MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2020

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened in special session at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2020. The meeting was held electronically using Zoom Webinar software. Members present: Rick McVey, Chairman, David J. Owen, Vice Chairman, Sterling Carter, William E. Carter, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies and Steve Oestreicher. Also present: Bryan Miller, County Manager and Gwen Vaughn, Finance Director. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

WELCOME

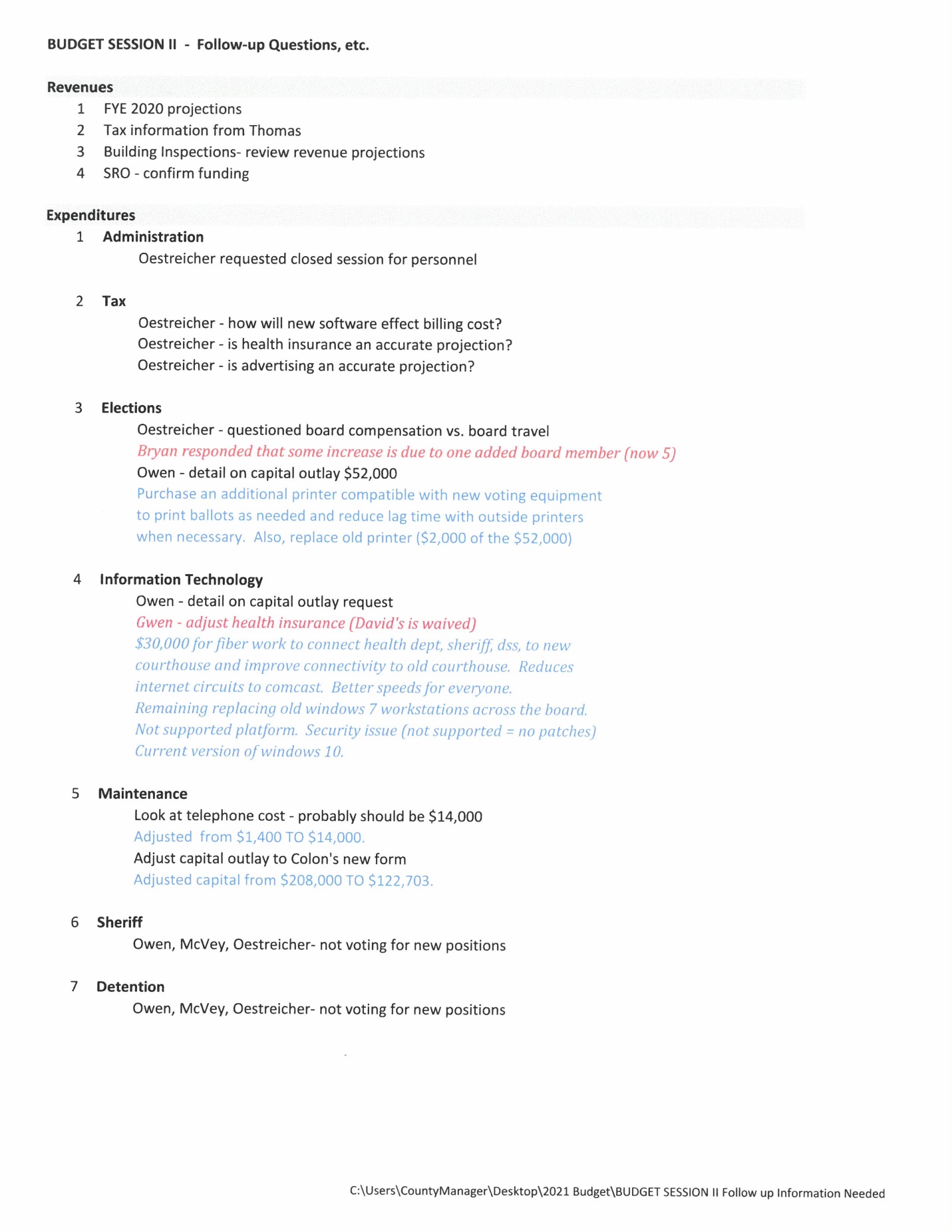
Chairman McVey opened the budget work session.

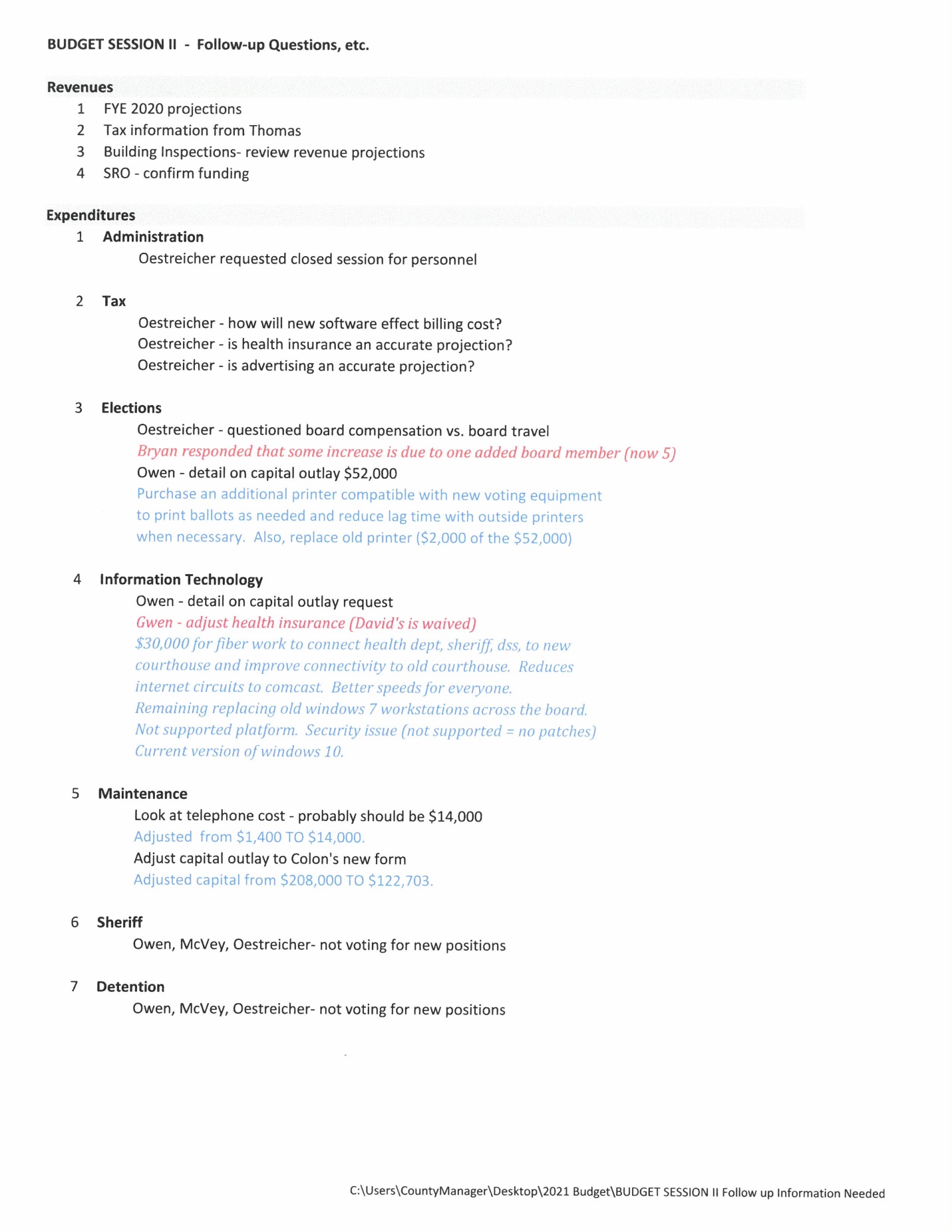
PROPOSED FY 2020-2021 BUDGET (cont’d)

