

April 13, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 2:15 p.m. at East Rockingham High School, Elkton, Virginia. The following members were present:

PABLO CUEVAS, Election District #1
FREDERICK E. EBERLY, Election District #2
RICKY L. CHANDLER, Election District #3
WILLIAM B. KYGER, JR., Election District #4
MICHAEL A. BREEDEN, Election District #5

Also present:

LOWELL R. BARB, Commissioner of the Revenue
L. TODD GARBER, Treasurer
BRYAN F. HUTCHESON, Sheriff

JOSEPH S. PAXTON, County Administrator
THOMAS H. MILLER, JR., County Attorney
STEPHEN G. KING, Deputy County Administrator
GEORGE K. ANAS, II, Assistant County Administrator
CASEY B. ARMSTRONG, Director of Community Development
PATRICIA D. DAVIDSON, Director of Finance
ANN MARIE FREEMAN, Director of Court Services
LISA B. GOODEN, Registrar
BARRY E. HERTZLER, Director of Public Works
JEREMY C. HOLLOWAY, Fire & Rescue Chief
KATHARINE S. McQUAIN, Director of Parks & Recreation
JENNIFER J. MONGOLD, Director of Human Resources
TERRI M. PERRY, Director of Technology
RHONDA H. COOPER, Director of Planning – attended afternoon meeting only
DIANA C. STULTZ, Zoning Administrator – attended special-use public hearing only
KELLY S. GETZ, Code Compliance Officer – attended special-use public hearing only
TAMELA S. GRAY, Deputy Clerk
DONALD F. KOMARA, Residency Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
JOSHUA W. DUNLAP, Assistant Residency Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation

In addition, the following were present for the Budget Hearing:

MARSHA L. GARST, Commonwealth's Attorney

RENEE A. REED, School Board Member, Election District #3
CHARLOTTE E. MCQUILKIN, School Board Member, Election District #4
DONALD D. DRIVER, JR., Director of Social Services
DR. CAROL S. FENN, School Superintendent
DR. DOUGLAS A. ALDERFER, Assistant Superintendent of School Administration
CHERYL Y. MAST, Director of School Finance

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**CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Chairman Kyger called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

Mr. Eric Baylor, East Rockingham High School Principal, welcomed the Board and students. East Rockingham High School Student Council Association President Gabrielle Dean and East Rockingham High School Senior Class President Jordan Secrist led the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Breeden provided the invocation.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

On motion by Supervisor Breeden, seconded by Supervisor Chandler, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2016.

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RECOGNITION – SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS’ VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM.

On motion by Supervisor Breeden, seconded by Supervisor Chandler, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the **Spotswood High School Girls’ Varsity Basketball Team** brought great honor and esteem to Rockingham County and the Metro area by winning the Group AAA State Championship on March 12, 2016, which was held at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Spotswood Blazers earned a berth in the Virginia High School League State tournament by winning the Conference 29 Championship; and by placing second in the Group AAA West Region Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Spotswood Blazers, under the tutelage of Head Coach Chris Dodson, defeated Brookville High School (58-33) in the semifinals before defeating Magna Vista High School (40-39) in the championship game to end the season as state champion, compiling an outstanding 29-2 record; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dodson, after winning his fourth state title, was named Coach of the Year for Virginia Group AAA, Conference 29, and Valley District; and

WHEREAS, junior guard Addisen DeLucas was selected Virginia Group AAA Player of the Year, Conference 29 Player of the Year, and Valley District Player of the Year; senior guard Kendyl Brooks was named First Team West Region, First Team Conference 29, and First Team Valley District; sophomore forward Casey Irvine was named First Team Conference 29, Second Team West Region and Second Team Valley District; and sophomore guard Chloe Brooks was named Second Team Conference 29 and Second Team Valley District; and

WHEREAS, the Spotswood High School Girls’ Varsity Basketball Team comprised of Ali Berry, Chloe Brooks, Kendyl Brooks, Taylor Carpenter, Addisen DeLucas, Reagan Houlbrooke, Casey Irvine, Jordan Miller, Mychaela Randall, Addison Shenk, Mary Shifflett, Brooke Vetter, Meredith Vetter, head coach Chris Dodson, assistant

coaches D.J. Johnson, Mike Jenkins, Whitney Harper, Chris Trout, Yelena Ouderkirk, and Preston Grogg, assisted by managers Matthew Miller and Don Miller, and athletic trainer Sarah Hudson are to be congratulated for their dedication and hard work in accomplishing these accolades.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of our community, hereby recognizes the **Spotswood High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team**, its coaches and managers for the exemplary skill they displayed on the court in these accomplishments, and calls upon the citizens of this community to join the Board in congratulating this outstanding group of young citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors joins with these players, their coaches and managers in thanking the families of team members for their time and strong support, which helped to make these accomplishments possible.

Administrator Paxton read the resolution honoring the Spotswood High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team.

The Board members presented the Resolution to the coach, assistant coaches and team members.

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CONSIDERATION – RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

On motion by Supervisor Chandler, seconded by Supervisor Eberly, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board approved the following resolution which will be presented to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce at the reception on April 26, 2016 at 1 p.m., prior to the Chamber unearthing the 1966 time capsule, buried on the Courthouse Square, to reveal its contents.

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce has provided local businesses with the tools and support to succeed and grow, and has worked to strengthen the entire community; and

WHEREAS, established by a group of local residents in 1916, what was then known as the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce set out to advance the commercial, industrial, civic, and social interests of the town under the leadership of the organization's first president, J. A. Burruss; and

WHEREAS, in the 1930s, the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce facilitated the creation of county fairs and events, and worked with First National Bank to establish the Turkey Festival, featuring the popular turkey toss; and

WHEREAS, having grown to 108 members from throughout the region, the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce voted in 1935 to change its name to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce continued to expand and grow, creating the City/County Community Fund, Inc. organization in 1957 to raise funds in support of nonprofit civic organizations; the organization is now known as the United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce founded what is now Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham, which has graduated more than 850 aspiring local leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce initiated a program to discuss the future of the community and the region; and the successful dialogue resulted in the creation of the Building Optimal Leaders by Design program, a renewed community focus on workforce and education, and greater coordination of entrepreneur and economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, with nearly 900 members, a 29-member board of directors, and a dedicated staff, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest business associations along the I-81 corridor and it has helped make Harrisonburg and Rockingham County a thriving, dynamic community full of opportunity for businesses and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the citizens of Rockingham County, hereby commends the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and thanks the Chamber for its contributions to make Rockingham County and Harrisonburg a great place to live, work and raise a family.

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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

The Board heard Mr. Komara's report on the activities of the transportation department.

Mr. Komara noted it is Work Zone Awareness Week. He asked that citizens be attentive and thoughtful of highway workers at all times.

He provided an update on the South Valley Pike (Route 11) bridge work, the South Eastside Highway (Route 340) and Port Republic Road (Route 253) intersection project, Long Bow Road (Route 684), and Horeb Church Road (Route 732).

