

Summary – Board Budget Committee Meeting

April 21, 2017

Government Center – Conference Room 11

Committee Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Jeff McKay, Lee District (Committee Chair)
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Summary of Previous Meeting (March 28, 2017)

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/mar28-budget-summary.pdf>

April 21, 2017 Meeting Agenda:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/budget-committee-agenda-04-21-2017.pdf>

April 21, 2017 Meeting Materials:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2018/fy2018-budget-mark-up-package-draft-04-21-17.pdf>
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2018/fy2018-consideration-list-summary-as-of-april-21.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 P.M.

Today's agenda is a *Discussion of FY 2018 Budget Markup*. The proposed markup package is the first document linked above under *April 21, 2017 Meeting Materials*, while the second item linked above is a consideration item list as of April 21, 2017.

Presentation Highlights – Markup Package:

- Supervisor McKay thanks community for their input and begins to go through the markup package.
- FY 2017 Third Quarter Review is discussed – major change is restoration of funding for the Insight Memory Care Center for one year (FY 2018). The balance is available for Board consideration.
- The proposed FY 2018 Add-on adjustments are summarized. Overall, the strategy is to share the very small balance equitably with FCPS and County.

- Three major increases are noted: additional funding for FCPS, funding a portion of Diversion First, and restoring the reduction to eliminate the Community Readiness and Support Program. These increases are partially offset by an additional reduction in fuel.
- Other tax and fee adjustments are also noted, including the Phase I Dulles Rail Transportation Improvement District and the Tysons Service District.

Supervisor McKay then begins going through the proposed Budget Guidance for FY 2018 and FY 2019 in detail

Discussion:

- Supervisor Herrity asked for additional language on the Opioid Epidemic to be included in the section of items to be worked on by SCYPT (p.8). That suggestion is accepted.
- The Board began discussing employee compensation including the importance of market position of county pay scales and asks that that information for next year be provided to the Board as early as possible in the budget process. A discussion of total compensation and the importance of looking at both salary and benefits ensues. The Board states that this a critical issue moving forward and that employee groups will be included in the discussion on this topic.
- The next topic discussed was employee pensions. The Board reiterated its intention that current employees would see no changes other than possibly to the Deferred Retirement Option (DROP) program. The Board noted that DROP needs an additional focus on succession planning. The Board stated that they will need a deep dive into the numbers on pensions starting in June.
- The Board requested that staff continue to seek additional grant opportunities in support of the LOSAP program in the Fire and Rescue Department.
- A discussion ensued on Diversion First and five year fiscally constrained plans. A concern was raised about how realistic are five year plans? There was a concern raised about not wanting to put something on paper and then not having it be credible. The Board is committed to moving forward – with discussion centered on how do we do that in a fiscally responsible way and still have the intended program impact. Updating County plans based on recent experience is prudent, but the County is more likely to make progress if we present plans that take into account current fiscal constraints.
- For example, Diversion First could not have been funded in FY 2018 at \$5 million, but it was able to be funded at \$2 million. The FY 2016-FY 2020 Public Safety Staffing Plan was too big to fund, therefore progress has been limited. Can't develop policies without considering costs. Incremental investments are needed in numerous programs and the County won't be successful pitting big investments in one program against big investments in another.
- A discussion ensued on services for the developmentally disabled population in CSB. The Board is interested in looking at getting significant additional information with multiple service models to consider for employment and day services, with different levels of service/cost.
- An extended discussion of long term Metro funding requirements ensued. The Board had general agreement that a detailed discussion on this topic is required including the consideration of a dedicated funding source as Virginia localities don't have the tools in the toolbox to deal with this within their current funding sources. The Board finds consensus in adding a statement to the guidance about the importance of a safe and reliable Metro to the

- community. Additional consensus is reached that this issue requires a regional solution. Fairfax County should be prepared to use its weight as the largest local jurisdiction served by Metro, but there is recognition that Fairfax is but one of many with a stake in this issue. Eventually, Metro Compact amendments (at the state, DC, Federal level) is how specific changes will eventually get made. Those studying the issue don't have to pay for it in the end.
- A briefing on CIP and debt limits will be added to a future budget committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Board Budget Committee is scheduled for 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, 6/13/2017.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 P.M.