will be forthcoming concerning a change in location for the Mount Crawford polling station.

Additionally, Administrator King took the opportunity to commend technology staff for their constant hard work and dedication.

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PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mr. Dean's staff report dated April 6, 2021.

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ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mr. Armstrong's staff report dated April 14, 2021.

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FINANCE DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Davidson's staff report dated April 14, 2021.

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HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Mongold's staff report dated April 14, 2021.

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PUBLIC WORKS STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mr. Rhodes' staff report dated April 14, 2021.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Public Works Director Rhodes presented two items for consideration concerning mowing and landscaping bids received for County facilities.

On motion by Supervisor Kyger, seconded by Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison, and carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; KYGER – AYE; RITCHIE – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board approved the bid from Four Seasons with an estimated cost of \$49,950 for the mowing and landscaping at the Innovation Village at Rockingham and the SRI Building.

On motion by Supervisor Kyger, seconded by Supervisor Ritchie, and carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; KYGER – AYE; RITCHIE – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board approved the bid from Wetzel Brothers at a cost of \$2,963 per occurrence for the mowing of the County's general lots and fields.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Ms. Cooper's staff report dated April 14, 2021.

Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison recognized Community Development staff for their professionalism and dedication exhibited through the Solar Study Committee process. She indicated a joint work session with the Planning Commission is forthcoming.

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TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Perry's staff report dated April 2021.

Mrs. Perry reported that a major piece of technology equipment in the server room may

need replacement. Staff are currently working with suppliers and vendors to resolve the issue as feasible as possible.

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FIRE AND RESCUE CHIEF’S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Chief Holloway’s staff report dated April 2021.

Chief Holloway provided an update regarding current and future COVID vaccination efforts in the County. He reported that large-scale vaccination clinics will subside by June, as more citizens become vaccinated. Seniors needing a vaccination that cannot get to a vaccination site, can contact Chief Holloway or Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS). Chief Holloway stated that without the support of the health department staff and volunteers, the large vaccination clinics would not have been possible.

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COURT SERVICES DIRECTOR’S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Freeman’s staff report dated April 14, 2021.

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RECESS.

Chairman Chandler recessed the meeting at 4:07 p.m., for meetings of the Lilly Subdivision Sanitary District and Countryside Sanitary District.

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CLOSED MEETING.

On motion by Supervisor Kyger, seconded by Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison, and carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; KYGER – AYE; RITCHIE – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board recessed the meeting from 4:13 p.m. to 5:01 p.m., for a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A(3), Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and 2.2-3711.A(5), Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business’ or industry’s interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

MOTION: SUPERVISOR KYGER
SECOND: SUPERVISOR BREEDEN

RESOLUTION NO: 21-07
MEETING DATE: April 14, 2021

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors.

VOTE:
AYES: BREEDEN, CHANDLER, KYGER, RITCHIE, WOLFE-GARRISON
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT:

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RECESS.

Chairman Chandler recessed the meeting for dinner at 5:02 p.m.

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PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Chandler reconvened the meeting and opened the public hearing. Zoning Administrator Getz reviewed the following special use permit request:

SUP21-011 Christian Dale Shifflett, 3987 Homestead Road, Elkton, for a private family cemetery located on the east side of Homestead Road (Route 884) approximately 0.25 mile north of Bear lithia Road in Election District 5. Zoned A1-Prime Agricultural. Tax Map #114-(A)-L223.

The applicant was present.

No members of the public spoke concerning the request.

Chairman Chandler closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

On motion by Supervisor Breeden, seconded by Supervisor Kyger, and carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; KYGER – AYE; RITCHIE – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board, subject to the following conditions, approved SUP21-011 Christian Dale Shifflett, 3987 Homestead Road, Elkton, for a private family cemetery located on the east side of Homestead Road (Route 884) approximately 0.25 mile north of Bear lithia Road in Election District 5. Zoned A1-Prime Agricultural. Tax Map #114-(A)-L223.

Conditions:

1. Use shall be in substantial accordance with the submitted site plan.
2. The use and structures shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

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PROPOSED BUDGET, TAX RATES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP).