Mr. Komara also noted work is underway on the bridge over the South Fork of the Shenandoah River near Elkton since the Town and Supervisor Breeden expressed concern about the sidewalk, curb and deck on the structure. Work should be completed next week.

He reminded the Board that the public hearing regarding the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for the primary interstate and urban highway system will be held on May 16, 2016, at 4 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College's Plecker Center. He also noted the Commonwealth Transportation Board will meet in Staunton on May 17 and 18, 2016.

Mr. Komara reported that he provided Supervisor Eberly with the traffic count on Potter John Lane (Route 915) and the Litter Control group collected litter along Beulah Road (Route 716), and nearby roads.

Recent maintenance work has included mowing, brush cutting, and patching and sealing roads.

Supervisor Chandler reminded Mr. Komara of a maintenance request to repaint a turn lane arrow on Stone Spring Road (Route 280) near Sentara RMH. He previously mentioned a left turn arrow on the west side of the hospital was only partially blacked out during road improvements. He noted both through lanes, the one previously mentioned and a right turn lane heading north near Sentara RMH, need to be completely blacked out.

Supervisor Breeden reminded Mr. Komara to consider a speed study near the Homer's Automotive repair shop on East Point Road (Route 602). He thanked Mr. Komara and Mr. Dean for their assistance in working to erect a monument dedicated to families who were relocated from the National Park land when the park was formed. He also thanked Ms. Cooper for locating property for the memorial.

In response to a question from Administrator Paxton, Mr. Komara indicated traffic counters were placed along Stone Spring Road (Route 280) and the results should be available in 30 days. Administrator Paxton explained the traffic count was requested because some property along Spotswood Trail (Route 33) is zoned for business and the traffic count will help the developers determine what type of business would be beneficial along that corridor. He noted a lot of information goes into a company's decision regarding where to locate.

Chairman Kyger suggested that he and Mr. Komara meet with the US Forest Service about Tilghman Road (Route 902) and improvements that can be made at Briery Branch, from VDOT and the Forest Service's perspective.

He noted that he had received a request from the Town of Mt. Crawford to install a permissive/protective "yellow" traffic signal heading north and south on South Valley Pike (Route 11) at the intersection of Dinkel Avenue (Route 257) to alleviate traffic from backing up at Burger King. He noted it is difficult for traffic exiting from the Exxon and Burger King to move into the right lane on Dinkel Avenue going east toward Interstate 81. Mr. Komara explained that a permissive light includes a solid green arrow that changes to a flashing yellow arrow, and then a red arrow instead of a traffic signal with a green ball, after a leading green arrow. He suggested placing signs on stands in the road to force traffic traveling west from the interstate to enter the Burger King and Exxon closer to the Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative because the first entrance is across from the left turn lane on Dinkel Avenue to South Valley Pike (Route 11 North).

Chairman Kyger also noted that the deceleration lane into Whitewave Foods is used as an acceleration lane where traffic coming from I-81 tries to double-lane going to Bridgewater, resulting in conflicting traffic and an accident.

He also noted there is a great deal of shoulder deterioration on Dinkel Avenue (Route 257), and suggested extending the bike lane going east on Dinkel Avenue from Bridgewater, that currently ends at the First Russian Baptist Church, to the South Valley Pike (Route 11) intersection.

Mr. Komara advised that VDOT needs to spend a certain amount of the maintenance overlay schedule to widen shoulders, and he thinks this intersection will be a good candidate for that application. In the next couple of years, VDOT will be looking at an overlay in that area. He knows they are overlaying Friedens Church Road (Route 257) from Route 11 to the interstate next year and may improve Dinkel Avenue (Route 257 west) the following year.

Mr. Komara will also look at the sight distance on Fairview Road (Route 693). He indicated that Chairman Kyger asked about the project on South Valley Pike (Route 11) and Cecil Wampler Road (Route 704) where Administrator Paxton was successful in asking the City to delay the bridge project so VDOT could evaluate whether a permanent light at that location would be more beneficial than the proposed temporary light to accommodate the detour for the bridge work. Chairman Kyger said he received numerous calls from businesses and suggested they contact the City of Harrisonburg about that project.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S STAFF REPORT.

Administrator Paxton announced that April is National County Government month. Students and others in the audience were provided with a flyer highlighting the wide range of programs and activities provided by Rockingham County (some in coordination with the City). The flyer informs citizens of services provided by the County and where tax dollars are spent.

He informed the audience that Chairman Kyger serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Counties.

Administrator Paxton noted that the County and City entered into an agreement with Middle River Regional Jail last year to move inmates from the Rockingham Regional Jail to Middle River. He received a monthly report from the Sheriff today indicating there are currently 175 inmates at Middle River and 328 in the Rockingham Regional Jail, totaling 503 inmates. This is the largest number of inmates the County has ever housed. He noted the County and City are involved in a number of alternative programs in an attempt to reduce the number of people in jail. A large number of inmates (75 to 80 percent) are chronically incarcerated. Staff is trying to determine the reason for the recidivism, so they can help the inmates become more productive members of the community.

Administrator Paxton informed the students that a public hearing for the proposed \$360 million FY 16 – 17 budget will be held at 6 p.m., and noted the County is one of the largest employers in the area.

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FINANCE DIRECTORS STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Davidson’s staff report dated March 31, 2016.

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RECESS.

At 2:56 p.m., Chairman Kyger recessed the meeting for the majority of the government students to be dismissed from school.

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RESUME REGULAR MEETING.

At 3:07 p.m., Chairman Kyger called the regular meeting back to order.

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HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR’S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Mongold’s staff report dated April 13, 2016

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mr. Hertzler’s staff report dated April 13, 2016.

Mr. Hertzler reminded the Board of the Rockingham County Clean-up Days on April 15 and 16, 2016, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day to be held in partnership with the City on April 16, 2016.

Administrator Paxton told the students that included in the proposed FY 16 – 17 budget is a \$6 million project to reconstruct and move the landfill entrance from Grassy Creek Road (Route 711) to Pleasant Valley Road (Route 679). Convenient drop off containers will be installed for citizens to dispose of residential trash near the entrance rather than take it up on the landfill face where solid waste is disposed. He noted 450 tons of waste is disposed of at the landfill each day. The project will be completed by the end of December 2016.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mr. Armstrong's staff report dated April 13, 2016.

Ms. Cooper reported that Mike Pugh, agent for Pleasant Run LC, requested an amendment to the Springs at Osceola proffers requiring all lots in the 2009 R-2 rezoning be served by public water and sewer. Pleasant Run wants to omit this requirement from five lots located on the west side of Osceola Springs Road (Route 704). Pursuant to Code of Virginia §15.2-2302.B, the Board may waive the requirement for a public hearing when a proffer amendment does not affect conditions of use or density. Ms. Cooper indicated this request does not affect the use or density.

On behalf of Chairman Kyger, on motion by Supervisor Chandler, seconded by Supervisor Breedon, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDON - AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; and per §15.2-2302.B of the Code of Virginia, the Board waived the public hearing requirement for Pleasant Run LC since the proposed amendment to the proffers does not affect the use or density.

The Board will address the Pleasant Run LC proffers in June.

