

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2015

4:00 p.m.

County Government Center, Building A

1.) Roll Call

Present

Ms. Robin Bledsoe
Mr. Tim O'Connor
Mr. Rich Krapf
Mr. John Wright

Staff Present

Mr. Paul Holt
Ms. Tammy Rosario
Mr. José Ribeiro
Ms. Roberta Sulouff
Ms. Leanne Pollock

Others Present

Ms. Sue Mellen, FMS
Mr. John Carnifax, Parks & Recreation
Ms. Nancy Ellis, Parks & Recreation
Mr. John Horne, General Services
Ms. Fran Geissler, General Services

Mr. Tim O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.) Minutes

a. January 15, 2015

Ms. Robin Bledsoe moved to approve the January 15, 2015 minutes.

In a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved as submitted (4-0).

3.) Old Business

Mr. Paul Holt requested that the Committee review the information he provided them regarding the take-aways from the discussion on *Envision Hampton Roads* and respond with any comments or changes so that the information could be provided to the Planning Commission at its March meeting.

4.) New Business

a. FY 2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Review

Ms. Leanne Pollock provided an overview of the exception year CIP process and noted that the Williamsburg-James City County School requests should be submitted for review at the March 4, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting.

The Committee first reviewed two projects with new funding requests.

Mr. Holt provided an overview of the request for funds to be used as the local match for VDOT's Revenue Sharing program.

Mr. John Wright inquired how the price of gas and the gasoline tax would figure in the amount of State funding for transportation projects.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the tax is a fixed amount per gallon.

Mr. Holt noted that much of that revenue is being shifted to the region's mega-projects.

Mr. Wright inquired about the prioritization of the projects listed in the application.

Mr. Holt responded that because there is a cap on the amount of funds that can be requested under the Revenue Sharing program, the projects have been broken into phases for projects that can be completed under that cap for a stand-alone application.

Mr. Krapf inquired about the \$34 million that is earmarked for road improvements.

Mr. Holt responded that the \$34 million are RSTP funds allocated to the Skiffes Creek Connector project. Mr. Holt noted that if that project did not go forward, the funds would need to be reallocated to an appropriate project.

Mr. Krapf inquired about restrictions on the funds.

Mr. Holt responded that the funds would need to go to another RSTP project, which could be Longhill.

Ms. Robin Bledsoe inquired whether the five projects were included in the state Six Year Improvement Plan.

Mr. Holt responded that the projects did not rank high enough to be included in the state Six Year Plan; however, all of the projects are eligible candidates for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan which will be adopted early in 2016.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired whether approving the project match would improve the project standing for the Revenue Sharing program.

Mr. Holt confirmed.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired about what happens to the funds if the CIP request is approved but the project is not awarded Revenue Sharing funds.

Ms. Sue Mellen responded that the funds would remain available for transportation, but could be reallocated by the Board of Supervisors for a different use.

Mr. O'Connor inquired how the \$5 million would be funded.

Ms. Mellen stated that the mechanics of funding CIP requests is part of the Board's budget discussion.

Mr. John Horne stated that all the dollars are in the County's General Fund until the Board determines how much to allocate to the CIP and how much to allocate to operating costs.

Mr. O'Connor stated that one of the weighting criteria for CIP requests is whether the project has an impact on operating costs.

Ms. Mellen stated that the operating costs referred to continuing maintenance of the specific project. In the instance of VDOT matching funds, the County would not be responsible for ongoing maintenance, but did acknowledge that in so far as a CIP project used funds, the operating budget for the County would decrease.

Ms. Nancy Ellis provided an overview of the request for funding to construct a community gym on the Warhill Tract.

Mr. Krapf inquired how critical the timing is for funding and constructing the project.

Ms. Ellis noted that the facilities are already needed due to changes in school use of their own facilities which resulted in fewer hours that the County could use those facilities. There has also been an increase in demand for facility use by local non-school sports teams. If funding is approved this year, completion of the gym is still approximately three years out.

Mr. Krapf inquired whether staffing increases are anticipated.

Ms. Ellis stated that operating costs are estimated at \$193,000. A conservative estimate of revenue generated by the facility is \$73,000 to \$75,000 per year, leaving a net of \$120,000 to be funded by the County.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired how the staffing would work if the project were a public-private venture.

Ms. Ellis stated that it would depend on how the contract is written.

Mr. O'Connor inquired about the size of the facility.

Ms. Ellis stated that the facility was designed as three full size gyms. The design will be revisited because of updated building codes and needs; however, it will be a fairly bare-bones facility and not a competitive venue or indoor arena.

Mr. O'Connor inquired whether the facility would be able to support the sports tourism initiatives.

Ms. Ellis stated that there was some potential; however, the facility was envisioned more as a space to meet school and community needs. If the design is upgraded, it would result in additional capital costs.

Mr. O'Connor inquired about a previous Parks and Recreation request for additional office space in one location.

Ms. Ellis stated that the proposed office space was designed for a different building and that has been eliminated from the CIP and the funds have been reallocated.

Ms. Bledsoe asked for confirmation that the building's purpose was to meet community needs.

Ms. Ellis stated that the original design was for community needs. Ms. Ellis noted that this request includes additional funds for necessary redesign work. Ms. Ellis further stated the

pressing need is for practice facilities and that if the funding was sufficient to fit the building to accommodate sports tourism, it would be welcome.