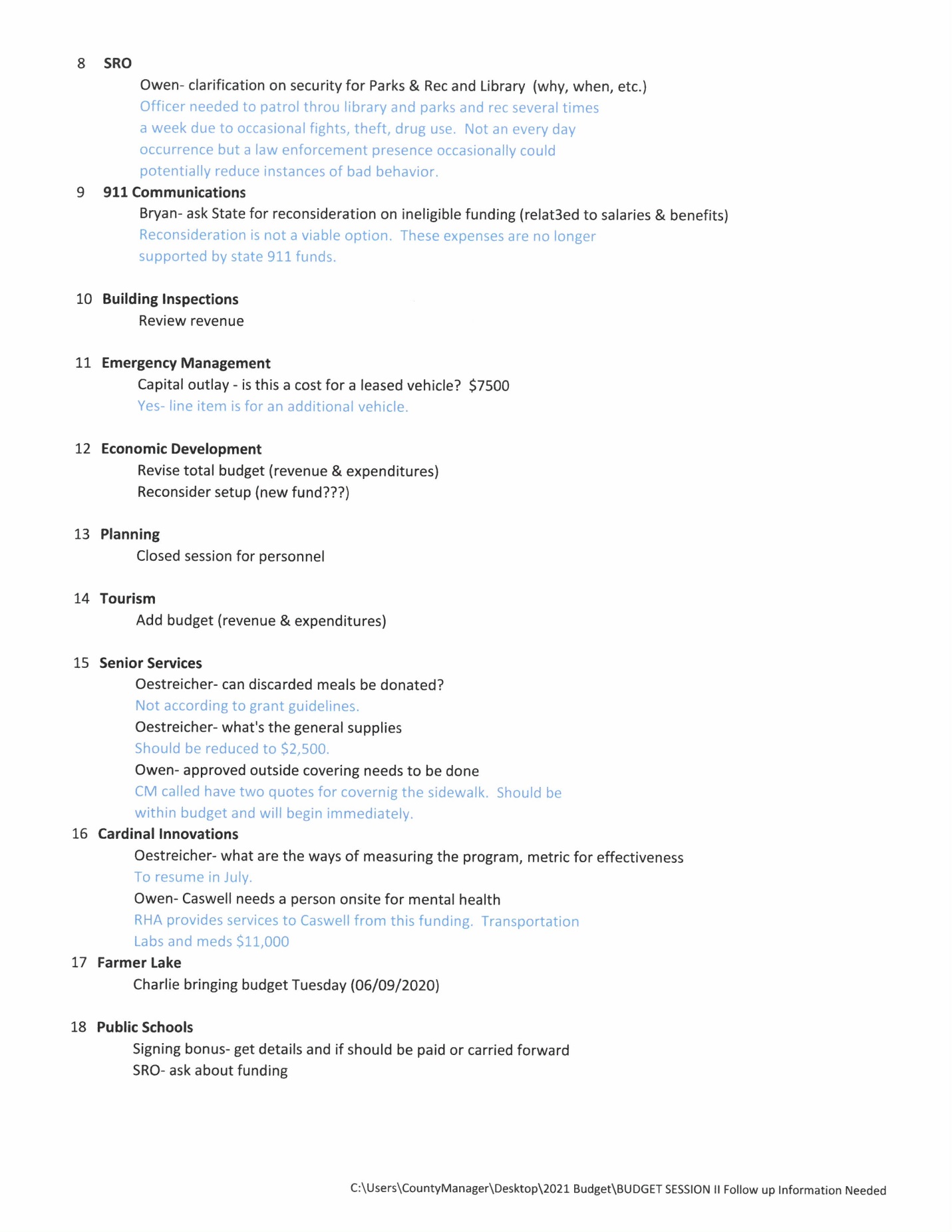
Chairman McVey stated that the budget meeting will start off with the questions that were asked at the last meeting.

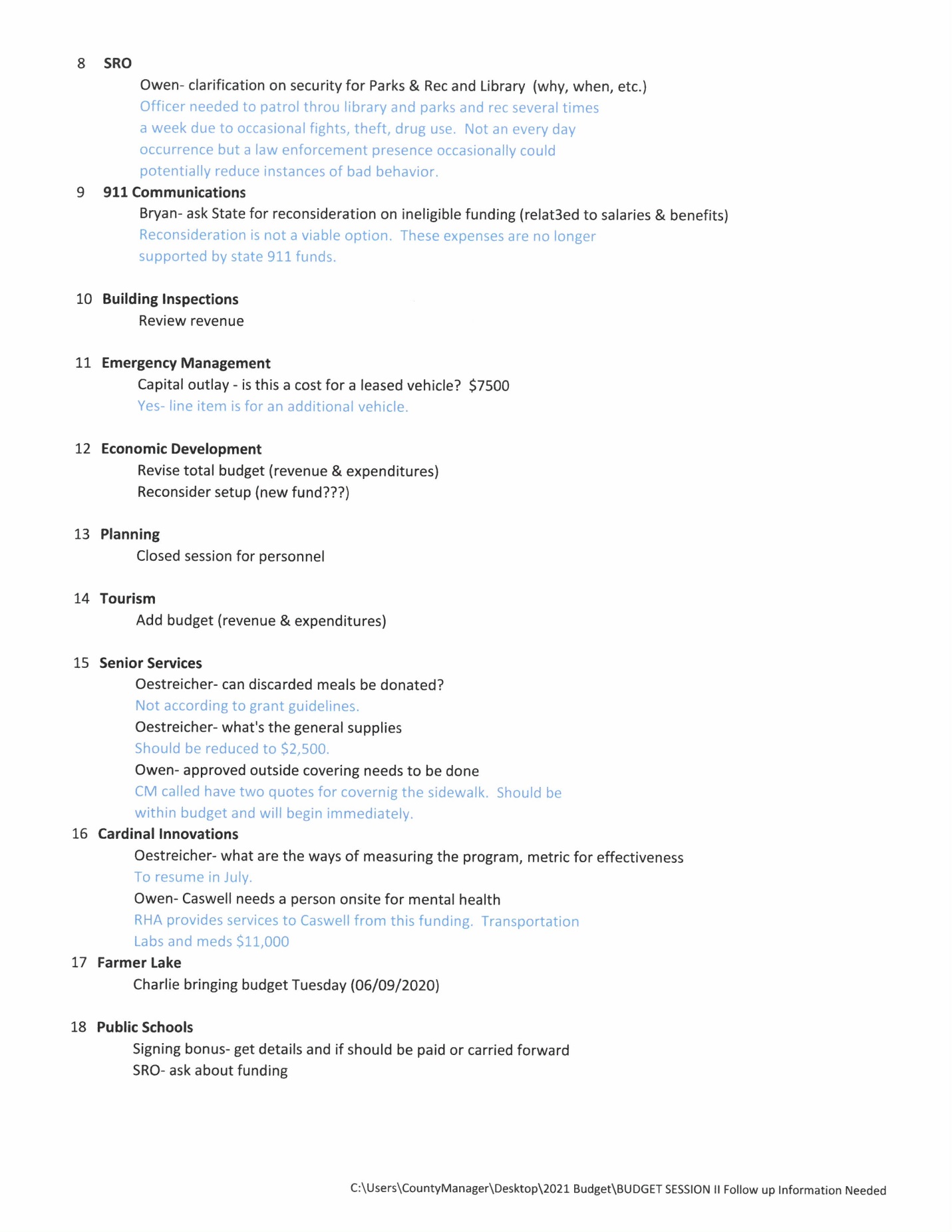
Mr. Miller stated that he and Ms. Vaughn have both worked on the questions from the last budget meeting.

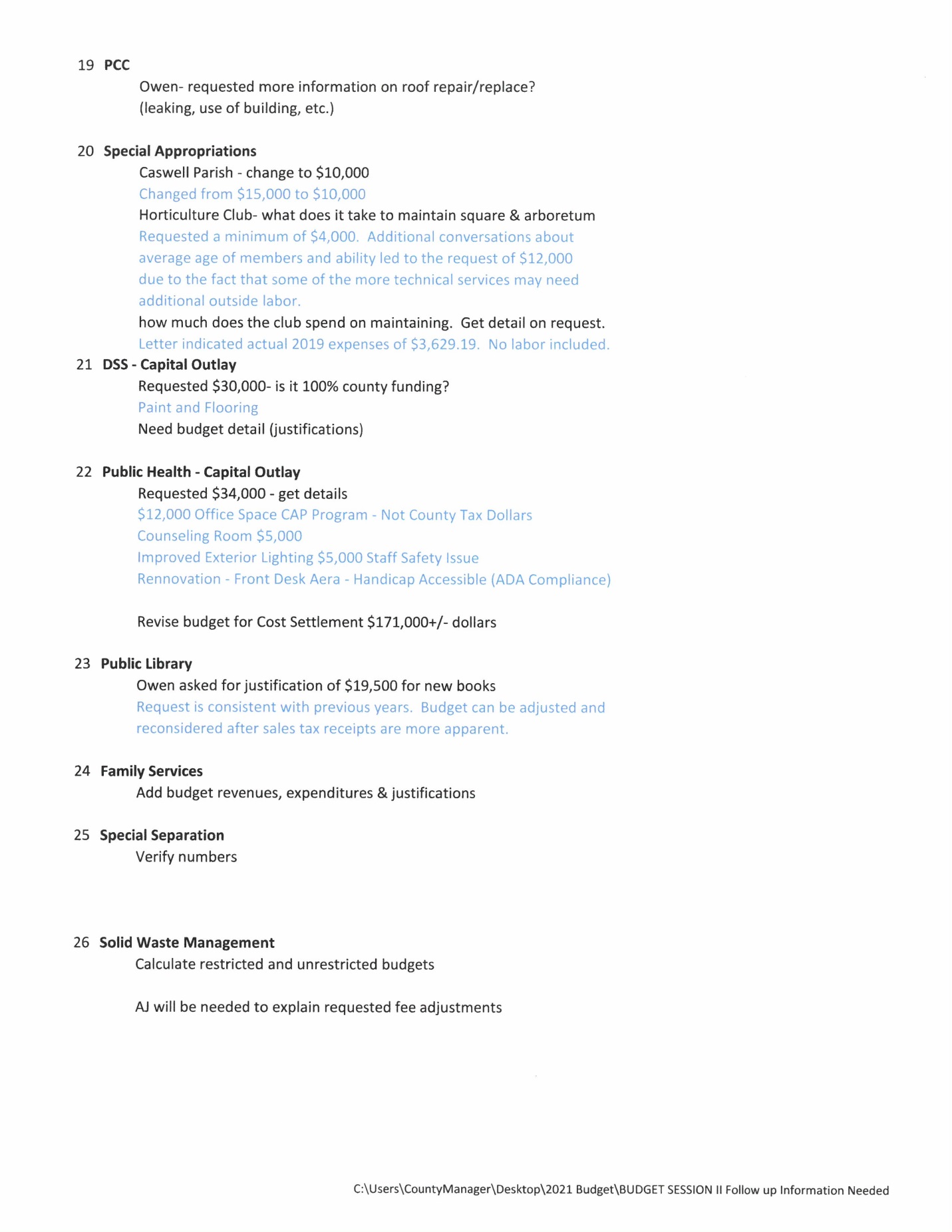
(Below is the Follow-up Questions, etc.)