Ms. Cooper announced that the County has an opportunity to apply for an up to \$65,000 Urban Development Area (UDA) planning grant through the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. If the County is awarded the grant, an area plan will be prepared for the UDA located east of the City. The area plan will become part of the updated Comprehensive Plan. The grant application requires the submission of a letter of support from the County. If awarded the grant, the Board will appoint a steering committee to oversee the process.

Administrator Paxton noted that the Board is aware there is a tabled request from Sentara RMH to rezone part of the property in the UDA to a Planned Medical and Research District (PMR). This planning process may provide the Board with more information to review the Sentara RMH request and have more dialogue regarding how Sentara RMH can develop their property over the next 50 years.

Supervisor Chandler made a motion on behalf of Chairman Kyger, seconded by Supervisor Eberly, to move forward with the grant application and authorize the County Administrator to prepare a letter of support for the Urban Development Area grant through the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment.

In response to a question from Chairman Kyger, Ms. Cooper indicated the grant does not require a monetary investment from the County, only staff's time is required to facilitate the process. The work will primarily be performed by a consultant.

Administrator Paxton explained the request is for a grant to provide assistance to staff in planning the urban growth area adjacent to the City, including the Sentara RMH property and all areas east of the City. This area consists of a large amount of mixed-use property. If awarded, the grant will provide additional money to purchase assistance to prepare information that can be used as part of the Comprehensive Plan process, and to prepare a more in-depth look at the area as requests are received from Sentara RMH and BOSA. A consultant could provide additional input and work with staff to prepare a long-range plan for the area.

Supervisor Cuevas asked if the Board would wait on the results from the consultant before making a decision regarding the Sentara RMH rezoning request and other requests in that area of the County.

Administrator Paxton noted the Sentara RMH request was tabled, and in the past, the County has delayed decisions awaiting results from similar studies. The Board would need to decide whether to table all requests in that area until the results are received.

Administrator Paxton noted the grant application is for up to \$65,000, but the County may not receive the grant or only a portion of that amount may be awarded. If the grant is not received, it will be up to staff to plan the Urban Development Area east of the City, or the County will need to hire a consultant.

Ms. Cooper noted this is a great opportunity and perfect timing because the County is currently working on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) long-range transportation plan, completing the bicycle and pedestrian plan for the MPO and the County, and working on the Comprehensive Plan.

In response to a question from Supervisor Cuevas, Ms. Cooper responded that the purpose of the UDA plan is for road traffic safety, residential and commercial development. Supervisor Cuevas expressed his opposition because the County needs to determine a goal for the area before going forward.

Ms. Cooper indicated the steering committee, with input from citizens, will recommend a plan for the area. The County has a conceptual land use plan in the Comprehensive Plan that guides the area, and this will add an additional level of detail. The consultant will likely be a Virginia company, but the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment will select the consultant.

Although Chairman Kyger understands the study can be helpful, he questioned how helpful it will be since the County has already performed a study. Chairman Kyger suggested deferring action until the Board has a better understanding of the process, particularly since the grant application deadline is August 31, 2016.

Ms. Cooper explained that the grant award will be made on a first come/first serve basis so if the County waits, it will be less likely to receive the grant. Staff anticipates the UDA planning grant money will provide the County with a jumpstart on the Comprehensive Plan as the majority of the work in the Comprehensive Plan will occur in this urban development area. Ms. Cooper does not anticipate any conflicts or contradictions. She indicated the long-range transportation plan will occur based on the current Comprehensive Plan. The proposed study will move forward faster than the current Comprehensive Plan and will respond to changes in the Comprehensive Plan. The bicycle and pedestrian plan will be referenced but only list the recommendations from the bicycle and pedestrian plan in the Comprehensive Plan. She indicated the County probably would not start on the UDA project until mid to late summer. Ms. Cooper indicated citizen input meetings will be held throughout the County, starting with the Urban Development Area.

Supervisor Cuevas expressed concern that the County wants to apply for a grant for a study in an area that could have a huge impact due to potential changes in land use on large parcels of land in the area. Supervisor Cuevas stated he has more trust in the County planning department staff with their knowledge about the area, than a consultant.

Chairman Kyger concurred with Supervisor Cuevas' concerns. He requested a motion to table the request to apply for the Urban Development Area planning grant, until the Board has a better understanding of the process.

On motion by Supervisor Eberly, seconded by Supervisor Breeden, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board tabled the request to apply for a grant application for up to \$65,000 for Urban Development Area (UDA) planning through the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment.

Supervisor Cuevas suggested Ms. Cooper continue to work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization on alignment improvements along Spotswood Trail (Route 33) to increase the capacity of Route 33 and start on that phase of the UDA.

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TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Perry's staff report dated April 2016.

She reported the main switch was replaced in the data center, but the new switch did not function properly and all the data was moved back to the old switch. The Technology Department will replace the data center switch again this weekend, so the firewall replacement can begin.

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FIRE AND RESCUE CHIEF'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Chief Holloway's staff report dated April 2016.

Chief Holloway noted that Massanutten Technical Center (MTC) Fire and Rescue students will attend the Skills USA State Competition this weekend in Fredericksburg. MTC students have advanced to the national competition in the past. He also reported the annual regional fire school classes will begin next weekend with 80 paid and volunteer staff registered.

Chairman Kyger asked Chief Holloway to express appreciation to the Fire and Rescue team that responded and tried to resuscitate a Turner Ashby High School student last week.

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PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. McQuain's staff report dated April 2016.

Mrs. McQuain reported that, although it was cold and windy, there was a good turnout at the Kids Fishing Day on April 9, with wonderful sponsors. She thanked Mr. Anas for coming to support the fishing day.

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COURT SERVICES DIRECTOR'S STAFF REPORT.

The Board received and reviewed Mrs. Freeman's staff report dated April 13, 2016.

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OTHER REPORTS.

Chairman Kyger expressed appreciation to Sheriff Hutcheson for being present at most Board meetings.

Registrar Lisa Gooden noted a Republican primary will be held for the 26th U.S. Congressional District on June 14, 2016.

Commissioner Barb informed the group of the proposed general reassessment of real estate schedule. Several listers will start work in September by attending a training program. It will take four listers from September 2016 until February or March of 2018 to complete the reassessment. The County's assessment is 94 to 95 percent of the market value, which is good.

Administrator Paxton further explained that there are 48,000 parcels in the County and each property will be visited, as required by state law every four years. The listers will determine if homes and other structures are valued at fair market value. During the last reassessment, County properties were assessed at \$7.2 billion, excluding nontaxable properties such as churches and schools.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Board heard committee reports from Board members and staff.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Supervisor Eberly said the Chamber is doing well with a lot of activity.

FINANCE

On behalf of the Finance Committee, on motion by Supervisor Cuevas, seconded by Supervisor Breeden and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; EBERLY – AYE; KYGER – AYE; the Board approved the following supplemental appropriation:

GENERAL FUND

VPSA Interest and Refunding

A supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$104,778 for interest paid on VPSA debt. Funding for this supplemental will be provided by refunding proceeds received from the state.

