

At a work session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren held in the Warren County Government Center on April 4, 2017 at or about 9:57 AM.

Present: Linda P. Glavis, Chair (South River District); Tony F. Carter, Vice-Chair (Happy Creek District); Archie A. Fox, (Fork District); Daniel J. Murray, Jr. (North River District); and Thomas H. Sayre (Shenandoah District); also Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Robert B. Childress, Deputy County Administrator; Dan N. Whitten, County Attorney; André T. Fletcher, Acting Finance Director; Taryn G. Logan, Planning Director; David H. Beahm, Building Official; Matt Wendling, Planner; Brandy L. Rosser, Grants & Special Projects Coordinator; Alex Bridges, Northern Virginia Daily; Roger Bianchini, Royal Examiner and The River; Tim Ratigan, Warren Report; and Josh Gully, Warren Sentinel

Absent: None

Discussion - Review of Outside Agency Budget Request

Mr. Sayre asked if there was a specific reason for the 12.5% budget increase for Blue Ridge Legal Services. Mr. Carter and Mr. Stanley both responded that their budget is population based - \$1.00 per person who meets the poverty criteria. Mr. Stanley continued that the budget does not get recalculated every year, so this year's budget is catching up to the correct population data.

Mr. Murray commented that if the Board expects the internal agencies to cut their budgets, the same should be expected of outside agencies as well. Mr. Stanley responded that most outside agencies were asked to keep their budgets a flat rate similar to last fiscal year, and most complied. He further commented that some outside agencies' budgets decreased from last fiscal year, such as Lord Fairfax Community College.

There was discussion regarding the \$28,000 budget increase for Samuels Public Library, the fund balance, the health and dental rates, and a 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) salary increase for County employees.

Discussion - Request for Exemption of Personal Property Tax for Active Military Service Personnel - Dan Whitten

Dan Whitten, County Attorney, reported that there is an act known as the Service Members Civil Relief Act that is often misrepresented as exempting all active military personnel from

personal property taxes. The Act rather states that if an active member of the military resides in one state and is relocated to Virginia on military orders, then he/she and spouse are exempt from personal property taxes in Virginia unless he/she decides to change voter registration, driver's registration, and income taxes to Virginia.

Mr. Whitten stated that an inquiry was received that if an individual is active military living in Warren County and has military orders in another state (not Virginia), would he/she be exempt from personal property tax. The answer is no, he/she would not be exempt unless the domicile was changes to the other state and not Virginia. Mr. Whitten researched the major metropolitan hubs in Virginia (Tidewater region, Richmond, and Northern Virginia) to see if there was an additional exemption from personal property taxes for active military personnel; he found no additional exemptions.

Mr. Sayre asked if Mr. Whitten had researched Fauquier County specifically due to his son-in-law being active military overseas and his daughter being having some sort of relief from personal property taxes while living in Fauquier County. Mr. Whitten states that he did not look at Fauquier County specifically but would be more than happy to research it. He further stated that Sherry Sours, Commissioner of the Revenue, offered to do additional research on the number of active military personnel in Warren County and the surrounding areas. Mr. Stanley stated that such an exemption would need to wait until the next fiscal year and budget season, should the Board choose to offer a percentage exemption. The consensus of the Board was not to pursue a personal property tax exemption for active military personnel.

Discussion - 2017 Board Goals List - Doug Stanley

Doug Stanley, County Administrator, thanked the Board for taking the time to review and score the goals on the list. He stated that 25 is the current threshold for goals to be on the list and mentioned that there are a few items not on the list that were not scored highly due to being currently ongoing and acted upon. He mentioned that an evaluation is underway for the Route 55 East corridor, the recommendations from which will be submitted to VDOT for funding, such as additional pavement markings, rumble strips, and signage to improve safety and visibility. Mr. Stanley briefly listed and provided necessary updates to all items on the goals list.

Mr. Carter suggested a monthly or quarterly review of the goals list to mark off projects as they are completed over the coming year.

Discussion - Town/County Liaison Committee Agenda Items - Doug Stanley

Mrs. Glavis confirmed the liaison meeting will be held in May in the Town of Front Royal and Mr. Fox would be representing the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Whitten mentioned that the extreme weather ordinance would be discussed as well as a towing ordinance.

Adjournment

Mrs. Glavis adjourned the meeting at or about 10:45 AM.