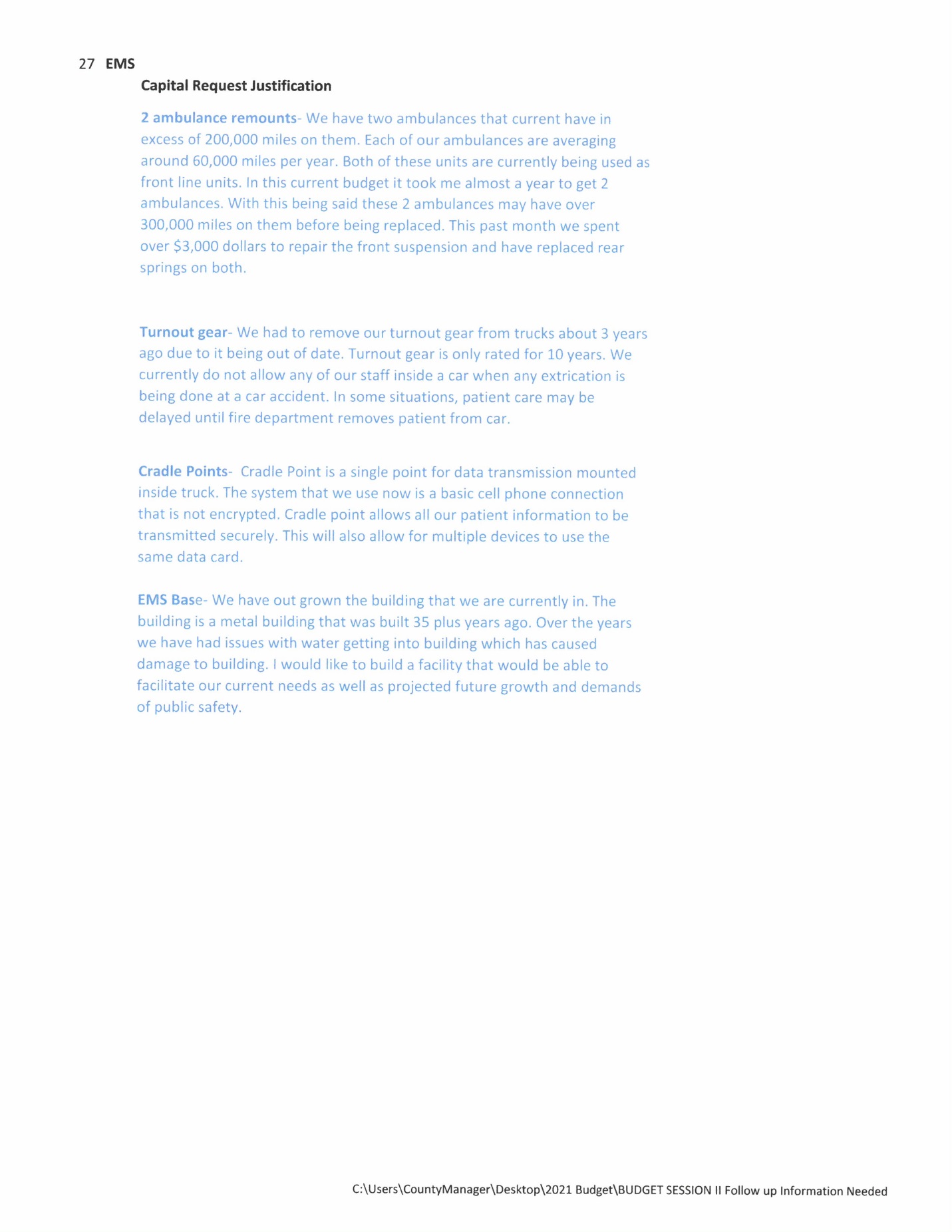












Tax Office

Mr. Miller stated that he had heard back from Mr. Bernard and the software that Commissioner Oestreicher was asking questions about the tax software and how it would affect the maintenance contracts that he understood that the maintenance contracts would be reduced by implementing the tax software and it would end up paying for itself over a period of 4 or 5 years. Mr. Miller stated that this is not the same line item this could be found in professional services for non-departmental. He stated that included in the line item that Commissioner Oestreicher questions were for billing foreclosures and things of that nature. Mr. Miller stated with the advertising even though it is not meeting the budget year to date Mr. Bernard believes the $4500 is an accurate projection for his department.

Elections

Mr. Miller stated the question was about board compensation versus board travel. He stated that board compensation is exactly that. Mr. Miller stated that board travel is where the board has to attend different trainings throughout the state to remain on the board. He stated that he asked about the $52,000 capital outlay and that is to purchase an additional printer that is compatible with the new voting equipment to print ballots as needed and to reduce lag time from outside printers when necessary. Mr. Miller stated that $1500 to $2000 of the $52,000 is to replace an old printer in the Elections office that does need replacing.

Information Technology

Mr. Miller stated that there is $30,000 for fiber to connect the health department, DSS and the Sheriff’s Department to the new courthouse and to improve connectivity to the historic courthouse. He added that as a justification this will reduce internet circuits that the county has with Comcast as well as provide better speeds for everyone. Mr. Miller stated that the remaining dollars will replace old Windows 7 workstations across the board and added that the Windows 7 platform is not supported moving forward and it causes security issues. He stated that these will be upgraded to the current version of Windows 10.

Commissioner Owen stated that he saw where the health insurance was adjusted due to the director’s insurance was waived. Ms. Vaughn responded that one of the employees has health insurance covered. Commissioner Owen asked for the adjustment amount. Ms. Vaughn responded that it was a reduction of $7,703 from that line. Commissioner Owen stated thank you.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Could I ask David a question is he available?” Chairman McVey responded “Yes.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Mr. Norris of your capital request how much of that roughly would you said would be just for the Windows 7 replacements, that portion of it?” Mr. David Norris responded “That would be just over $56,000. That’s approximately 75 workstations that remain running Windows 7. If we have an opportunity to upgrade to Windows with the same hardware we will do that. I know that some of the workstations are older and are needing to be replaced.”

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Norris if his plan was to move to laptop computers when viable to retain the ability to work from remote locations such as during the pandemic. Mr. Norris responded that this would be an option but it would be based on the individual that needs the equipment. He added that if mobility is a requirement then this could be looked at. Mr. Miller asked if this would be a director level decision. Mr. Norris responded yes.

Tax

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the $4500 on advertising as for foreclosure or what. Ms. Vaughn responded that the $4500 is for the foreclosure advertisement.

Maintenance

Mr. Miller stated that the telephone cost was adjusted from $1400 to $14,000 and the capital was adjusted from $208,000 to $122,703 which is consistent with the original request.

Sheriff

Mr. Miller stated that the Board had a discussion on positions and vehicles and he stated that the Board can continue that discussion after the completion of this review. He stated that the SRO clarification on the security for Parks and Rec and the Library and what is needed is an officer is needed to patrol through the Library and Parks and Rec several times a week due to occasion misbehavior. Mr. Miller stated that this is not an every occurrence but a law enforcement presence occasionally could potentially reduce incidences of bad behavior. He added that from time to time staff is concerned about the behavior of some of the patrons and he talked to the Sheriff to see if a new position were approved if this position could handle this request. Mr. Miller stated that the Sheriff stated that the Town of Yanceyville position if passed would provide security by riding through Parks and Rec several times a week and the Library several times a week so the $10,000 for Parks and Rec and the $10,000 for the Library may not be needed.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Bryan can I stop you, Sheriff’s Department?” Mr. Miller responded “Yes.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “So we are anticipating working out some kind of an agreement where they can pass through without the need of a new position, is that what you were getting at?” Mr. Miller responded “It is not a new position.” Commissioner Owen stated “They were going to contract through the Sheriff’s Department about security.” Commissioner S. Carter stated “Alright, let me rephrase that. Could we not work out something, some kind of agreement where they send a deputy through two or three time a day, I mean I don’t see the justification for $20,000 is what I am saying?” Mr. Miller responded “Well that’s what I said, I think we can come to some arrangement where that occurs.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I know with being on the Library Board this was discussed a couple of times very briefly and I know already a deputy is doing some pass throughs at the Library and I think that seems to be working out for the most part, I haven’t heard otherwise so I think it’s a good way to go instead of spending $20,000.” Mr. Miller asked if Commissioner S. Carter would like to hear from the Library Director. Commissioner S. Carter responded “That would be up to the rest of the Board. I have the information that I needed at this point. You can ask her if there is something else that I am missing…”

Commissioner W. Carter asked if the position had been approved by the Town of Yanceyville. Mr. Miller responded yes the Town of Yanceyville approved a position to patrol in the town limits of Yanceyville.