Supplemental Appropriation: \$104,778

\$104,778 GL Code: 1001-09502-00000-000-509207-000 Interest VPSA
\$104,778 GL Code: 1001-00000-11899-000-318900-000 VPSA Refunding

Supervisor Cuevas reported that the Rockingham Recreation Foundation, Inc. needs a separate bank account in order to receive tax-deductible contributions.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, on motion by Supervisor Cuevas, seconded by Supervisor Chandler and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; EBERLY – AYE; KYGER – AYE; the Board authorized staff to open a checking account for the Rockingham Recreation Foundation, Inc. at SunTrust Bank, and transfer \$66,397.76 into the account

(\$36,397.76 from the Albert Long Park Trust account and an additional \$30,000 as requested by Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, the consulting firm selected to perform the feasibility study and goal assessment for the Albert Long Park), and authorized the President and Treasurer of the Rockingham Recreation Foundation, Inc. to sign the checks.

PUBLIC WORKS

On behalf of the Public Works Committee and Finance Committee, on motion by Supervisor Cuevas, seconded by Supervisor Breeden and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; EBERLY – AYE; KYGER – AYE; the Board authorized the County Administrator and County Attorney to negotiate and execute a contract to purchase four acres located on property owned by Faraway Farms to drill a test well for the Three Springs Water Treatment Plant, with an option to purchase the site if the well meets the County's requirements and consultants' specifications. There is an additional one-time option extension.

The landowner accepted an offer of \$100,000 for the well site, if the test well meets the County's needs. The estimated cost to develop the test well is \$50,000. The County will pay \$1,500 for the purchase option and the right to test drill at the agreed upon location.

HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Supervisor Chandler reported that the MPO will meet April 21, 2016.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (SVP)

Mr. Anas announced that an Economic Development Forum will be held April 15, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. There will be a discussion on policy and politics connecting the valley and global economy by Dr. Patrick Rhomey from Virginia Military Institute and Chris Lloyd, Senior Vice President at McGuireWoods Consulting.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACo) LIAISON

Chairman Kyger announced the VACo Spring Meeting will be held in Surry County on April 30, 2016.

CHAIRMAN

Chairman Kyger thanked East Rockingham High School students for attending the meeting until 4 p.m.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.

On motion by Supervisor Cuevas, seconded by Supervisor Breeden and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; EBERLY – AYE; KYGER – AYE; the Board appointed Ned Overton to the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

On motion by Supervisor Chandler, seconded by Supervisor Eberly and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; EBERLY – AYE; KYGER – AYE; the Board appointed the following representatives to the Community Policy and Management Team:

- Margot Sue Utterback as a Parent Representative for a term to expire December 31, 2016;
- Kim Hartzler-Weakley, M.S. as an Association of Providers Representative for a term to expire December 31, 2016;
- Michael Maurice as an Association of Providers Alternate for a term to expire December 31, 2016; and
- Kurt Holsopple as a Private Provider Alternate for a term to expire December 31, 2016.

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RECESS.

At 3:53 p.m., Chairman Kyger recessed the meeting for dinner.

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PUBLIC HEARING - SPECIAL-USE PERMIT.

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Kyger opened the public hearing and Ms. Stultz reviewed the following special-use permits:

SUP16-066 Cornerstone Foundation, Inc., 5244 Prospect Knoll Drive, Linville 22834 for a contractor's operation with waivers to supplemental standards to allow an increase in the number of employees from 5 to 14 and to allow an increase in the number of vehicles and pieces of equipment kept on the property from 5 to 9, on property located on the east side of Fort Lynne Road (Route 910) approximately 1.1 miles north of Mt. Clinton Pike (Route 763), Election District #2, Tax Map #93-(A)-89F, zoned A-2.

Ms. Stultz indicated the applicant, Daniel S. Sandberg, is the contract purchaser on this property.

The applicant explained that he and his father own the business, and he wants to locate his home and business on the same property because he works many hours and wants to balance his family and work. If the special-use permit is approved, Mr. Sandberg intends to purchase the property and build a house. In a year, he plans to build a shop for the business, which currently has 14 employees. Two employees work on site and the remainder work in the field. The business owns trucks and equipment but the shop will primarily be a storage facility, as work is performed at remote job sites. Employees currently meet at the shop but could meet elsewhere. Mr. Sandberg explained that employees arrive in seven or eight vehicles in the morning and travel to job sites in three or four company vehicles. Those vehicles return in the evening for the employees to go home in their cars.

Mr. Sandberg said he chose this property because it is close to where his business performs the majority of their work and is in close proximity to his family, friends and church. He indicated there are currently other businesses in that area, Kreider Machine Shop, Willow Run Lumber and Back Home on the Farm. He also plans to purchase ten acres behind this parcel for recreational use.

Supervisor Eberly confirmed that only two employees will be working at the site, and indicated he is pleased that Mr. Sandberg will live on the property and keep it neat.

Mr. Sandberg described the trucks used by his business. He noted the only concrete poured on the site will be for the home and shop he builds. His shop will be used to service trucks, build lumber items and keep them dry.

Mr. Sandberg informed Supervisor Eberly that he does not want the company to grow too large.

Mark Miller indicated he and his family have lived on Fort Lynne Road for almost 10 years. They love the area because it is close to town but they have their own space. Mr. Miller has known the Sandberg family 20 years, knows the type of man Mr. Sandberg is and kind of business he runs. Mr. Miller is excited about the opportunity Mr. Sandberg has and looks forward to having the Sandberg family as neighbors.

Richard Yoder, who lives on Fort Lynne Road, provided a copy of his statement expressing his concerns. He indicated Mr. Sandberg was a student in his economic class at Eastern Mennonite University. He agreed with Mr. Miller regarding Mr. Sandberg's integrity, honesty and character. However, he has concerns about a contractor's business in the neighborhood. He has discussed his concerns with Mr. Sandberg and explained he does not want the neighborhood to become an industrial area. He is concerned about increased traffic affecting the safety of runners and bicyclists who frequently use Fort Lynne Road, and poor air quality from trucks. There will also be a loss of agricultural land, he said.

Mr. Yoder would be delighted to have the Sandberg family as neighbors who use the land for agricultural purposes.

(A copy of Mr. Yoder's statement is included in the "Attachments – Board of Supervisors Minutes" notebook maintained in Administration).

Supervisor Eberly noted that Mr. Yoder called him to voice his concerns.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

SUP16-068 Faraway Farms, Inc., PO Box 336, McGaheysville 22840 for a tenant house (residence for farm worker) on property located on the north side of Three Springs Road (Route 652) approximately 9/10 mile east of Pineville Road (Route 672), Election District #5, Tax Map #141-(A)-148, zoned A-1. Property Address: 1963 Three Springs Road

Applicant Keith Sheets was present to answer questions.

Supervisor Breeden indicated he looked at the property with Mr. Sheets, who is vacating a property line and putting two properties together.

No one spoke in opposition to the request.