At 6:05 p.m., Chairman Chandler declared the meeting open for a public hearing pursuant to Section 15.2-2506, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, on the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2021, Tax Rates, and Capital Improvements Plan:

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021
 PROPOSED TAX RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021
 PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FY22-FY26**

| <u>GENERAL FUND</u> | REVENUES | AMENDED FY2020-21 | PROPOSED FY2021-22 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Property Taxes | | \$ 93,921,000 | \$ 101,297,000 |
| Other Local Taxes | | 12,048,100 | 14,431,500 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Other Local Revenue | 13,110,707 | 13,211,777 |
| State Revenue | 18,645,617 | 18,118,525 |
| Federal Revenue | 1,009,049 | 1,621,000 |
| Insurance Recoveries/Debt Issuance | - | - |
| Transfer from Other Funds | 990,426 | - |
| Balance Carried Forward | 7,413,307 | 2,313,814 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | \$ 147,138,206 | \$ 150,993,617 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital Projects Fund | \$ 7,887,506 | \$ 2,667,000 |
| Tourism Fund | 364,651 | 253,156 |
| Asset Forfeiture Fund | 121,400 | 121,400 |
| H'burg-Rockingham Social Services | 19,721,500 | 19,787,472 |
| H'burg-Rockingham Children's Services Act | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| Central Stores Fund | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan Fund | 33,050,426 | 32,380,600 |
| Laird L. Conrad Law Library Fund | 50,585 | 50,585 |
| Economic Development Authority | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| Emergency Medical Services Trans Fund | 1,460,000 | 1,460,000 |
| Water & Sewer Utilities Fund | 14,281,896 | 10,315,493 |
| Lilly Subdivision Sanitary District | 27,950 | 30,450 |
| Smith Creek Water & Waste Authority | 547,410 | 606,342 |
| Countryside Sanitary District | 21,455 | 80,535 |
| Penn Laird Sewer Authority | 29,498 | 29,217 |
| Solid Waste Fund | 5,299,739 | 6,047,438 |
| Lake Shenandoah Stormwater Control Authority | 1,925,000 | 347,080 |
| School Operating Fund | 146,366,648 | 154,566,630 |
| School Cafeteria Fund | 5,732,663 | 5,777,714 |
| School Capital Projects Fund | 1,400,000 | - |
| Massanutten Technical Center | 6,010,268 | 6,356,735 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$ 402,486,301 | \$ 402,920,964 |

EXPENDITURESGENERAL FUND

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| General Government Administration | \$ 6,969,460 | \$ 8,115,810 |
| Judicial Administration | 5,278,525 | 6,134,874 |
| Public Safety | 34,916,551 | 35,721,944 |
| Public Works | 2,640,557 | 3,237,589 |
| Human Services | 2,408,046 | 2,380,452 |
| Parks, Recreation & Cultural | 3,048,169 | 3,177,151 |
| Community Development | 3,104,897 | 3,597,298 |
| Contributions | 407,031 | 410,464 |
| Contingency | 230,000 | 250,000 |
| Other Expenses | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Transfers to Other Funds | 71,683,580 | 76,093,126 |
| Debt Service - County | 6,242,302 | 2,000,737 |
| Debt Service - Schools | 10,129,088 | 9,794,171 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | \$ 147,138,206 | \$ 150,993,616 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital Projects Fund | 7,887,506 | 2,667,000 |
| Tourism Fund | 364,651 | 253,156 |
| Asset Forfeiture Fund | 121,400 | 121,400 |
| H'burg-Rockingham Soc Services District | 19,721,500 | 19,787,472 |
| H'burg-Rockingham Children's Service Act | 11,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
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| Emergency Medical Services Trans Fund | 1,460,000 | 1,460,000 |
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| Lilly Subdivision Sanitary District | 27,950 | 30,450 |
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| Lake Shenandoah Stormwater Control Authority | 1,925,000 | 347,080 |
| School Operating Fund | 146,366,648 | 154,566,630 |
| School Cafeteria Fund | 5,732,663 | 5,777,714 |
| School Capital Projects Fund | 1,400,000 | - |
| Massanutten Technical Center | 6,010,268 | 6,356,735 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ 402,486,301 | \$ 402,920,963 |

PROPOSED TAX RATES

| Classification of Tax | Proposed 2020 | Proposed 2021 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Real Estate | \$0.74 | \$0.74 |
| Manufactured Home | 0.74 | 0.74 |
| Countryside Sanitary District | 0.29 | - |
| Personal Property | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Recreational Vehicles | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Machinery & Tools | 2.55 | 2.55 |
| Merchants Capital | 0.87 | 0.87 |
| Farm Machinery | 0.44 | 0.44 |

Also proposed was an increase to the Food & Beverage Tax, currently at a rate of 4%, proposed at a rate of 6%.

A Cigarette Tax was proposed at the rate of two cents (\$0.02) per cigarette sold in the County.

Administrator King provided the following presentation:

Current FY21 Budget

The FY21 budget totaled \$376,081,303. Revenue projections for real estate, personal property, and machinery and tools tax are all strong. Sales tax, meals tax, and lodging tax are stronger than expected at this time last year. Courts and Recreation fees have been affected most by COVID. The projected revenue for the General Fund is \$139,812,487.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funded \$14,299,294 in FY21 as follows:

- \$6,300,000 – Fire/Rescue/Sheriff/Jail Salaries
- \$2,074,190 – Schools
- \$1,065,883 – Towns
- \$1,000,000 – Personal Protective Equipment
- \$1,000,000 – Administration Building Modifications and Technology
- \$670,000 – Storage Building
- \$678,494 – Ambulances
- \$500,000 – Small Business Grants
- \$300,000 – Overtime
- \$234,000 – Nonprofit Grants
- \$250,000 – COVID-19 Test Sites

The FY22 General Fund budget reflects an increase of \$11.2 million or 8 percent over the FY21 adopted budget.

