

Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

March 28, 2017

Budget Work Session

Madison J. Bunting, Jr., President
Diana Purnell, Vice President
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
James C. Church
Theodore J. Elder
Joseph M. Mitrecic
Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr.

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with Chief Administrative Officer Harold Higgins and Budget Officer Kathy Whited to conduct a work session to review the Worcester County Department and Agency Operating Budget Requests for FY18, as presented to the Commissioners during their March 21, 2017 meeting. The requested FY18 Operating Budget currently reflects estimated revenues of \$199,093,761, and requested general fund operating expenditures of \$204,013,601, which leaves a shortfall of \$4,919,840 that must be reconciled by either reductions in expenditures, additional revenues, or a combination of the two.

The Commissioners met with Superintendent of Schools Louis Taylor to review and discuss the Board of Education's (BOE) proposed FY18 Operating Budget of \$84,912,776, which reflects an increase of \$3,262,637 or 4% over the current year adopted budget, plus school construction debt of \$10,720,812 paid by the County on behalf of the BOE, which totals \$95,633,588. The BOE budget includes payroll increases of \$1,778,098 or 2.8% for all BOE staff, plus an increase in payroll taxes of \$136,025; an adjustment to starting teachers salaries of 2% from \$43,384 to \$44,257 annually; an increase of \$120,915 or 1% in the hourly and mileage rates for bus contractors, and an allotment to purchase new and three spare buses; \$46,052 increase for the local share of teacher pension/employee pensions; and \$710,447 increase for health insurance. Funding of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requires a minimum increase of \$2,387,012 for the BOE in FY18.

The Commissioners met with Finance Officer Phil Thompson to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Treasurer's Office Operating Budget of \$1,077,354, representing an increase of \$75,047 or 7%; Debt Service of \$12,318,270, representing an increase of \$368,845 or 3%; and Management Information Systems of \$125,204, representing an increase of \$8,479 or 7%.

The Commissioners met with Economic Development Director Merry Mears to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Economic Development Operating Budget of \$408,559, representing an increase of \$66,886 or 20%.

The Commissioners met with Warden Garry Mumford and Assistant Wardens Donna

Bounds and Fulton Holland, Jr. to review and discuss the proposed FY18 County Jail Operating Budget of \$9,586,934, representing an increase of \$711,389 or 8%.

The Commissioners met with Tourism Director Lisa Challenger to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Tourism Operating Budget of \$1,151,713, representing an increase of \$40,917 or 4%.

The Commissioners met with Fire Marshal Jeff McMahan to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Operating Budget of \$477,106 for the Fire Marshal's Office, representing an increase of \$32,735 or 7%, and the Fire Training Center budget request of \$48,157, representing an increase of \$14,307 or 42%.

The Commissioners met with Mr. McMahan and Emergency Services Director Fred Webster to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Funding Budget of \$7,154,440, representing an increase of \$536,556 or 8%.

The Commissioners met with Mr. Webster to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Emergency Services Operating Budget of \$3,033,934, representing an increase of \$509,180 or 20%.

The Commissioners met with Mr. Webster and Information Technology Manager Brian Jones to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Information Technology Budget of \$490,625, representing an increase of \$14,450 or 3%.

The Commissioners adjourned for lunch, after which they reconvened their budget work session.

The Commissioners met with State's Attorney Beau Oglesby to review and discuss the proposed FY18 State's Attorney's Office Operating Budget of \$1,366,462, representing an increase of \$67,470 or 5%.

The Commissioners met with Public Works Director John Tustin to review and discuss the proposed FY18 Public Works Administration Operating Budget of \$458,518, representing an increase of \$14,962 or 3%.

Maintenance Superintendent Ken Whited reviewed the proposed FY18 Operating Budget of \$1,027,177 for the Maintenance Division of Public Works, representing an increase of \$110,321 or 12%; the Boat Landings budget of \$121,515, representing a decrease of \$28,727 or -19%; and the Mosquito Control budget of \$218,122, representing an increase of \$69,343 or 47%.

Roads Superintendent Frank Adkins reviewed the requested FY18 Operating Budget of \$4,146,306 for the Roads Division of Public Works, representing an increase of \$480,368 or 13%.

Enterprise Fund Controller Jessica Ramsay and Solid Waste Manager Mike Mitchell reviewed the proposed FY18 Enterprise Fund Operating Budget of \$5,971,391 for the Solid

Waste Division of Public Works, representing an increase of \$352,037 or 6%. The proposed budget includes General Fund support of \$1,082,255 for Recycling, an increase of \$418,961, and \$643,176 for Homeowners Convenience Centers, an increase of \$138,671.

Public Works Deputy Director John Ross and Ms. Ramsay reviewed the proposed FY18 Enterprise Fund Operating Budget of \$10,946,741 for the Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works, representing an increase of \$368,379 or 3.5%.