Chairman Kyger closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

Supervisor Eberly indicated he has issues with the supplemental conditions requested for 14 employees and nine vehicles. Fort Lynne Road is a narrow, crooked road that does not need numerous businesses. While this is not a big business, Supervisor Eberly said it is not a two-man operation. Increased traffic on the road also bothers him. He wants to table the request until the April 27, 2016, meeting to consider the supplemental conditions further.

On motion by Supervisor Eberly seconded by Supervisor Chandler and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER - AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board tabled SUP16-066, Cornerstone Foundation, Inc., 5244 Prospect Knoll Drive, Linville 22834 for a contractor's operation with waivers to supplemental standards to allow an increase in the number of employees from 5 to 14 and to allow an increase in the number of vehicles and

pieces of equipment kept on the property from 5 to 9, on property located on the east side of Fort Lynne Road (Route 910) approximately 1.1 miles north of Mt. Clinton Pike (Route 763), Election District #2, Tax Map #93-(A)-89F, zoned A-2, until April 27, 2016.

On motion by Supervisor Breeden seconded by Supervisor Cuevas and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER - AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board, with the following conditions, approved SUP16-068, Faraway Farms, Inc., PO Box 336, McGaheysville 22840 for a tenant house (residence for farm worker) on property located on the north side of Three Springs Road (Route 652) approximately 9/10 mile east of Pineville Road (Route 672), Election District #5, Tax Map #141-(A)-148, zoned A-1. Property Address: 1963 Three Springs Road

1. Use shall be located in substantial accordance to plot plan submitted with the application.
2. Any alterations or remodeling to residence shall comply with the Statewide Building Code and the proper permits shall be obtained.
3. Approval of this request would allow the applicant to do an adjoining land transfer of part of one farm to another putting a second residence on the property.
4. Residence associated with this property shall be used for a farm worker.

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ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

At 6:26 p.m., Chairman Kyger opened the public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance amendment to Rockingham County Code Section 7-21, Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled.

Administrator Paxton reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment, which will increase the income and net worth numbers in the County Code by \$3,000 each. The Board and Finance Committee request that the County periodically examine this Code section to take inflation and the increase in social security into account. As income increases, citizens can lose a significant amount of their tax exemption. Administrator Paxton noted the proposed ordinance amendment was advertised.

Chairman Kyger confirmed that the numbers are based on a scale index. A home and lot (up to an acre) are exempt from the net worth, but the ordinance considers liabilities when factoring in net worth.

In response to a question from Supervisor Breeden, Administrator Paxton said the County's ordinance for tax relief for the elderly and disabled was last reviewed in 2012.

Supervisor Breeden and Chairman Kyger discussed that the numbers should be reviewed every five years or any time there is an increase in social security payments.

In response to a question from Chairman Kyger, Administrator Paxton said tax relief cannot be tied to a consumer price index (CPI) with a social security increase because the statute sets the limits. The Finance Committee discussed additional steps so citizens with a slight increase in social security income do not incur a significant negative impact in their tax relief. Administrator Paxton said these steps will be considered during the reassessment to include additional indices. The Technology Department plans to develop a computer program that will perform the calculations.

No one spoke in favor or opposition to the proposed ordinance amendment.

Chairman Kyger closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, on motion by Supervisor Cuevas, seconded by Supervisor Breeden and carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN - AYE; CHANDLER - AYE; CUEVAS - AYE; EBERLY - AYE; KYGER - AYE; the Board approved the following ordinance amendment:

**ORDINANCE REPEALING
AND RE-ENACTING
SECTION 7-21
OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

Sec. 7–21. Amount of exemption, be and hereby is repealed and re-enacted as follows:

Sec. 7–21. Amount of exemption. Persons qualifying for and claiming exemption shall be relieved of that portion of the real estate tax levied on the qualifying dwelling and land in the amount calculated in accordance with the following schedule:

AMOUNT OF EXEMPTION

<i>Range of Income</i>	<i>Range of Net Worth</i>		
	<i>0 to \$38,000</i>	<i>\$38,001 to \$58,000</i>	<i>\$58,001 to \$78,000</i>
0 to \$18,000	100%	75%	50%
\$18,001 to \$23,000	80%	65%	40%
\$23,001 to \$30,000	50%	40%	30%
\$30,001 to \$38,000	25%	15%	10%
Over \$38,000	0%	0%	0%

Subsection 7–21(b) is repealed in its entirety.

This ordinance shall be effective as of the 1st day of January, 2016.

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**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017
AND PROPOSED TAX RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016.**

At 6:31 p.m., Chairman Kyger 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 2016-2017, and Proposed Tax Rates for the Calendar Year 2016, as follows:

**COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, VIRGINIA
 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2016,
 AND PROPOSED TAX RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2016**

REVENUES

	AMENDED FY 2015-16	PROPOSED FY 2016-17
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
General Property Taxes	\$ 75,539,000	\$ 79,562,500
Other Local Taxes	10,216,300	10,991,300
Other Local Revenue	10,916,672	12,365,206
State Revenue	17,865,512	17,127,694
Federal Revenue	1,200,555	1,218,323
Insurance Recoveries	15,675	0
Transfers from Other Funds	0	0
Balance Carried Forward	5,532,617	4,671,185
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 121,286,331	\$ 125,936,207
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 10,063,000	\$ 8,988,458
School Capital Projects Fund	1,739,000	3,849,500
School Fund	124,770,834	131,434,538
School Cafeteria Fund	5,368,279	5,396,946
School Textbook Fund	662,000	0
Massanutten Technical Center	5,190,731	5,536,364
Asset Forfeiture Fund	130,000	115,900
H'burg-Rockingham Soc Services District	16,861,442	17,803,052
H'burg-Rockingham Children's Services Act	9,622,556	9,235,150
Central Stores Fund	45,000	45,000
Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan Fund	23,720,000	27,810,885
Water & Sewer Utilities Fund	13,754,357	13,069,609
Lilly Subdivision Sanitary District	56,754	53,958
Smith Creek Water & Wastewater Auth	411,266	414,999
Countryside Sanitary District	18,910	19,145
Penn Laird Sewer Authority	29,037	29,031
Solid Waste Fund	7,257,136	9,601,261
Laird L Conrad Law Library Fund	50,585	50,585
Human Resources Rental Fund	232,774	232,774
Emergency Medical Services Transp Fund	1,312,926	1,312,926
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 342,582,918	\$ 360,936,288

EXPENDITURES

	AMENDED FY 2015-16	PROPOSED FY 2016-17
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
General Government Administration	\$ 5,898,238	\$ 6,443,527
Judicial Administration	4,091,914	3,829,324
Public Safety	26,245,138	29,008,738
Public Works	2,466,795	3,527,272
Human Services	1,970,359	2,058,838
Parks, Recreation & Cultural	2,344,681	2,407,829
Community Development	3,006,148	2,823,158
Contributions	505,944	518,394
Contingency	500,000	500,000
Other Expenses	145,000	195,000
Transfers to Other Funds	62,630,595	63,254,360
Debt Service – County	2,284,843	2,220,801
Debt Service – Schools	9,196,676	9,148,965
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 121,286,331	\$ 125,936,207
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 10,063,000	\$ 8,988,458
School Capital Projects Fund	1,739,000	3,849,500
School Fund	124,770,834	131,434,538

School Cafeteria Fund	5,368,279	5,396,946
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Emergency Medical Services Transp Fund	1,312,926	1,312,926
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 342,582,918	\$ 360,936,288

**School Textbook Fund consolidated into School Operating Fund in FY17

PROPOSED TAX RATES

<u>Classification of Tax</u>	Actual 2015	Proposed 2016
Real Estate	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.70
Manufactured Home	0.68	0.70
Countryside Sanitary District	0.29	0.29
Personal Property	2.90	2.90
Recreational Vehicles	2.90	2.90
Machinery & Tools	2.55	2.55
Merchants Capital	0.87	0.87
Farm Machinery	0.44	0.44

Property taxes are levied for each one hundred dollars of assessed value as of January 1. Property is assessed at fair market value for all classes, except personal property vehicles, which are assessed at loan value, and merchants capital, which is based on 67% of fair market value. Tax rates are effective January 1.