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Rhonda Griffin if there was something she would like to add to the conversation. Ms. Griffin responded that during school time the Library is walking distance to the School and Parks and Rec and there will be fights planned at the school and the Library has had to call law enforcement about 6 or 7 times in about a 6 months period of the Library reopening. She added that at night walking to the cars if is a little scary and she added that having a law enforcement presence has been helpful so if the Library could get this on a regular schedule it would be helpful.

Building Inspections

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn if she was able to complete a review of the Building Inspections revenue. Ms. Vaughn responded that she completed a review of the revenues and she reduced it from $230,000 to $200,000 and this would include the school inspections so this would be a 13% reduction. She recommended speaking with Mr. Caison the Building Inspector about this.

Mr. Miller stated that he and Mr. Caison had discussions about the activity level and he asked Mr. Caison to relay this discussion to the Board.

Mr. Caison stated that inspections were slow the first part of the year but after two weeks after the County departments were shut down due to COVID-19 it got very busy. He added that he has been busier in the last 2 ½ months than he had in almost a year. Mr. Caison stated that the permit for the high school will be a very large amount of money and he added that the school will occupy most of his time and the probationary inspector will need to pick up a lot of inspections out in the county. He stated that if the permit comes through this year Building Inspections will be close to $300,000 in revenue this year and he was not sure when the permit would be purchased. Mr. Caison stated that it seems like construction has actually picked up some during the COVID-19 period and he has seen an increase in the number of inspections. He added that the revenues from these are not so great because the increase is in small permits. Mr. Caison stated that he thought the revenues would remain about the same next year if everything gets back to normal.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Did Ms. Vaughn say that the school permit as also built into the revenue number or no?” Mr. Caison responded “The only school permit that is in this current year, this number, is the permit for that temporary building that will eventually be turned into a field house. It was about a $9,000 permit though. The main part of the school is a high twenty some million dollar permit which will bring about a hundred thousand or maybe less into the department through fees. So it’s hard with a big chunk like that it is kind of hard to say what will happen next year but I see construction continuing, it hasn’t slowed down any at all as a matter of fact I am beginning to see more single family houses being permitted where that had fell off even before the COVID-19 came in. It is actually beginning to pick up quite a bit.” Mr. Miller stated “Thank you Ken we appreciate the update.”

Ms. Vaughn stated that there may be some discussion or reconsideration on this.

Mr. Caison stated that he was fully certified so there would be no need to hire an inspector for the high school project.

Emergency Management

Mr. Miller stated that there was a question about the capital outlay line and the answer was yes this $7500 is to lease an additional vehicle.

Economic Development

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn if she was able to work on the Economic Development budget. Ms. Vaughn responded that she is still working on that. She added that there is some funding coming in so she wanted to get all of that together to get a better picture of the budget.

Senior Services

Mr. Miller stated that Commissioner Oestreicher asked about the Discarded Meals and there is a requirement to have the Discarded Meals line item in the budget and according to the grant stipulations those meals cannot leave the building but he added that the Senior Services director does a great job in making sure that none of this food goes to waste and none of that food is discarded unless it absolutely has to be. He stated that Commissioner Oestreicher also inquired about the General Supplies line and he was correct this line item should be reduced to $2500. Mr. Miller stated that Commissioner Owen inquired about the outside covering from the Senior Center to the parking lot where the Meals on Wheels meals are picked up. Mr. Miller stated that he has two quotes coming for the covered sidewalk that should be within in budget and this project will begin as soon as possible.

Cardinal Innovations

Mr. Miller stated that Commissioner Oestreicher asked about ways to measure the program and metrics for effectiveness. Mr. Miller stated that he had spoken with Rick Bruton and Mr. Bruton send Mr. Miller and email that the dashboards are set to go back online in July. He added that Mr. Bruton sent him some information that will be included in those dashboards so he would get that information out to the commissioners. Mr. Miller stated that RHA is a service provider that is funded by Cardinal and they provide mental health services in Caswell. He added that from the money funded to Cardinal they provide a transportation program and there was about $11,000 in that program that the Sheriff’s Office may be able to utilize and he spoke to the Sheriff’s Office and he believed some of this money would go towards medical treatment.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Could you expound on that a little bit?” Mr. Miller responded “So there was a program that provides lab tests and medical for people that were diagnosed as needing those medications for mental health treatment. What we found over the last several years is that money is rarely ever used so instead of giving that money to Cardinal at the end of the fiscal year that money is being retained by Cardinal we’ve decided it may be a better use for that funding to be used in our prison system because it’s estimated that 30% of our inmates probably need some kind of mental health treatment so instead of having that go towards the medication program we can supplant that into our mental health treatment for the jails.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “How do they treat inmates? What does that go towards exactly, I am curious?” Mr. Miller responded “Provider treatment, assessments…” Commissioner S. Carter continued “They have a line item for that type of…” Mr. Miller responded “Not for mental health, it’s in the Detention Center budget.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the $11,000 would be moved out of Cardinal into the Sheriff’s budget. Mr. Miller responded that this would have an $11,000 reduction in the budget. He added that $11,000 would be supplanted into the Sheriff’s budget. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there would be an $11,000 reduction in the budget. Mr. Miller responded yes.

Commissioner Hall asked why this money could not be used by the Health Department instead of in the jail. Mr. Miller responded that the largest part of the $97,000 is provided to Cardinal and Cardinal uses that to pay for a mental health provider in Caswell. Commissioner Hall stated that he understood that but he wanted to know about the $11,000 because the county still has other mental health needs that could be addressed at the health department rather than in the jails. Commissioner S. Carter responded “I can agree with that.” Mr. Miller responded that this would be fine but the County’s directive is to provide a mental health provider and mental health services every year and as long as the $11,000 is used for mental health the County can use it for what its chooses.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Is Ms. Eastwood on the phone?” Ms. Jennifer Eastwood responded “I am here.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “What could you do with $11,000 for mental health services?” Ms. Eastwood responded “I’d have to give that some thought as to how we could integrate that into our current program. We do utilize Cardinal to refer our people for mental health services. CFMC currently is providing a licensed clinical social worker for onsite for us once a day, once a week I mean, sorry. We could possibly expand that time that we have the LCSW on site but it would be something that I would have to kind of look into. It’s not really something that I could speak to just kind of on the spot.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I agree with Commissioner Hall. I think that should be used in the health department versus the jail.”

Mr. Miller stated that there is money for treatment in the Detention Center budget now and if the Cardinal money is supplanted into this budget that is a savings of $11,000. He stated that if the $11,000 is added to the Health Department budget which currently does not have this money included in the budget this is not an $11,000 savings but it will be additional services being provided by the Health Department.

Public Schools

Mr. Miller stated that he did not contact the Public Schools to get an answer on the $50,000 signing bonus. He asked Ms. Vaughn if she had any information on this. Ms. Vaughn responded that she did not have any information. Mr. Miller asked if Ms. Vaughn had any information on the SRO funding. Ms. Vaughn responded that she has not spoken to the superintendent about the SRO.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Will you have that at our next budget meeting?”

Chairman McVey stated that this would make a difference for him.

PCC

Mr. Miller stated that more information was received on the roof repair. He stated that the building has some structural issues that are causing leaks throughout the building and the leaking is causing damage to the rooms, walls and floors. He stated that the requested repairs will cover the expenses which include condition assessment, preparation of technical specifications required, preparation for the removal of the existing roof systems, and roof construction repairs or a total roof replacement. Mr. Miller stated that pictures were provided as well.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I think if they need a roof we give them a roof, that is a capital expense, I think it’s justified. Is that in there somewhere?” Ms. Vaughn responded that the roof repair was not included in the budget. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Do they have enough to do that roof repair with what they currently have appropriated?” Ms. Vaughn responded that PCC’s capital request was $217,000 and the appropriation in the budget is $333,000 so it includes the roof. Commissioner S. Carter continued “They have enough to do a roof?” Ms. Vaughn apologized and stated the capital outlay is $65,000 in the manager’s recommendation and PCC requested $217,000 and added that the request for the roof replacement is $200,000. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Anyone else agree with me on the roof?” Commissioner Hall responded that the capital items needed to be approved. He stated that several years back PCC came before the Board with pictures of the roof leaking and trash cans were being moved around in the building as well as all the damage that was done. Commissioner Hall stated that this embarrassed the commissioners and the request was approved out of fund balance. He stated if the Board is made aware upfront the roofs need to be repaired. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So change that to $217,000 or $200,000 as a one-time expense?” Commissioner Owen responded that he would like to get through the report and then the Board can come back and vote on each item. He added that he agreed 100% if the roof needs replacing it needs to be replaced. Commissioner S. Carter continued “Well I apologize for stopping us.” Commissioner Owen responded that this was okay.

