

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Larry Pritchett, Treasurer
Debbie Williams, Commissioner of the Revenue
Lori Hayes, Board Member
Kevin Marshall, Board Member
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator
Bonnie Jewell, Assistant County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer

OTHER COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager
Julie Elliott, Budget Manager
Barbara Verhaalen, Budget Analyst

SCHOOLS' STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Prashant Shrestha, Chief Business Official
Malysa Rhodes, Finance Director
Kenny Forrest, Executive Director of Operations

New Business:**Grant Application Request for Federal RAISE Transportation Funds**

Bonnie Jewell, Assistant County Administrator, reported that the County has the opportunity to apply to the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants program in an effort to achieve funding for the transportation projects needed and planned in the area of the new VA Health Care Clinic. Ms. Jewell noted that both the Transportation Committee and the Board have previously supported the County's applications to this grant program. She also explained that while the County's RAISE grant application for this project was not selected for funding last year, staff recently debriefed with Federal Highway Administration staff and were encouraged to strengthen the application in a few areas and reapply for the same project for the 2022 RAISE grant program.

The allowable funding request amounts for the program are currently in process of being updated by the federal government and will likely be in the range of \$1M - \$5M this round. The program does not require a local match, but at least a 20% match is preferred. Because these are projects the County has committed to associated with the new VA Health Care Clinic, matching funds are planned as part of the CIP.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the request to apply for the grant.

Budget Adjustment & Appropriation for Additional Federal Support of School Food Services Program

Prashant Shrestha, Schools' Chief Business Official, reminded Committee members that the federal government initiated a new meal program to ensure students and families in local communities would have access to food during the pandemic. Consequently, Spotsylvania County Public Schools (SCPS) began a federally-funded, expanded meal program in October 2020 to include breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner for anyone under the age of 18 in the community. The federal funding for this meal program was extended into FY 2022, enabling the SCPS Food Service Department to continue providing meals for all students and additional meals to our community at weekly meal pickup sites at no charge. As of February 24, 2022, SCPS had served over 3.9 million meals to our students and the local community.

Expanded Program Meals Served as of February 24, 2022	
Student Breakfast	1,512,248
Student Lunch	1,809,758
Wednesday Food Distribution: Supper Program	294,559
Wednesday Food Distribution: Snack Program	294,559
Total	3,911,124

Due to the continuation of the federally-funded meals program, additional appropriation is needed in FY 2022 for the School Food Service Fund. Additionally, because SCPS is not charging for meals as a result of the federal program, a reallocation of the existing revenue budget needs to occur to shift \$3.5 million out of the Other School Revenue (meal charges) account and into the Federal Revenue account.

Mr. Shrestha reported that the School Board voted 7-0 to approve this request for budget adjustment and appropriation within its School Food Service Fund.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mrs. Hayes, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment and appropriation. The motion passed 5 – 1 with Mr. Cole voting no.

Grant Application Request & Authorized Agent Resolution for Federal Grant Application for Partial Payment of Jail's Cost to Incarcerate Criminal Aliens

Beth Healy, Chief Financial Officer for the Rappahannock Regional Jail, reported that the U.S. Department of Justice administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security. SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and who were incarcerated for at least four consecutive days during the reporting period. The reporting period for the FFY 2021 program is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

The Rappahannock Regional Jail is not eligible to apply on its own behalf. Instead, the County must apply and submit its own data for use of the facility. Any grant funds awarded for this purpose will be passed onto the Rappahannock Regional Jail to offset correctional officer salaries as directed in the grant. There is no local match requirement for the program.

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager, noted that past SCAAP grants have been awarded in the range of \$10K - \$15K each.

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Cole and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the request to apply for the grant and the resolution for authorized agents.

Budget Adjustment & Appropriation for One-Time Supplemental Funding to Empowerhouse for Forensic Nurse

Kathy Anderson, Executive Director of Empowerhouse, reported that her office received notification that a grant received in the past has not been renewed for the current year. This grant has enabled Empowerhouse to fund one additional forensic nurse examiner (located at Mary Washington Hospital) to ensure treatment is available to domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or child abuse victims at all times. The nurse treats, cares for, and collects forensic evidence from violence victims. Empowerhouse is seeking funding from participating localities to backfill the grant for one year, and is in process of re-applying for the grant now, with grant funds becoming available in October 2022, if awarded.

Finance Committee members asked multiple questions in response to which Ms. Anderson explained that she anticipates the grant application that she and her staff are working on now for the upcoming fiscal year to be successful, but that if it is not, she does not intend to make a request to localities to fund this position in future years. Her intent is for this to be a one-time request of Spotsylvania and the other participating regional localities.

Mr. Marshall asked Ms. Jewell to reach out to Mary Washington Hospital and to Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center to learn how many forensic nurses each facility has, and to get an understanding of what the procedures are if a forensic nurse is not available at all times. Mrs. Hayes noted that she did not have enough and complete information to support the request at this time.

On a motion by Ms. Jewell and seconded by Mr. Cole, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment and appropriation. The motion passed 5 – 1 with Mrs. Hayes voting no.

Budget Adjustment & Appropriation for One-Time Supplemental Funding to Office on Youth

Bonnie Jewell, Assistant County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Office on Youth submitted a request for supplemental funding in the amount of \$98,204.

\$73,604 of this request is to backfill revenue losses in FY 2020 and FY 2021 while \$24,600 is Spotsylvania's proportionate share of the cost (based on clients served) to fund a contracted therapist for one year to resume substance use assessments and treatment groups. The Office on Youth generally partners with the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board (RACSB) to obtain therapist services, but RACSB is short-staffed and is currently and has been unable to provide the therapist assistance to the Office on Youth. This is expected to be a one-time request, allowing the RACSB time to recover from the staffing shortage and enabling the Office on Youth to reconvene the substance use assessments and treatment groups.

If funded, the agency would use a portion of the backfilled revenue loss funding for purchase of a new van for transportation of youth in the Community Service program, and to upgrade technology and purchase new hardware at the facility.

Committee members discussed the request and wondered if the Office on Youth would be successful in hiring a therapist given that RACSB is reportedly having difficulty in that regard. Ms. Jewell noted that backfilling of "revenue loss" is likely being requested because it is an allowed "use" within the federal rules surrounding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations that have been distributed to localities across the nation. However, she noted that as with most regional agencies, there is no "true up" with the Office on Youth, and the County does not receive funding back in years when expenses are less than revenues.

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Cole and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the one-time request for \$24,600 with the stipulation that the County's Chief Financial Officer be directed to withhold this payment until such time that the Office on Youth provides evidence satisfactory to her (Ms. Jewell) showing that the contracted therapist has, in fact, been hired.

On a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Marshall and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended denial of the request for \$73,604 to backfill revenue losses.

Mr. Cole recommended that Ms. Jewell split the request into two separate consent agenda items for the Board's consideration.

Other Business:

Next Finance Committee Meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 3:30 PM in the Code Compliance conference room at the Merchant Square building.

Adjournment:

Ms. Jewell adjourned the meeting.