Administrator Paxton provided the following presentation on the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget:

When the Board started looking at the budget, they reviewed where Rockingham County wants to be in the year 2020, and the services citizens use each day. Services such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, schools, courts, child and adult protective services, recreation and many other programs offered by the County, protect and enhance the quality of life for citizens and the community where they live. The Board has a tough task to establish an affordable program that meets the priorities necessary to achieve a high quality of services that are important to enhance quality of life, and promote the community as a place where businesses, from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies, want to locate.

Administrator Paxton noted there are a number of challenges facing the County:

- Revenue growth has not kept pace with the increased cost of providing services. The State and Federal governments have passed more costs to the local level, forcing counties and cities to raise revenue to provide services.
- County and school facilities require capital maintenance and replacement.
- There is an increased cost to provide benefits for today's workforce – The Board and School Board has to determine the right mix of pay for employees.

- Growth and diversity of the population impact services. There is also an impact on facilities, equipment and the workforce.
- Increased emergency calls affect Fire and Rescue and law enforcement, starting with the increase in calls to the Emergency Communications Center and extending to the court and jail system.

In March of 2014, the Board created a 2020 plan to examine the following areas:

- Education, which included the digital conversion, renovations to schools and replacement of buses.
- Public safety looked at corrections and alternatives to incarceration, as well as the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, emergency response stations and emergency equipment.
- Public Works looked at road construction and the fact that the State no longer provides funding to cover the entire cost of road infrastructure and repairs. They also looked at the maintenance of County facilities, water & sewer utilities and the ability to provide enough water for expansion and treat wastewater. The landfill needs to be maintained so citizens have a place to put waste.
- A district Court expansion program is needed in the next three to five years.
- A County park (Albert Long Park) is currently under development.
- Technology upgrades are needed for the equipment that runs the County's operations.

The FY 2016-2017 proposed budget is \$360.9 versus the FY 2015-2016 amended budget of \$342.5, which amounts to a 5.4 percent increase. The significant increase is attributed to the capital budgets, as the General Fund and School Funds both increased slightly over three percent. The General Fund increase is primarily due to higher public safety costs, and the School Fund increase is due to implementation of the educational technology initiative. The Capital Funds increased 8.8 percent, Utility & Solid Waste Funds increased 7.7 percent and Other Funds increased 16 percent, some of which is due to the accounting and is not an actual increase, Administrator Paxton noted.

Phase I of education facility improvements will begin in the next year at a total cost of \$23.4 million to remodel John Wayland and Pleasant Valley elementary schools and construct a new alternative learning school on the Pleasant Valley Elementary School property between Pleasant Valley Elementary and Massanutten Technical Center. This school will replace the Dayton Learning Center.

Technology in schools is the number one priority for the School Board and Board of Supervisors. Phase III of the school instructional technology initiative will provide computer tablets to all middle school students at a cost of almost \$1.6 million, which will be an ongoing cost each year. A tablet implementation at the high schools next year will cost between \$2 and \$2.5 million. The last phase, at the elementary school level, for classroom equipment for younger grades and tablets for third to fifth grade students, will cost \$1.5 million. The total expenditure on technology over the next three years will amount to \$5 to \$6 million in net ongoing costs of operation for the school division. There will be some savings from the current technology program to reduce that amount.

The next major budget initiative is public safety. A year ago, the County and City entered into an agreement with Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County to become a member of the Middle River Regional Jail. The FY 16 - 17 budget includes \$2 million as the County's proposed payments to Middle River next year. There is an additional \$9 million in the budget for the Rockingham Regional Jail that is split 50/50 between the County and City. There is also \$250,000 in the budget for alternative programs for the Justice System (day reporting, additional health services in the jail, a mobile crisis team based out of the jail when law enforcement officers need assistance on site).

Four certified road deputies are included in the budget to provide one additional deputy per shift to have six deputies on duty at all times. There will also be a Corporal and Sergeant per shift to supplement them. The Sheriff's Office has 75 vehicles that are

replaced on a five to seven-year cycle, based on their maintenance needs. There is a third year salary supplement included in the budget for deputies and correctional officers. The total is approximately \$800,000.

The Board authorized the application for a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If awarded the grant, nine emergency responder positions will be added (six in the Hose Company Number 4 response area and three in the Bridgewater area). Since these employees work 24 hours, this provides one additional person on a 24-hour basis for Bridgewater and two for Hose Company Number 4. The County applied for six positions through this grant last year but did not receive any funding. If the grant is not approved this year, the County will need to look at other means of revenue to fund the additional responders. There is also funding to replace some emergency services equipment and money in the capital fund for an emergency services response station in the area east of the City limits. The County will work with Hose Company Number 4 on this station to have volunteer and County staff at the station. The County will consider the current Hose Company Number 4 site on Port Republic Road and other sites in the area when locating the new facility.

Two adult protective service workers are included in the Social Services budget to address the serious increase in adult claims such as fraud, poverty and increased Medicaid claims in adult care assisted living facilities. A social worker is required to visit those adult care facilities on a monthly basis. The final phase of salary increases for social workers is also included in the budget.

Capital maintenance projects include:

- Repairs to the heating and air conditioning system, lighting and generator at the Rockingham Regional Jail
- Upgrading the elevator in the Court House
- Storage needed for records retention and a shop building for Maintenance
- Safety improvements in the Courts and Administration buildings
- Generator for the County's technology data center
- Improvements at the Singers Glen property owned by the County

All the capital maintenance projects are recommended to be funded with capital reserves, but some will be delayed until at least January 2017, to provide the Board and staff an opportunity to look at economic activity and determine whether to proceed with the projects or delay them until a later date. Administrator Paxton advised that over the next twelve to twenty-four months the majority of the maintenance projects need to be addressed.

There are two major projects in the utilities area:

- Increase the finish pump capacity from 3.67 to 4.0 million gallons a day (Three Springs and Montevideo) at a cost of \$500,000
- Upgrade lines and install a tank in the McGaheysville area on a system acquired about thirty years ago at a cost of \$6.1 million

There is \$6.5 million included in the landfill budget to relocate the entrance, move the scales, add a new wash station and area for residents to dispose of their waste, and build a new solid waste disposal cell.