Special Appropriations

Mr. Miller stated that Caswell Parish has or will be changed to $10,000. He added that the Horticulture Club was contacted and they requested a minimum line item of $4,000 and then there were additional conversations after their initial letter that led to the request of $12,000 due to the fact that some of the more technical services may need to additional outside labor and due to the age and ability of the members they would not be able to do these services. Mr. Miller stated that there was a question about the Club’s actual expenses and this was laid out in the initial letter which indicated that for 2019 the expenses were $3,629.19 and this did not include labor.

DSS – Capital Outlay

Mr. Miller stated that the capital outlay of $30,000 is for paint and flooring and Commissioner Owen spoke about this at the last meeting. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn is this was county funded. Ms. Vaughn responded that she did not find out but typically capital outlay is 100% county funded. Mr. Miller stated that this was his understanding as well.

Public Health – Capital Outlay

Mr. Miller stated that Public Health requested $34,000 and $12,000 was for additional office space for the CAP program and these are not county dollars, $5,000 for a counseling room, $5,000 to improve exterior lighting which is a staff safety issue and then a renovation to the front desk area to make it handicap accessible (ADA compliant). He added that there was a revision of a cost settlement of $171,000. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Eastwood if she had anything to add. Ms. Eastwood stated that the lighting is a staff issue but is also for the patients that come to the late clinic which operates until 7:00.

Public Library

Mr. Miller stated that Commissioner Owen asked about the $19,000 for new books. He stated that the request is consistent with previous years but he budget can be adjusted and reconsidered after the sales tax receipts are more apparent.

Family Services

Mr. Miller stated that a budget needed to be done on this however Family Services is grant funded so it will not affect county dollars.

Special Separation

Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn if she was able to verify the numbers. Ms. Vaughn responded that she had not but she would verify the numbers with Payroll and HR. She added that she expected the county to have retirees at the beginning of the fiscal year or towards to middle of the fiscal year.

Solid Waste Management

Mr. Miller stated that staff was asked to calculate the restricted and unrestricted budgets as well as an explanation for the fee adjustments. He asked Ms. Vaughn if she was able to do these calculations. Ms. Vaughn responded that she was able to calculate those and she added that she was able to speak with the Solid Waste Director A.J. Fuqua. She stated that Mr. Fuqua can give the Board reasons for the fee adjustments and the rationale for the restricted funds. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn for the calculation. Ms. Vaughn responded that when she looked at the enterprise fund for Solid Waste manager she saw that there needs to be a strong consideration for the change in the availability fee due to the reduction over the last two years of the fund balance funds and to rate might need to be increased. She stated that it looks like there will be about an $80,000 carry forward and she has spoken to Mr. Fuqua about this. Ms. Vaughn stated that the projection of $541,000 to come in next year plus the $80,000.

EMS

Mr. Miller stated that for EMS there was a request for a justification for the capital requests on 2 ambulance remounts, turnout gear, cradle points and the EMS base. He stated that none of this was included in the budget.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Barry is our entertainment for this afternoon.”

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Barry Lynch if he would like to go over the justifications. Mr. Lynch responded that yes EMS did receive two ambulances last year but there are two ambulances that are on frontline now that have about 230,000 miles each and it takes about 12 months to get the ambulances once ordered and after that timeframe the ambulances will have approximately 300,000 miles. He stated that EMS was looking at remounts which would cost about $150,000 per truck. Mr. Lynch stated on the cradle points, EMS is currently using MiFi for data transmission, patient care reports, transmitting data to the hospital and this is not encrypted the way it should be. He added that the cradle points will provide a secure data transmission from the vehicles and will allow the connections of all of the cardiac monitors and laptops and it will be secure.

Commissioner Owen asked Mr. Lynch how many vehicles this would cover. Mr. Lynch responded that it would cover all 5 vehicles. He added that these are permanently mounted in the vehicle.

Mr. Miller asked if permanently mounted meant that these could not be removed and transferred to another vehicle. Mr. Lynch responded that this was correct. Chairman McVey stated that if a new vehicle is purchase the cradle points cannot be taken out of an old ambulance and put into a new one. Mr. Lynch responded yes this could be done but it is not something that could be transferred daily from one truck to another.

Commissioner Owen asked if EMS had any turnout gear. Mr. Lynch responded that EMS does not currently have any turnout gear. He added that turnout gear has a 10 year life span and it went out of date about 2 years ago and it was removed from the truck. Mr. Lynch stated that if there is a vehicle accident EMS has to wait for the firemen to remove the patient for EMS can work on the patient. Commissioner Owen asked if turnout gear would be located in all 5 vehicles as well. Mr. Lynch responded that each full time employee would be assigned their own turnout gear as well as spares for part time employees.

Chairman McVey asked Mr. Lynch how many times EMS employees would need to get in a vehicle. Mr. Lynch responded that in the past 12 to 18 months there had been some pretty severe accidents with 20 fatalities and in these situation people were needed inside the vehicle. He stated that he could not tell how many time this was needed but there have been multiple times when EMS staff was needed inside of the vehicle for patient stabilization. Mr. Lynch stated that he could get the numbers but he did not have them in front of him.

Commissioner Hall stated that for the last 3 years this has not been done. Mr. Lynch responded that EMS had to stand back and have the fire departments to get them out. He stated that he put this in the budget last year. Commissioner Hall stated that if this has not been done in 3 years the number of turnout gear may be the issue for now because the county is going through difficult times.

Chairman McVey asked Mr. Lynch if he could get turnout gear from the fire departments that are getting new turnout gear and added that he understood there was only a 10 year warranty. Mr. Lynch responded that this would be an option but it is not the same turnout gear that the fire departments use. He stated this was extrication gear to protect from flashes in a vehicle and not for structural firefighting. Mr. Lynch stated that it is like the fire department turnout gear but it does not have the interior heat barrier. Chairman McVey stated that the interlining of the fire department gear could be removed if this could be worked out instead of buying new turnout gear now.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Are we going to address the Base at all.” Chairman McVey responded “Don’t even bring that up.”

Solid Waste

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Fuqua if he had anything to add to the discussion earlier surrounding the increase of the fee for solid waste. Mr. Fuqua responded that his justification is that First Piedmont is anticipating a 3% increase as well as the tonnage on trash has been going up tremendously over the last few months. He stated that he is working with Ms. Vaughn on what the number should actually be. Mr. Fuqua stated that he hoped to use as much of the restricted funds as he can.

Chairman McVey asked how much was in the restricted fund. Ms. Vaughn responded that Scrap Tire is about $175,000 at year end projection, White Goods is about $9,850, and Solid Waste is less than $1500. She added that these funds will be used to offset the regular budget and anything that can be spent in those funds will be used.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Gwen where is that line item at?” Ms. Vaughn responded “It’s in the Enterprise Fund. It’s not in your budget notebook. That is something that I work with A.J. on in the last couple of days.”

Chairman McVey asked the Board which direction it wanted to take.

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

Health Insurance Benefits

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if there was a revision or another look at the health benefits. Mr. Miller responded that there has not been a new spreadsheet put out with the revisions to the health insurance adjustments. Ms. Vaughn responded that the only adjustment to health insurance benefits was to Information Technology; the others remained the same. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the other numbers are correct even though they are all over the place. Ms. Vaughn asked if Commissioner Oestreicher was referring the different between the departments and the manager’s recommendation. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he was not referring to that and added that some departments went up and others went down. He added that he was not saying it was wrong but it looked strange to him. Ms. Vaughn responded that she checked each department’s salary, benefits, and health insurance to make sure there is enough coverage for the employees listed on payroll. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that Ms. Vaughn had verified that the numbers are correct. Ms. Vaughn responded yes but she would look at them again before the budget is finalized but she felt confidence about the numbers. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that that was good enough for him.