The major revenue increases include:

- \$3.5 million increase in Real Estate revenue due to new construction
- \$1.2 million increase to Personal Property Tax due to an increase in assessed values in the County
- \$2.0 million increase to Machinery & Tools Tax due to new equipment being added to industry in the County
- \$825,000 due to an increase in Local Sales and Use Tax
- \$800,000 due to an increase in the proposed Meals Tax from four percent to six percent
- \$500,000 due to a proposed Cigarette Tax
- \$357,000 increase in funding from the Compensation Board
- \$1.7 million increase in the usage of the Fund Reserve for one-time capital items

Major revenue decreases include:

- \$271,000 decrease in Recreational Programs due to COVID
- \$375,500 reduction in State Aide due to the loss of Recordation Taxes which account for \$275,000
- \$990,426 reduction in use of Health Insurance Fund Reserve

Major expenditure increases include:

- Five percent salary increase for Constitutional Officers and employees backed by state revenue
- Bring base pay of all Fire & Rescue and Sheriff personnel to \$40,000 and handle compression issues along the line of employees
- Three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for other County employees
- Up to a two percent merit for other County employees
- Provide support for School Operating Fund, additional \$4 million
- Add two Fire & Rescue positions for the Clover Hill area
- Add one Deputy Sheriff to assist in essential areas of the County
- Add one Environmental Inspector in Community Development
- Add two custodians to provide additional coverage in County Office Buildings
- Continue vehicle replacement program
- Continue to fund increased operating needs of the Middle River Regional Jail to include bed rentals
- Support capital infrastructure upgrades in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center
- Provide funding for construction of new Fire Station on Route 11 North

- Provide funding for construction of Maintenance Building at the Rockingham Park at the Crossroads

Administrator King stated the FY22 budget proposal maintains commitment to:

- Follow the County's financial policies
- Address the needs for both the County and Schools
- Attempt to minimize the impact on County taxpayers

The commitment to fiscal responsibility is to:

- Sustain the County's AAA bond rating
- Be prepared to respond to changing economic conditions
- Use one-time revenue sources for one-time, non-recurring items
- Maintain health insurance rates that responsibly reflect claim projections

The commitment to Schools is to:

- Increase transfer to the School Operating Fund
 - \$68,366,510, 45% of the General Fund Disbursements
- Fund School Debt Service \$9,794,171 or a decrease of \$334,917

The commitment to employees is to provide:

- Increased base pay for Fire & Rescue and Sheriff employees to \$40,000
- Fund five percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all Constitutional Officers
- Fund pay increases for all other County employees
- Two new Fire and Rescue positions
 - For the Clover Hill Response Area
- Two new Sheriff Deputy's
 - Patrol Deputy
 - School Resource Officer
- One new Community Development position
 - Environmental Inspector
- One Public Works position
 - Deputy Director

Emergency Services Challenges:

- Drop in Volunteer Service
- Time Commitment
- Greater level of training required
- Buildings and apparatus
- County paid Fire & Rescue staff in 2000 was 36 employees and in FY 2022 that number is at 107 employees
- Radio System

The commitment to citizens is to:

- Spend wisely
- Focus on planned, steady growth
- Continue to provide quality education
- Continue to provide quality and timely Fire & Rescue response
- Continue to provide law enforcement coverage
- Continue to provide alternative programs:
 - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator and Training Program
 - Mental Health Pod at Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail (RHRJ)
 - Special Needs Pod at RHRJ
 - Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC) Coordinator & Program at Sentara RMH

- Mobile Crisis Action & Response Team – RCSO & CSB
- CSB fulltime position at RHRJ and 24/7 on-call availability
- Future Generations / Strength in Peers Re-entry Program
- Day Reporting at Gemeinschaft Center
- Work Release at Middle River Regional Jail
- Drug Court/ Diversion Program
- Re-entry Workshops held weekly at RHRJ
- Pre-trial Services / Expanded GPS Monitoring Program
- Chaplain Support / Re-entry Program Expanded at RHRJ (3x per week)
- Criminal Justice Planner
- Re-entry Coordinator
- \$5 million contribution toward facility upgrades and expansion for Social Services

Balancing the Budget:

The FY22 proposed budget is balanced at a real estate tax rate of \$0.74 per \$100 of assessed value. There is no proposed increase to the real estate tax rate. The value of one cent on the real estate tax rate is \$810,000 in FY 2022.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded \$7.6 million in FY21 and will fund \$7.6 million in FY22. The funds will be used for:

- Infrastructure
 - Broadband Study
 - Middle River Regional Jail Renovations & Expansion
 - Court Infrastructure
- Businesses
- Nonprofits

Fund Reserves:

The budget, as proposed, requires \$2,313,814 be taken from the County's general fund reserve for one-time funded items. The projected fund balance for June 30, 2021, is \$31.5 million. The fund balance minimum policy of 15 percent requires \$23.4 million.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY22-26:

- The CIP Committee met in the fall of 2020 and recommended a set of projects to the Planning Commission
- The Planning Commission approved the CIP on December 1, 2020
- Major proposed projects slated for FY22 are proposed in the budget
- Proposed CIP Updates for FY23-27 include:
 - Middle River Regional Jail Renovations & Expansion
 - Courthouse Space
 - Broadband Study

Capital Projects Fund:

- Spotswood High School Turn Lane was funded in FY21
- North Area Response Station - \$1,250,000
- Rockingham park at the Crossroads Maintenance Building - \$500,000
- Emergency Communications Center Upgrades - \$650,000

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services District:

- Provides community-based services for the self-reliance and protection of citizens
- Total budget \$19,787,472
 - State and Federal Funding is \$15,060,617

- Local Expense
 - County - \$2,591,975
 - City - \$1,918,034

Children’s Services Act:

- Services through the CSA Program total \$11,000,000 annually
- State Funding
 - \$6,904,205
- Local Funding
 - County - \$2,358,939
 - City - \$1,736,856

Solid Waste Fund:

An increase in the landfill tipping fee was included in the proposed budget:

- Commercial, Industrial, and Residential Waste
 - \$52 per ton to \$54 per ton
- Construction and Wood Debris
 - \$58 per ton to \$60 per ton

Water/Sewer Fund:

| Water | Current Rate | Proposed Rate |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Base Rate (up to 3.5kgal) | \$12.50 | \$15.00 |
| *Note: changing base from 3.5kgal to 4.0kgal | | |
| Over 4,000 gallons | \$3.80 | \$4.00 |

| Sewer | Current Rate | Proposed Rate |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Base Rate (up to 1kgal) | \$6.00 | \$7.00 |
| Per 1,000 gallons | \$5.15 | \$5.40 |

Countryside Sanitary District:

- Countryside Tax Rate \$0.29/\$100
 - Proposed to pay off debt and change tax rate to \$0.00/\$100
- Water Rates:

| Water | Current Rate | Proposed Rate |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Base Rate (up to 4kgal) | \$20 | \$50 |
| *Note: changing base from 4kgal to 5kgal | | |
| Over 5,000 gallons | \$5 | \$10 |

Districts/Authorities include:

- Lilly Subdivision Sanitary District
- Smith Creek Water & Waste Authority
- Countryside Sanitary District
- Penn Laird Sewer Authority
- Lake Shenandoah Stormwater Control Authority
- Massanutten Water and Sewer Authority

In conclusion, Administrator King stated the County is obligated to spend funds wisely. He reiterated the following:

- Watch the economy closely
- Be prepared to adjust as necessary
- Spend funds wisely
- Use ARPA funds wisely as they are “one-time”
- Do not increase rates unless necessary

Administrator King expressed appreciation to County staff, Constitutional Officers, and the Board of Supervisors for their hard work and continued commitment for quality and professional service.

Chairman Chandler opened the floor for public comment.

Lee Armbuster, owner of Bridgewater Foods Supermarket, spoke in opposition to the proposed tax on cigarettes. Mr. Armbuster explained that, in his experience in the retail business, ‘sin taxes’ generally do not work and typically have the opposite outcome of the intended purpose. Mr. Armbuster provided specific examples and described how a tax on cigarettes will drive business out of the County to surrounding localities. Retailers will sell less, total store sales will be negatively impacted, and the total net tax income businesses provide to the County will be a net loss, he emphasized.

Beth Bland, Director of Senior Services for Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) provided an annual update. She reported that needs increased over the past year in all areas of services provided except for transportation needs. Although staff and volunteers were not able to provide in-person services, seniors were still able to access programs by phone and other means. Ms. Bland emphasized that VPAS remains committed to seniors in the community and is working to provide additional services. In closing, she stated that the County’s investment in VPAS is actually an investment in its seniors. Ms. Bland expressed appreciation for the County’s support and requested continued level-funding support moving forward.

With no other citizens wishing to speak, Chairman Chandler closed the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. He announced that the Board will consider adoption of the proposed budget at the April 28, 2021 Board meeting.

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ADJOURN.

Chairman Chandler declared the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Chairman