

**Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors
Finance Committee
Thursday, March 14, 2019, Meeting**

VIRGINIA: The Finance Committee of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019, in the Main Conference Room of the County Administration Building in Chatham, Virginia 24531. Ronald S. Scarce, Chairman, called the Meeting to Order at 4:00 p.m. The following Committee Members were present:

Ronald S. Scarce
Ben L. Farmer
Robert W. Warren

The following Board Members were also present:

Joe B. Davis

Mr. David M. Smitherman, County Administrator; Mr. J. Vaden Hunt Esq., County Attorney; Mr. Richard Hicks, Assistant County Administrator for Operations; Mrs. Kimberly VanDerHyde, Director of Finance; and Mrs. Kaylyn McCluster, Deputy Clerk, were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Warren, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve Agenda, which was unanimously approved by the Finance Committee Members present.

New Business

(a) Constitutional Officers and Outside Agency Appointments

Mr. Smitherman stated that he just learned in the afternoon that a Bill passed in the General Assembly this year that requires the County to allocate funds for two (2) new Commonwealth's Attorney positions based upon the number of cameras that are used in law enforcement. It is required that one position be for every seventy-five (75) cameras that are used, which would require two (2) new positions at an estimated cost of about \$151,000. There was also an email received from the Comp Board and we are coming up about \$92,000 short from the Comp Board which brings us to \$243,000 out of budget.

Mr. Scarce thanked the Committee for the time to come and speak and to remember they are over there. Ms. Everlena Ross spoke to the Committee and thanked the Board for their past and continued support. Ms. Tuite thanked the Board for the current funding in the Budget for the Library. She presented to the Board the Pittsylvania County Public Library Budget Requests (attached). Sheriff Taylor presented to the Board his requests. He suggested the Legislative Committee taking a look at assessing a \$25 fee for businesses and homes who have security systems where the Sheriff's Department has had to respond (after three (3) calls). Sheriff Taylor also stated that due to working with the County with the recruitment program, they now only have two (2) vacant positions. Sheriff Taylor also gave an overview of the crimes his Department has dealt with over the past year. Mr. Haskins spoke in support of the Sheriff's Office and stated that he is able to do his job, because of the

wonderful work the Sheriff's Office does. He stated that the language in the new legislature states one (1) per seventy-five (75), but he understands it to be that he can work something out with the County, so they are not required to completely fund two (2) new positions. Mr. Haskins stated that there is 180% turnover in the Commonwealth's Office, and it is because the pay is not comparable to other localities and they are constantly losing their employees to other Counties or Cities. He stated that he is willing to work with the Board and try to make things work with the one (1) additional employee, and then use additional funding for his employees. He does have to submit a written Agreement by July 1, 2019.

(b) Budget Discussion and Direction from Committee

Mr. Smitherman stated the Board could consider reducing the money they provide to the PCSA annually. He also stated they could pull the salary study implementation for the County employees. Mr. Scarce suggested holding another Finance Committee Meeting on March 26, 2018, and also on April 2, 2019, to further discuss where cuts can be made for the Budget.

Adjournment

Mr. Scarce adjourned the Meeting at 5:18 PM.

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Pittsylvania County Public Library Budget Requests

While the FY2020 budget for the Pittsylvania County Public Library remains flat, there are two proposals for which the library seeks new funding, consistent with the library's strategic plan, Capital Improvements Plan, and the research and survey data conducted for the 2018 *Expanding the Reach* report that have been shared with you previously.

Brosville/Cascade Branch Staffing and Hours

The first proposal would add one full-time assistant branch manager position and one additional 20-hour per week part-time position to the Brosville/Cascade branch library in the Tunstall District. The Brosville library currently operates 44.5 hours per week with a two and one half positions: a full-time branch manager, a full-time youth services specialist, and a single part-time library assistant. The branch is open until 8pm only on Thursday nights, and is not open on Saturdays. The library is often staffed by a single employee due to offsite obligations such as outreach story times at schools or daycares, illness, or vacation absences, limiting the amount of assistance that can be provided to patrons.

The addition of the new staff positions would allow the branch to open to the public 52 hours per week on the same staffing level as the Mt. Hermon branch library: from 10am until 8pm four nights a week, Monday through Thursday, 10am until 6pm on Friday, and 10am until 2pm on Saturday. This schedule -- a more than 15% increase in service hours -- would greatly expand access to the library and patron support at the library for students whose parents work and other working adults.