Additional space for the operations of the court system is not included in the proposed FY 16 – 17 budget. District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court are full, and there is not enough courtroom space for the judges during daylight hours. The County may need to look at better utilizing the facilities by extending the hours to hold court (i.e., night court for traffic cases). Additional space will be needed in the next three to five years.

There is \$4.6 million in the budget for a 2 percent increase in pay for County and School Division employees and for increased costs in fringe benefits for the County and School Division.

Local tax dollars are spent on public safety, education, youth and families, and courts and justice. The fastest growing part of the budget is fire and rescue, law enforcement and the courts.

The County received a AAA bond rating in 2015 from Standard & Poor's. Administrator Paxton said it is important for the County to maintain the AAA bond rating and protect the AA+ rating from Moody's and Fitch because it shows the County has a solid financial position with strong financial policies. A key reason to maintain those ratings is to show the County is well managed when trying to attract new business. It also indicates to prospective businesses that the Board and management ensure current "on-going" expenses are funded with "recurring" revenue.

The proposed FY 16 – 17 budget includes a two-cent real estate tax increase for 2016, and increase from \$.68 to \$.70 per \$100 of assess value, which is one cent below the real estate tax rate in 2000. The impact of the tax increase on a family depends on the value of their real estate. The average value of real estate in the County is \$210,000, which will amount to an increase of \$42 a year.

Administrator Paxton closed by reading the following quote from Stephen Covey, "We do make a difference - one way or the other. We are responsible for the impact of our lives. Whatever we do with whatever we have, we leave behind us a legacy for those who follow." Administrator Paxton said the kind of legacy we want to leave is about our youth and our grandchildren. We want to make sure the community we leave for tomorrow is as good as or better than what we have today. The way we go about doing that is planning. The Board of Supervisors, with direction from the Finance Committee, has done a good job of trying to look forward.

Rockingham is one of the few counties Administrator Paxton is aware of in Virginia that has a five-year operational plan to give the Board and citizens guidance. It also provides some level of certainty for businesses as they consider relocating to the County. He hopes the County, as it moves forward through this budget process and the future, will continue to follow the leadership the current Board started with the five-year planning process.

At 6:55 p.m., Chairman Kyger opened the floor for public comment.

Dr. Carol S. Fenn, Rockingham County School Superintendent, thanked Chairman Kyger, members of the Board and Administrator Paxton for their continued support. The Board's knowledge and recognition of the Schools' role is always supportive and outstanding, she said.

Dr. Fenn, introduced School Board Members, Chair Renee Reed (District 3) and Charlotte McQuilkin (District 4), as well as Assistant Superintendent Dr. Doug Alderfer, Director of Finance Cheryl Mast, East Rockingham High School Principal Eric Baylor, and Director of Innovation and Learning Dr. Larry Shifflett.

Supervisor Breeden thanked the School Board members for attending the meeting, and noted that several School Board members were ill and unable to attend.

Sheriff Bryan F. Hutcheson indicated it is an honor to serve such a great community. His office is grateful for the support from the Board. Funding is received from the State and City, but the County contributes a significant portion of the funds for the Sheriff's Department.

He noted that last year the County and City partnered with Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ). The Rockingham Regional Jail (RRJ) transferred 150 inmates to Middle River on July 1, 2015, which freed up limited space for the RRJ to create a mental health pod so the Community Services Board (CSB) could provide 14 inmates with better mental health services. In the second half of 2015, the CSB provided 556 individual visits to inmates who were determined to be in need, 40 group visits and classes provided on DVD.

In 2015, the RRJ averaged 309 inmates and MRRJ averaged 129 for a total of 438. Administrator Paxton reported during his budget presentation that as of April 11, 2016, there were 328 inmates in the RRJ and 180 housed at MRRJ, for a total inmate population of 508.

In summarizing other activities in the Sheriff's Department for 2015, Sheriff Hutcheson indicated there were 25,081 calls for service, 615 criminal investigations, 1,291 court security sessions, 1,871 in-state transports, 58 out-of-state transports, including California, Maine, Texas, Colorado and Puerto Rico. The department provided 352 video conferences during hearings to reduce the number of inmates transported to court, and the civil division served over 32,000 papers and issued almost 2,500 protective orders.

Sheriff Hutcheson noted staffing remains his top budget priority. Currently, the Sheriff's Department has one less position than in 2008. Since 2008, the City population has grown from 45,000 to 55,000, and the County population increased from 75,000 to 80,000. Patrol calls increased from 19,000 in 2008 to over 25,000 in 2015. The nature of the calls has also changed with a larger student population.

Sheriff Hutcheson expressed his appreciation to the Board for their continued support, and indicated his department will continue to provide a high level of customer service in the community. He closed by stating it has been a pleasure and honor to work with Administrator Paxton, and noted he has learned a lot from him over the last five years.

Commonwealth's Attorney Marsha L. Garst said she has enjoyed working with Administrator Paxton. She tells her new staff members that, "Mr. Paxton spends each dime as if it's his own", which is a great compliment for a County Administrator, she said.

She thanked the School Board for the excellent education they provide to children in the community.

Ms. Garst reported her office ranked among the top three Commonwealth's Attorney Offices in Virginia for felony convictions over the last three years. Last year her office prosecuted over 10,000 cases for Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg. Capital murder cases are unique challenges, which require a different level of expertise and resources. Her office has relocated victims in their last several murder cases because the victims' lives were threatened. She noted the state cut witness and victim relocation funding, and thanked the County for stepping up to keep victims and witnesses safe. Ms. Garst stated it has been difficult to maintain qualified attorneys with the increased caseload and current salary rates. She appreciates the County seeking grant assistance and supplementing salaries for attorneys in her office.

Ms. Garst indicated that while no one likes tax increases, no one likes murders, rapes and robberies. She thanked the Board again for making sure she can staff her office to help provide a safer community.

Since Gwyenth Brandt, who lives in McGaheysville and has a son who attends Elkton Middle School had to leave, Debby Hopkins read Ms. Brandt's statement thanking the Board and community for supporting the Rockingham County Public Schools. She

appreciates the Board's commitment to allocate the funds necessary to ensure quality education and services are available.

Kendria Sigmon, a PTA president with two children at Peak View Elementary, said she hears from parents how proud they are of the Rockingham County Public School system and what each school offers children. She is happy to see support for the digital conversation in the budget and excited that the digital conversation will extend to elementary schools next year. Ms. Sigmon indicated the digital initiative, two percent salary increase for teachers and staff, along with the proposal to restore the master's degree program, are of great importance. She asked the Board to continue their support and necessary funding to maintain an outstanding school system. She also thanked Dr. Fenn and school staff for their guidance and leadership in preparing students for the future.

Debby Hopkins, a workforce officer for Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board who visits employers between Winchester and Buena Vista, indicated the number one concern for businesses wanting to expand and relocate is the workforce. She has found that Virginia is well known for Rockingham County's technology. Ms. Hopkins requested continued funding for Massanutten Technical Center because college and technical training are extremely important to workforce companies.

