

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD A BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M., IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ROOM LOCATED IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 104, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH (ORDINANCE #21-06-2020)
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES
AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO
ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER

THERE WERE PRESENT:

Mike Carter
Tommy Cundiff
Leland Mitchell
Ronald Mitchell- arrived 3:25 PM
Lorie Smith
Tim Tatum, Vice- Chairman
Ronnie Thompson, Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator
Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator
Steve Sandy, Assistant County Administrator
Jim Guynn, Legal Counsel
Madeline L. Sefcik, CMC, Clerk

BUDGET WORK SESSION

FIRE APPARATUS REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Billy Ferguson, Director of Public Safety, spoke to the Board and explained the fire apparatus replacement schedule the County has in place.

Supervisor Tatum asked about the usage of a firetruck for over twenty years. He asked if this would hurt the County in ISO rating. Mr. Ferguson let the Board know that the vehicles can be used for thirty years if they are shifted to "reserve" status. Supervisor Cundiff asked who was responsible for keeping these trucks up to date and well-maintained. The answer was each individual station.

Supervisor Smith noted she is looking forward to the Board's summer planning session with Public Safety in regards to the apparatus replacement schedules. She wanted to voice that the way in which vehicles are purchased and used seem to reflect a lack of leadership.

Supervisor L. Mitchell voiced that he knows Snow Creek volunteer department facility is going to need some improvements in the coming years and he would like the Board to consider using the twice a year tax collection windfall to address these concerns.

Supervisor R. Mitchell noted the reason we are so behind on the maintenance of the vehicles is because the volunteers are sometimes required to choose between competing priorities, such as buying new tires or fixing a windshield, with limited funding. He thanked Mr. Ferguson for what was brought to the Board today and noted that he is very pleased.

Supervisor Carter asked if the County has a full accounting documentation of what the volunteer departments assets are. Mr. Brian Carter, Director of Finance and Human Services explained the

volunteers are subject to an audit every three years. Supervisor Carter would like the volunteer departments to be transparent if we are helping them fiscally.

Chairman Thompson asked what staff's recommendation would be to use the funds that have been set aside as reserves for COVID. Mr. Carter said we are probably in OK shape to accelerate the replacement of a firetruck. Chairman Thompson then asked how long it would take for delivery of a truck from the order date. Mr. Ferguson said anywhere from 365-420 days.

Supervisor Tatum asked when does the money need to be available to purchase the firetruck? Mr. Ferguson said the truck has not been spec'd out yet, but he has spoken with the Chief of the Burnt Chimney Fire Department on it. Supervisor Cundiff asked how long it will take to spec out this vehicle and Mr. Ferguson responded anywhere from one to four months depending on what Burnt Chimney wants/needs.

Supervisor Carter asked if the volunteers can select the vehicle type they want or does that decision fall under the Director of Public Safety. Supervisor Tatum thinks the Board needs to develop a base model truck and if the volunteer department wants something more expensive, then the volunteers need to make up the price difference with their own monies.

Supervisor Smith thinks if the Board can expedite the purchase, then she has no problem moving forward to purchase the truck using COVID reserve funds.

Chairman Thompson noted there are a few things that he has a problem with. The Board has set up rules and regulations that they have stuck by and he is afraid they are going to get in trouble by breaking these schedules. He is afraid if the Board continues this practice there will be financial consequences in the future. If the Board would like to change their Rules and Procedures, then that is a discussion for another day. He does not think the Board is being good stewards with the taxpayer's money by going out of order.

(RESOLUTION #16-03-2021)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors to wait until after July 1, 2021 (new fiscal year) to discuss the purchase of a new Burnt Chimney tanker.

MOTION BY: Tommy Cundiff
SECONDED BY: Leland Mitchell
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:
AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, Thompson
NAYS: R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum

CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION

Mr. Burnette, Assistant County Administrator, spoke to the Board and explained the opportunity of CDBG grant funding to address healthcare insecurity and food insecurity in the area for a total of \$100,000.

(RESOLUTION #16-03-2021)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors to proceed with making application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for \$100,000 in CDBG-CV funds to provide healthcare and food assistance to local citizens in partnership with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission, the Franklin County Free Clinic, STEP, and the Franklin County Aging Services Department.

MOTION BY: Lorie Smith
SECONDED BY: Tim Tatum
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:
AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson

OTHER

Supervisor L. Mitchell would like to see staff aid the Snow Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad and potentially asked for paid staff to be located there for the days that they volunteers are unable to be there. Supervisor R. Mitchell voiced his support for staff to look into this and the plausibility. *Consensus of the Board was reached to bring back a staff report in regard to the Snow Creek Rescue Squad and the cost figures for providing additional staff*

Supervisor R. Mitchell would like to hear some comments from the Board about what money may be allocated to the canneries. Supervisor Cundiff agreed with Supervisor R. Mitchell. Supervisor L. Mitchell also supports improving the canneries. Supervisor Cundiff wanted to thank staff for their work on the budget.

Supervisor Smith noted she thinks the appropriate process to move forward with the canneries is to have the schools give a report on the status of the canneries and what direction the school would like to go in order to improve the canneries. Just replacing a boiler is not a fix all. It is just the beginning. There are significant issues with the canneries and something that needs to be included in the long-term plan. We need to look at the fiscal impact long-term. Supervisor Tatum thinks the canneries are important to the community. He does not want the Board to give up on the canneries, but he would like to do it right. Supervisor Carter would like to see a cost analysis on the canneries before moving forward.

Supervisor Carter noted that DEQ is requesting additional permits for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. This may delay the project even further and he just wanted the Board to be aware.

Chairman Thompson noted he supports the canneries but would like to see more about the cost analysis and more options on how to proceed forward.

Supervisor Smith asked if the County has submitted the intervenor status to submit comments and if so, have we submitted comments. Mr. Whitlow responded and let the Board know the County is working on submitting comments before the deadline and has already filed to be an intervenor.

Recess thereafter until Monday, April 19th, 2021 at 3:30 PM for a Board of Supervisors Work Session.