Ms. Bledsoe stated that sports tourism has been an important part of the Comprehensive Plan discussions. Ms. Bledsoe inquired whether the redesign could potentially be for a larger facility and incorporate stadium seating.

Ms. Ellis stated that the groups that run the tournaments need a facility for practice space and regular games before they can consider hosting more tournaments.

Ms. Bledsoe stated that she would like to ensure that the facility will be built to accommodate future needs rather than being already too small by the time it is completed.

Mr. Horn inquired whether the \$7 million is an inflation of the previous design.

Ms. Ellis stated that the figure is a new cost estimate based on the previous design with some additional funding for redesign. Ms. Ellis stated that if a larger facility were proposed, it would be more expensive.

The Committee reviewed two projects which are currently in the adopted FY15-FY19 CIP but require modifications or additional funding.

Ms. Fran Geissler provided an overview of the request for additional funding for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan Implementation.

Mr. Wright inquired if the projects are all mandatory.

Ms. Geissler stated that each of the projects will generate the types of credits needed to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements in the County's permit.

Mr. Wright inquired if the requirements are both State and Federal.

Ms. Geissler stated that the Federal requirements are incorporated in the Federal permit.

Mr. O'Connor inquired whether the County keeps a score card for meeting those goals.

Ms. Geissler confirmed that the County is tracking progress, but noted that the permit requires accomplishing certain goals in the permit before the plan to achieve those goals has been approved. Ms. Geissler noted that the report would be completed in the summer. Ms. Geissler further stated that there is a fifteen year cycle and the County has to address the increasing requirements in advance. She noted that time frames to achieve longer-term goals got shorter as the cycle progresses so the County is trying to address as many goals as possible as early in the process as possible. Doing projects now is also less expensive than deferring the costs.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired when fines would occur.

Ms. Geissler stated that fines could kick in at any time if an audit was done and the County fell short of the requirements.

Mr. Wright inquired if the Yarmouth Creek and Powhatan Creek watersheds are the most critical.

Ms. Geissler stated that the highest priorities are the Skiffes Creek, Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek watersheds. Ms. Geissler further stated that certain parts of the County have been designated in the Census as urbanized, which is the focus area.

Mr. Krapf inquired about the health and safety impacts if the projects did not go forward.

Ms. Geissler responded that staff strives to implement projects that not only meet the requirements on paper but are also meaningful to the community. Ms. Geissler noted that the projects are important to the water quality for County residents.

Ms. Ellis provided an overview of the request for additional funds for the Chickahominy Riverfront Park Shoreline Stabilization.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired if there is active damaging erosion.

Ms. Ellis responded that there is a safety issue and several campsites are currently not usable and that the shoreline is actively continuing to erode.

Ms. Ellis noted that the initial figures for the project were based on implementing the Shaping Our Shores Master Plan. Ms. Ellis stated that the current figures reflect a design that is based on the existing conditions.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired about what would happen if the project were not implemented in the next three-to-five years.

Ms. Ellis responded that it would be necessary to take more campsites out of use and close down portions of the park.

Ms. Bledsoe inquired how soon this would happen.

Ms. Geissler responded that it would depend on storm activity. Ms. Geissler also stated that the project would generate a substantial amount of credits for the TMDL program. Ms. Geissler noted that the Stormwater Division did not have a good source for grant funding for this type of project; however, Parks and Recreation was able to secure a grant which would benefit both divisions.

Ms. Bledsoe asked for more detail on the credits.

Ms. Geissler stated that each ton of soil that is lost through erosion creates a huge impact. Ms. Geissler gave the example that if the shoreline is eroding at 200 tons per year and the stabilization project reduces that to two tons a year, that generates a 198 ton credit for sediment reduction. Ms. Geissler stated that reduction of phosphorus and nitrogen is associated with the reduction in sediment.

Mr. O'Connor inquired whether the beach will nourish itself as a result of the project.

Ms. Geissler stated that the design should allow the beach to replenish.

Mr. O'Connor inquired whether the slope would be armored.

Ms. Geissler stated that the breakwaters would do most of the work to prevent further erosion similar to the Jamestown Beach project.

Mr. Wright inquired whether the breakwaters would be visible.

Ms. Geissler responded that they would be visible.

Mr. O'Connor inquired if there were any further questions or comments about any of the projects.

Ms. Bledsoe stated that she hoped that transportation funds would remain with the project they were awarded to rather than being transferred to another project.

Mr. O'Connor stated that this could be included in the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Wright inquired whether the County put funds in a reserve for maintenance.

Mr. Horne stated that the County does not own or maintain the roads.

Mr. Holt stated that other than individual projects, there is no regular County funding allocated for road improvements.

Mr. O'Connor stated that it appears that the County Administrator is working to establish a reserve so that when State funds become available, the County will be prepared to apply for those funds.

Mr. O'Connor thanked the Committee and staff for their participation in the process.

Ms. Pollock stated that members can begin filling out the weighting sheet for the projects already reviewed since each project is considered on its own merit. Ms. Pollock requested that members provide their scores prior to the March 4 meeting.

5.) **Adjournment**

Mr. Krapf, Ms. Bledsoe and Mr. Wright made a joint motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:56 p.m.



Tim O'Connor