Solid Waste

Commissioner S. Carter asked “I was going to say earlier with maybe since Solid Waste is completely separate can we just bird’s eye assess maybe what we can do with Solid Waste? I know Gwen said we were barely getting by on that without raising that rate, is that correct?” Ms. Vaughn responded “Yes I do expect that there would need to be a increase in the rate and A.J. and I have talked about it on more than one occasion. The current rate is $59 per household and A.J. has requested to move it up to $70 but I guess now he is saying that could be half of 70, $35 so he is saying move it up from 59, what was it A.J. that you would like?” Mr. Fuqua responded “Well I guess we would need to crunch the numbers a little better because that was an $11.00 increase to go to 70 so if we did half of that we might could manage.” Ms. Vaughn responded “Maybe like 65.” Mr. Fuqua responded “$65 a household but you and I will have to figure out the exact number we would get in from that. I don’t have that number readily available but I can have it by the next meeting.” Ms. Vaughn responded “I can do it real quick and let you know. Also A.J. would you mind discussing your overall fee schedule. You had talked about having some other changes while I do this calculation can you talk about that?” Mr. Fuqua responded “Yes ma’am, let me find he paper, hold just one second. So apparently we charge $25.00/ton for brush and I am requesting to go to $45/ton because it is a large fee for me to get it grinded, to bring a grinder in here to get it grinded and haul it off and I also requested a minimum price. A lot of people will come in knowing that our scales will not weigh if it is under 20 pounds. You will see on the fee schedule that I did a minimum for everything because they know if they are 19 pounds they do not hit the scales so they know it is free, I can’t charge anything. I will go on $45.00/ton for construction debris and I have requested to go to $55.00/ton with $1 minimum. The reason behind that is in Yanceyville we charge but I’m not bringing in enough money out of that to pay what it cost me to get rid of it so I am having to take money out of general fund, I am not making what I am spending out because I have to pay a hauling fee and a fuel charge fee. You will also notice on TVs I requested at $5 minimum on them because they do not weigh because if you go anywhere to a recycling facility we do recycle our TVs. I do have a company that does pay us for some of it but some of it I have to pay them. I am requesting a $5 minimum on TVs and that way anywhere else they are charging $10 per TV and if I have a whole load we just go off weight. The commercial trash is like we have a couple trash companies that bring their trash here, they pick up in the county but it costs me more because I separate that out and send it out so I have requested that to go to $65/ton for any like somebody is cleaning out a house or has household trash that has to be weighed. On tires I do request to go to $75 and a $1 increase on the rental. On the rental if you will notice on my tipping fee, my revenues has been on an increase because we have been doing a lot of rentals but we are a lot cheaper and I am requesting to basically to go up $10 on the spotting and $10 on the charge and I am requesting to go from $2 a day to $4 a day on the rent. Down at the bottom of my fees I have a cleanup for illegal dumping, there has been several illegal dumpings in the county and we’ve had to go out and clean them up and I’m waiting on the sheriff’s office to know if it will be a misdemeanor or felony and they can actually, we can give them the bill and of course make them pay back so I had priced out for the use of our equipment if I have to take it out there per hour or per trip depending on how the equipment is used when it gets there. If it sits there I did a per trip and if we are actually running it I did it per hour. The Pack-mack service is some of the older people in the county will call and want us to come and get like refrigerators and stuff from them so I put that in there. That would be just like $65 for whatever we could reach, we would not do any lifting there, they would have to have it where we can actually pick it up, this is just a service I thought we could offer. Do you any questions on the fees?”

Commissioner S. Carter asked “And that’s something the sheriff’s department would pay or the violator’s would pay?” Mr. Fuqua responded “The violators would pay, it would have to be run through the court system but I actually need to have the fees approved by y’all so I would know how much to charge them so I am charging the same thing each time and when they go to court I will get the money back from them.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Okay. And with the minimum fees those situations have probably been more often than not when someone brings something that does not register on the scale or what have you.” Mr. Fuqua responded “Yes we have people that come in and they pretty much know what they can weigh and they come in here…I have people that come in the same day three times and never hit the scale weight.” Commissioner S. Carter asked “How do these fees compare if you’ve seen any other counties to compare them to?” Mr. Fuqua responded “We are kind of close. Hold on just a second I have some of the fees wrote down and I will pull that for you. So Ashe County which is kind of comparable to ours as well their actual disposable taxes are $150 per household, their commercial dump is $62 per ton, and then there like wood and stuff is $42 a ton. Did that help you?” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Yeah I am just making sure this was in a realistic range and I didn’t doubt that it was.”

Commissioner W. Carter stated to Mr. Fuqua that he thought he would have to go up to recover. Mr. Fuqua responded that the only 2 things he left off the fee schedule is $25.00 for returned checks and when farmers come in to weigh cows he charges $5.00 for the use of the scale and he was fine with leaving that at $5.00 because it cost him about 30 cents every time he prints a paper in the printer.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “And have we done any estimations on how this fee schedule would bring in on additional revenue?” Mr. Fuqua responded “With the fees and services it is really hard to say because it will also depend on how many dumpsters I rent and it depends on how many people come here so the estimations are really hard to say.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I just did not know how much that would offset us raising the solid waste fee.” Mr. Fuqua responded “I put in $130,000 for tipping fees, that includes my dumpster rental effective for next year with the new increase. That doesn’t any like the illegal dumps and stuff because I don’t know if that money will come back to me or general fund so I didn’t put that in there because hopefully we will not have to actually do any of that.” Commissioner S. Carter stated “This is the last thing I am going to say with it all is that I don’t want to raise that solid waste fee any more than it has to and I appreciate A.J. looking into the fee schedule.” Mr. Fuqua responded “My knowledge is the fees for the tipping and everything has been the same for 11 years, it’s never been up, never increased but we’re constantly getting increases from First Piedmont.”

Commissioner W. Carter stated that there needed to be an increase to keep up with the increases from First Piedmont.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the minimum was a $1 for a mattress and box springs. Mr. Fuqua responded that an average mattress and box spring would cost about $2. He added that the minimum for cover the items that do not weight enough on the scale. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the minimum of $1 seemed low. Commissioner W. Carter agreed with Commissioner Oestreicher that the minimum of $1 seemed low. Mr. Fuqua responded that the minimum could be raised if the Board so choses. Commissioner Oestreicher asked Mr. Fuqua if the minimum weight on the scales was 20 pounds. Mr. Fuqua responded yes sir. Commissioner Oestreicher recommended doubling the minimum fee.

Commissioner Hall stated that it would make sense to set some minimums but to set them higher than $1 and he recommended giving a minimum for commercial trash. Commissioner Owen responded that for commercial trash it is a $5 minimum.

Commissioner Owen recommended having the same minimum either $1, $2 or $5. Mr. Fuqua responded that if the Board raises the minimum up to at least consider leaving the TVS at $5 because that is a large expense to get rid of. Commissioner W. Carter agreed.

Chairman McVey suggested making everything a minimum of $5. Commissioner S. Carter responded “And leave TV and electronics at $5. And then in a year we will know what this all converted to.”

Mr. Fuqua stated that if the Board is going to approve his new fee schedule he would need to advertise that the new fee schedule would be effective July 1 as well as a new sign made. Chairman McVey stated that the Board will try to get the handled now.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “So we are fine with the other fees that he is recommending, not the solid waste but the other fees?” Chairman McVey responded “Yes.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I was going to ask Ms. Vaughn will you prepare some numbers for us with all of this in mind being one separate issue but with the solid waste fee I would almost like to see a $63.00 scenario and a $65.00 scenario how that would impact the solid waste budget.” Commissioner W. Carter responded that he thought it needed to go to at least $65. Ms. Vaughn responded “The $63 rate would be $602,361 for the year and a $65 rate would be $621,484. This current year is budgeted at $54,088, that is what it is for 2019-20.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “So if we raised it $3 we would be okay?” Commissioner W. Carter responded “I don’t think so.” Ms. Vaughn responded “So if you raised it $3 you would increase that by about $57,000.” Commissioner Oestreicher stated “Yeah that’s not enough.”