As a parent of two graduates of Spotswood High School and a current East Rockingham High School student, Ms. Hopkins said technology is at the root of all classes from pre-calculus lectures recorded online to Power School, which keeps parents informed, to reviewing the budget online. She asked that the School Board ensure teachers are engaged with salary increases and reviews. Ms. Hopkins indicated her support of the budget and hopes the County will provide Schools with the funding requested.

Chairman Kyger stated that once children learn to read, they can read to learn. Children's most productive years, when their brains are "sponges", occur from birth to third grade. Most learning in a person's life transpires in those few short years so there is a need for the state and federal government to understand the pre-K concept.

Jonathan Kibler, Elkton Volunteer Fire Company Fire Chief, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and noted he has enjoyed working with Administrator Paxton over the last 10 years. Chief Kibler stated the proposed budget contains aspects of the three items he considers key to emergency services: special people, special training and special equipment. He is glad the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) replacement program, which provides critical apparatus, is in the budget this year, and asked the Board to continue supporting this ongoing expense. Volunteers have provided their apparatus for many years and the escalating cost and requirements on volunteers make it difficult for them to provide the apparatus. Special training requirements have also escalated and this budget has increases in training funds for career and volunteer people. Chief Kibler is appreciative of the increased funding but indicated more funding is needed.

Chief Kibler addressed special people. He said changes in society and requirements at home have reduced volunteers. He sees hope that service to the community is starting to become more important again. He said the budget could help special people by providing equipment so volunteers do not need to solicit money. The SAFER grant would be great to supplement funding; but if it is not awarded, the services need to be covered from the general fund. Chief Kibler closed by stating prevention and public education programs are critical to prevent calls. Prevention programs need to be expanded, particularly for children and the elderly.

Chairman Kyger thanked Chief Kibler and indicated the Virginia Department of Fire Programs fire study provided an excellent report and recommendations to implement.

Beth Bland, Director of Senior Services for Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, said VPAS provides services to support independent living and healthy aging for adults 60 and over. They provide informational assistance and referral, Meals on Wheels, personal peer services, adult daycare, assistance with Medicaid, transportation to medical appointments, and other services. Ms. Bland

indicated the number of Rockingham County seniors accessing services through VPAS increased 16 percent in the last year, with 23,000 meals provided to County residents. By 2030, more than 20 percent of US residents are projected to be 65 or older. Citizens are living longer with chronic conditions, limited financial resources, less independence and social isolation. With the Board's financial support, VPAS continues to respond to the needs of the aging community. Ms. Bland thanked the Board for their past support and asked for continued support.

Julie Green, a local business owner and mother of two daughters, thanked the Board for everything they handle on a daily basis and their dedication to education by helping the School Board move forward into innovative areas such as the technology program. Her oldest daughter participated in the technology pilot program so she was able to witness the excitement and enthusiasm created for students when they are provided with digital tablets that help prepare them for the future. Ms. Green graduated from Spotswood High School, moved away and returned to the area because she wanted to raise her children in a community where she knew others were looking out for their education and public safety. Ms. Green thanked the Board for everything they have done and encouraged them to continue supporting education and public safety through innovative means.

Penny Imeson, Executive Director of the Heritage Museum, home of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society in Dayton, thanked the Board for their support of education in the community. She indicated education is a major part of the Heritage Museum's mission to collect, preserve and share, as sharing is education. She indicated the museum is providing a broader understanding of the community and attracting people who want to learn about Rockingham County. Ms. Imeson indicated visitations continue to increase each year. Most visitors are adults traveling to the area, but they also host more school field trips and receive visits from college students and others researching history. The museum is partnering with local businesses and non-profits in the community, and recently received a marketing grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation in collaboration with the Town of Dayton, the Dayton Market and Silver Lake Mill.

In 2015, over a dozen lectures and events were offered by the museum. Programs and exhibits rely on information donated to them over the years and maintained in their library, including thousands of photographs, books and other collections. Each of these items receives the best care the museum can provide so they will last for future generations. Ms. Imeson noted the museum facility is over 20 years old and preservation standards have changed. Last year they replaced their textile collection storage but many objects are kept in wooden, painted cabinets that are not a good means to preserve these items. This year, the trustees request special consideration for a one-time investment to the collections renovation project.

Libby Orebaugh, President of the Hose Company Number 4 Volunteer Fire Company, indicated Hose Company Number 4 is celebrating 125 years of protecting County citizens and property. She noted they were the first fire company in the County. Ms. Orebaugh expressed appreciation for funding to provide staffing, training and equipment. She said the membership of Hose Company Number 4 would enjoy the possibility of being involved in a new station in their service area, and hopes there can be a joint effort between the two stations. Their membership wants to ensure citizens and businesses in their response area are served during emergencies in the best manner possible. She thanked the Board for their continued support of volunteers and Hose Company Number 4.

Ruth Jost, speaking as a community volunteer on the Harrisonburg Rockingham Page Re-entry Council, teaches a series of workshops in the Rockingham Regional Jail and she appreciates the cooperation received from the Sheriff's office. She is also part of a citizen's group that observes court hearings to learn what transpires in the court system.

She was pleased with references made regarding steps made in the community with day reporting, crisis intervention and mental health services. Ms. Jost asked the Board to take another step for restorative justice, which she prefers to refer to as "accountable

justice". She indicated "accountable justice" costs a little and saves a lot as it brings parties associated with low-level, non-violent crimes together so the person wronged can tell the perpetrator how they were affected and what the perpetrator must do to make things right. The perpetrator has to acknowledge what they have done. Ms. Jost said research shows that in most cases, restitution is paid at a higher rate because the perpetrator understands what they have done wrong, who they violated and corrects the wrongdoing. She said substantial costs are incurred when people are incarcerated. People in the community can take training to assist perpetrators so they are able to continue working, paying taxes and supporting their families instead of being incarcerated. Ms. Jost reiterated her appreciation for the community starting the process, and said she hopes "accountable justice" can be considered.

Chairman Kyger indicated there is a nationwide movement toward restorative or "accountable justice". He said everybody has to be accountable for their actions and the first way is to own their actions and accept responsibility. He informed Ms. Jost that he understands what she is saying and he appreciates the assistance she has provided.

At 7:46 p.m., Chairman Kyger closed the public hearing.

Administrator Paxton noted the Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Rockingham County Administration Center to consider adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2016-17 and to establish property tax rates for calendar year 2016.

Chairman Kyger thanked the citizens for attending the budget hearing and sacrificing their time to express their feelings regarding the budget.

Supervisor Cuevas thanked staff and department heads for their work on the budget.

Chairman Kyger also thanked Rockingham County Public Schools for their continued cooperation and communication. Everyone understands the importance of an excellent education system. Leading edge education is needed to provide jobs for citizens and attract business. He said a lot has to do with what teachers are doing every day in the classroom.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Kyger thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work in presenting a balanced budget. Thanks to all County staff and Constitutional Officers for their support, and to all the agencies that spoke tonight.

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ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Kyger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Chairman