Analysis of the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) data provided by the Pittsylvania County Schools, included in the *Expanding the Reach* report, showed that one of the schools with the greatest number of students not meeting the benchmarks at the each of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade levels was Stony Mill Elementary, located 3.5 miles from the Brosville/Cascade library. These students and their families would benefit from increased access to reading materials, story times, and other literacy support provided by a well-staffed library offering hours accessible to working families. The Brosville library has more than 5,000 easy books for children, more than 1,400 juvenile nonfiction and more than 1,500 juvenile fiction volumes, and more than 22,000 total volumes.

A survey on library use was included in the Pittsylvania County Schools' back-to-school packet last August, a summary of which was shared with you previously. It included specific comments such as "Brosville library needs to add/expand weekend hours, more activities for kids aged 7-10 like a LEGO club or Minecraft group, ABC Mouse for children of all ages" and general comments including "more help for children with assignments and homework help," and "access to all subjects through the internet." At Tunstall High School, 15% of responding families indicated that they lack internet service at home. Overall, between 12-14% of

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responding families report no internet service at home, which places their students at a distinct disadvantage as school textbooks increasingly incorporate digital materials and exercises. The lack of internet access and other library support for literacy, learning, and employment search is also an issue for many adult citizens. The Brosville library has 8 public access computers loaded with basic office software, a business quality color printer, and available training and support.

The cost of this proposal is \$63,000, including total salary and benefits for the full-time assistant branch manager and the salary and benefits for the 20-hour-per-week Library Assistant. This would be an ongoing increase to the library's budget. The benefit of this investment would be a more than 15% increase in service hours including more evening and new weekend hours, and improved patron support and programming to help bolster literacy and digital access in the Tunstall district.

Gretna Library Renovation

The second proposal is a one-time request for \$200,000 to renovate the Gretna branch library, expanding the library to the entire 6,375 square foot building space by opening up the former Danville Community College space for library patron use. This project was included in the Library's Capital Improvements Plan for Fiscal Year 2020. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$548,000, including furnishings, exterior program space, design work, and storage during the renovation. If the County can provide all or most of the proposed \$200,000, the library and the library's PPL Foundation would seek to raise the balance of \$348,000 to \$400,000 for the project through donations and grants. This makes the Gretna renovation an extremely cost-effective project for the county. Without the County's participation, however, most charitable funding organizations will not consider providing grant funding for the project.

The first attached floor plan shows how the building is currently closed off by hallways, classrooms, and an office. These spaces are not accessible to library patrons unless supervised by a library staff member who can offer visual and auditory security and assistance. This limits the public's enjoyment and use of the building to the existing cramped 2,700 square feet of public library space.

The second plan indicates how the interior can be renovated to provide a new teen area and greatly expanded juvenile and children's spaces for a library located between the Gretna Middle and High Schools. The current library has no teen space. The new library would offer a children's program and craft space in the existing meeting room, while adding a meeting room and tutoring room, as well as space for more public access computers. The architectural plans do not show a proposed outdoor reading space leading from a new doorway in the children's area, encouraging more outdoor play and WIFI use as well as connecting the library to the nearby Hawk Park and walking trail.

As the northernmost public library building in the county, the Gretna branch serves a patron base and schools reaching from Hurt Elementary in the Staunton River District to Mt. Airy

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Elementary in the Banister District, to the three public schools in Gretna, in the Gretna-Callands District. The population served by the Gretna library includes many areas of the county with very limited internet access, making the public access computers at Gretna very heavily used. From the school survey, we know that 27% of Mt. Airy Elementary school families, 27% of Gretna Middle School families and 14% of Gretna High School families reported having no internet service at home, well above the average for all respondents to the survey. Gretna Elementary School had some of the highest numbers of students not meeting the PALS benchmarks at each of the Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. Mt. Airy Elementary also reported high numbers of 1st and 3rd graders not meeting the PALS benchmarks. These students and their families would benefit from library early literacy support and the approximately 25,000 volumes and 10 public access computers at the Gretna library in a less cramped and crowded setting.

Hurt Elementary, Mt. Airy Elementary, and Gretna Middle School families reported some of the lowest rates of library card membership, due to a combination of distance and inconvenient library hours. Comments in the survey included "more hours (open earlier/longer), open longer on the weekend, evening programs for school age children," "more computers for those in need," "have a volunteer program for high school kids to read to younger kids," and "more help for children with assignments and homework help."

Creating a library with more space and more welcoming space, especially for children and teens, and offering more access to computers, would affect Gretna library users and potential users across the northern end of the County. The Danville Community College vacated its space in August 2015, and Gretna area patrons have been waiting four years for the library to be renovated. The County's investment in this project would be more than doubled by outside investment, making this a cost-effective one-time investment with far-reaching impact for a wide area in the northern end of the county.