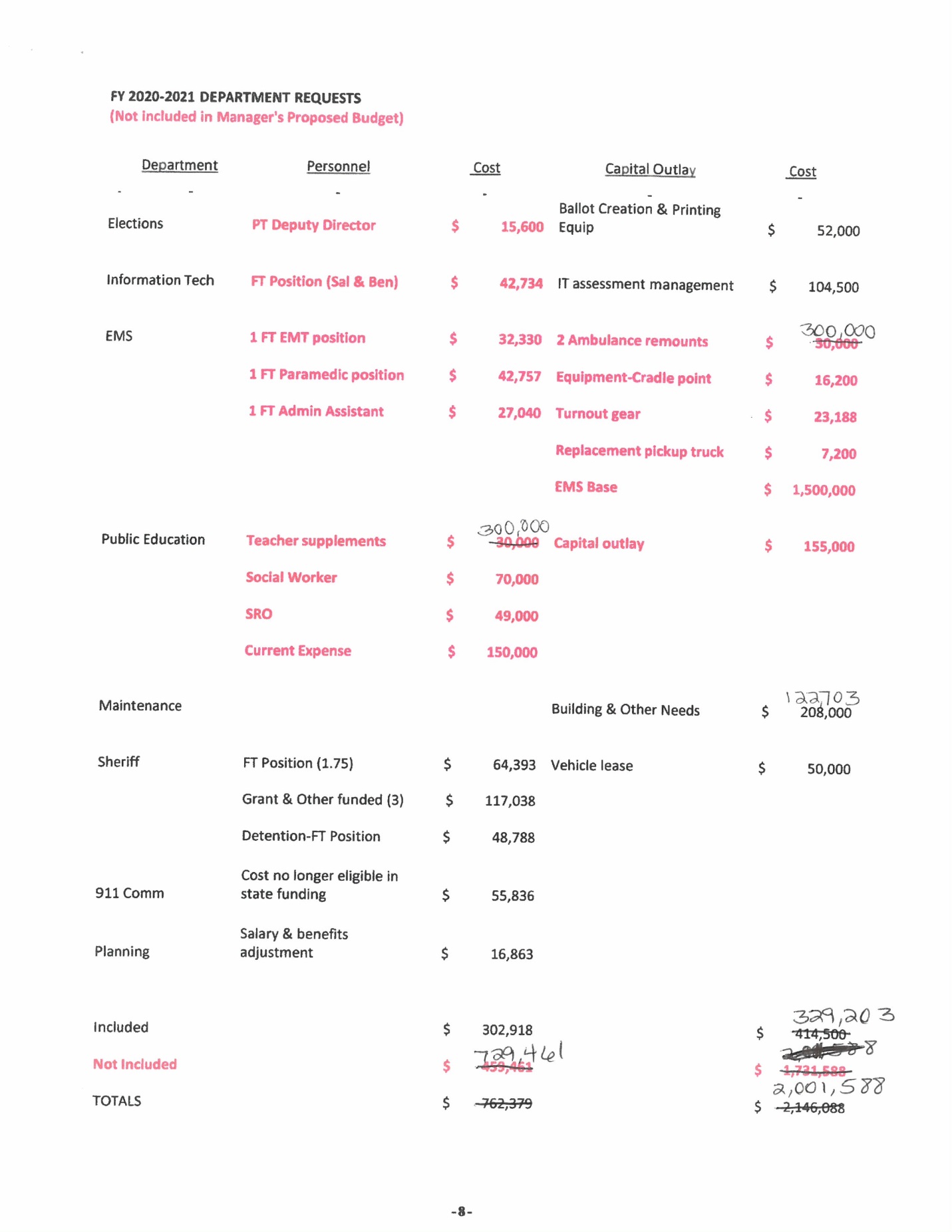
Commissioner Jefferies stated that he agreed with the $5 minimum but he did not agree with $65 and recommended raising the solid waste fee to $60. Commissioner Owen agreed with Commissioner Jefferies and stated that he would like for the solid waste fee to stay the same but go up no more than $1 then the Board can see if the increased fees will help with this. He stated at the end of the year and the fund is low the county will have to help fund this but he did not want to raise taxes.

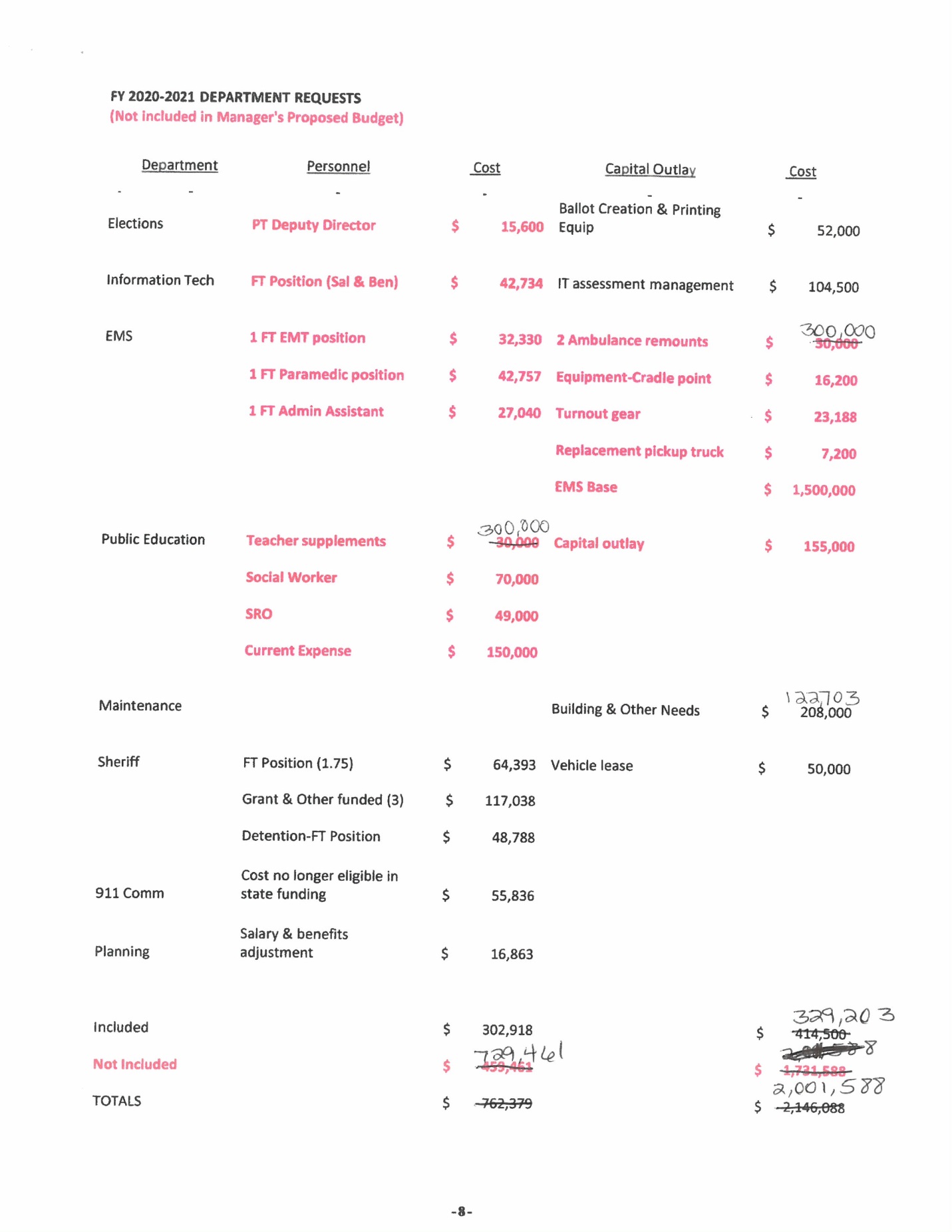
Commissioner S. Carter stated “We have to realize it is a tax.” Commissioner Owen responded ‘It is, it is a tax.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I agree with that. I think these fees are going to help us out a lot and we won’t know until later how effective it is. This is always something we can readdress at a future date.”

Commissioner Owen moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Carter to raise the Solid Waste fee to $60 per household, approve the $5 minimum on the disposal fees and the other fees that the Solid Waste Director recommended. After a roll call vote, the motion carried by a 6 to one vote with Commissioner W. Carter voting no. (Commissioners S. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted in favor and Commissioner W. Carter voted no.)

Mr. Fuqua thanked the Board.

Chairman McVey asked the Board to go to page 8 of the handout that was emailed for the June 8, 2020 budget work session and make decisions on those.





Personnel Requests Not Included in the Budget

Commissioner Owen stated that in the Elections Department there was a request for a Part Time Deputy Director at a cost of $15,600 and this request was not included in the manager’s proposed budget.

Chairman McVey stated that Mr. Miller would go down the list and the Board would vote on a consensus for each item.

Elections - Part time Deputy Director in Elections at $15,600. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Information Technology - Full time position at $42,734. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

EMS – 1 Full time EMT position at $32,330, 1 Full time Paramedic position at $42,757 and 1 Full time Administrative assistant at $27,040. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Public Education – Teacher Supplements at $300,000, Social Worker at $70,000, SRO at $49,000 and Current Expense increase of $150,000.

Commissioner Owen asked if the SRO was an additional one or the one that was provided by the grant last year. Mr. Miller responded that it was his understanding that this was an additional SRO and asked if this was Ms. Vaughn’s understanding. Ms. Vaughn stated that it was her understanding that it was an additional SRO.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “We have not heard from the superintendent yet so I would like to hold off on that to get an absolute answer because I had made a note next to it this was the one for the elementary schools.” Chairman McVey responded “This was an addition.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I heard people say believe and I think. I’m just stressing the fact that we might want to hear them out and give them a chance since they have not been in this meeting today.”

Chairman McVey asked Ms. Seamster to see if she could get the Superintendent online with Zoom. Ms. Seamster responded that she would.

Mr. Miller asked the Board if they wanted to vote on the other three items and come back to the SRO.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that the county employees were not getting a raise so the $300,000 for teacher supplements should not be approved.

Chairman McVey stated it was fine with him to vote on the other three items.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the write up in the book about the SRO it says the School received a grant in 2018 for 2 years for a SRO and the grant will expire on June 30, 2020. He stated that it says they are continuing to see grant funds but none have been secured at this time. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that this SRO serves the elementary schools. He stated that this SRO position is a new position or the cost of an existing position that that county has not had to pay for.

Public Education – Teacher Supplement at $300,000. (Commissioners W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no and Commissioner S. Carter voted yes).

Ms. Seamster stated that she had Dr. Carter on the telephone and the SRO is the one that the school system is trying to get grant funding on and will not find out until July. She added that one part would be funded by the County and two parts by the grant. Ms. Seamster stated that Dr. Carter said this is the SRO or the elementary schools.

Public Education – Social Worker $70,000. Commissioner S. Carter stated “That one is an additional.” Mr. Miller responded “That’s an additional position.” (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Public Education – Current Expense $150,000. Commissioner Owen stated that this would be one that the Board may want to bring back up in October.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Again would like to but not in this budget situation.”

(Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Public Education – SRO $49,000. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman and Commissioners I have a positive feeling about this situation that they will be able to get grant monies for this. If this is temporarily approved we can reassess after that point but I do feel like with the recent events I think in the last couple of years I think it’s very important that we maintain a School Resource Officer at the elementary schools.” Commissioner W. Carter agreed. Commissioner Owen agreed and stated that he hoped the school system received the grant money.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I have a question for Gwen on this. If they got the grant what would that number convert to as far as our contribution to it?” Ms. Vaughn responded “She said the grant is funded at one part at $49,000 and two parts from the state, that’s what I understood.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “What would be the dollar amountwise, how much we would have to contribute if they get the grant?” The clerk responded “She said she did not have the exact amount but it would not be the $49,000.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Right.” Commissioner Hall stated that the Board needed to be very careful when making appropriations to the school because they can’t be taken back. (Commissioners Hall, Jefferies, McVey, and Oestreicher voted no and Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter and Owen voted yes).

Commissioner Owen asked if all the red items could be addressed first which are not included in the budget.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I am sorry to interrupt y’all but with IT we are waiting on some additional information on that. Are we all good on all of that, that $104,000 because I asked him earlier about if those were low security issues and I think he said it was $56,000. The fiber is nice but I don’t know where we are at on that.” Chairman McVey responded that the Board is going through the red items. Commissioner S. Carter continued “So we will come back to that.”

Mr. Miller stated that was all of the positions that was not covered in the budget.

Capital Outlay Not Included in the Budget

EMS – 2 ambulance remounts $260,000. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that his sheet said $30,000. Ms. Vaughn responded that the ambulance remounts are $130,000 each for a total of $260,000. Mr. Miller stated that he thought the actual amount on the last remount was $135,000. Mr. Miller stated that the Board could approve one, two or neither. Chairman McVey stated that this can be revisited once the county see what kind of money is coming in.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “I think the ambulance remounts can be readdressed later. I have a different opinion on that.” (Commissioners Hall and Jefferies voted no, Commissioners Oestreicher, S. Carter, W. Carter, McVey and Owen voted to wait until October on 1 remount).

EMS – Equipment – Cradle Points at $16,200. (Commissioners Hall and Jefferies voted no, Commissioners McVey and Owen voted to wait until October, Commissioners B. Carter, S. Carter and Oestreicher voted yes.)

EMS – Turnout Gear at $23,188. Commissioner S. Carter stated “I know we have not had the opportunity to use these in 3 years but I feel something deep down that this is one of those make or break type situations in certain accidents that may make a different and something may happen next month but I would advocate that we purchase that now.” Chairman McVey responded that this was the reason he wanted Mr. Lynch to check with the fire departments on their old equipment. Commissioner S. Carter continued “If that’s what can be done then go for it.” Commissioner Hall stated that he was a no on all the new spending. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted to wait until October, Commissioner Hall voted no).

EMS – Pickup Truck Replacement at $7,200 per year on a lease program. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

EMS – EMS Base at $1,500,000. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Public Education – Capital Outlay at $155,000. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Specify that again.” Mr. Miller responded it is capital outlay at $155,000. Commissioner S. Carter continued “I am getting this one and PCC mixed up. This is $155,000 more than the $465,000, is that correct?” Mr. Miller responded “That’s correct.” (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no).

Personnel Requests & Capital Outlay Included in the Budget

Maintenance – Building & Other Needs at $122,703. Chairman McVey asked if this was included in the budget. Mr. Miller responded that it is included in the budget.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that $208,000 was included in the budget so this has been reduced. Mr. Miller responded that this was correct. Commissioner Oestreicher asked what the $122,703 included. Ms. Vaughn responded that it includes: Roof covering for Board of Elections and Building Inspections $36,982, Replace sidewalk and steps at DSS for safety issues $5,496, Provide and install new Honeywell fire alarm control panel $14,450, Replace 10 ton HVAC unit on top of Guilford Mills $12,975, Replace the steps at the new courthouse lower level for safety issues $12,500, Replace the roof and storage area at the Health Department and restrooms at Guilford Mills $8,000, and to Paint the ceiling at the Historic Courthouse $32,800.

Commissioner W. Carter asked if the generator was included in this. Ms. Vaughn responded that there was no mention of a generator. Commissioner W. Carter asked Mr. Colon Cassady what the price was on the generator. Mr. Cassady responded that the price was $29,000 and added that he was trying to get the state to pay for this but the state will not even discuss it now. Commissioner W. Carter stated that there was a need for the generator because if the power goes out the county can be fined or written up if sewage gets on the ground and the Division of Environmental Management has been pushing to get a generator at the Welcome Center.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if a generator could be used from somewhere else. Mr. Cassady responded that the county does not have one.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that this was vital to include in the budget. Mr. Miller agreed that it was a very important item. Chairman McVey stated that the $29,000 needed to be added to the $122,703. Ms. Vaughn responded that this would be $151,703.

Commissioner Hall stated that he was not ready to vote and he thought some of this could be pulled out such as the ceiling in the historic courthouse for $32,800. Commissioner Jefferies agreed. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he was willing to trade the ceiling for a generator. Commissioners W. Carter and Owen agreed. Commissioner S. Carter stated “Well I don’t see it as a trade. How much did that ceiling cost when you first got here? Over a hundred. Colon Cassady how much was the ceiling when it was redone?” Mr. Cassady responded “I want to say it was $101,000 for everything they done but I’m…” Commissioner S. Carter continued “We can wait 5 more years and get to that point again I would not recommend that.” Commissioner Hall responded that the ceiling has been repaired more than once. Chairman McVey stated to see what the numbers look like in October. Mr. Cassady responded that he did not know if the ceilings could be painted for that amount of now because the gentlemen that gave the county the quote passed away. Chairman McVey stated that the Building & Other Needs would include what Ms. Vaughn said but the generator for the Welcome Center will be included and the painting of the ceilings of the historic courthouse will be taken out. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the amount would remain at $122,703. Chairman McVey responded yes. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes).

Sheriff – Full Time Position (1.75) at $64,393. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Grant funded correct?” Mr. Miller responded “This one does not say grant funded.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “It is written right next to it.” Mr. Miller asked “Gwen is the full time position is grant funded. The full time position is an investigator so that would be a new hire. The grant funded position is a sexual assault investigator and then a position paid by the Town of Yanceyville.” Mr. Miller stated “So the full time position (1.75) is not grant funded.” Ms. Vaughn responded “That’s correct.” Commissioner S. Carter stated “With this budget I don’t’ think we should hire any new people.” Chairman McVey stated “I thought we had a hiring freeze on.” (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted no and Commissioner Jefferies voted yes).

Sheriff – Grant & Other funded (3) at $117,038. Ms. Vaughn stated that the Town of Yanceyville 1st Sergeant position is $59,742 salary and benefits and Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Investigator is $57,000 which is a multi-year grant through the Governor’s Crime Commission.

Sheriff Tony Durden stated “Good afternoon everyone, I know with the current economy no one wants to fund law enforcement but I know that’s different with Caswell County. Let me if I can explain the SRO, I just signed an agreement that they sent off to the State and let me read something to you, the funding agreement Caswell County Schools will pay a total sum of $33,333 by August 1st to the Caswell County Sheriff’s Office. This is like partially funded grant that should come in by July so I encourage the Board to if they can to wait until July to figure out if money is going to come in from the State for that SRO position.”

Commissioner W. Carter asked if this SRO was the one for the elementary schools. Sheriff Durden responded yes and added that when the position was approved by the Board he was told that he would have to come back before the Board to get approval if the grant was no renewed. He added that the Board could wait until July to see if the funding is received for the SRO for the elementary schools. Chairman McVey stated that the Board agreed to come back in October and look at this position but this can be done if the grant is received before then.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that in Dr. Carter’s write up the school is pursuing grants for the 2 current SROs and this SRO is a third position so this is a new position. Sheriff Durden responded that this is not a new position, this is a current position that was grant funded for 2 years.

Commissioner Owen stated that in the school’s request the SRO funding was $49,000 and he asked Sheriff Durden if he just said $33,333. Sheriff Durden stated that this position is not the same as the other SRO positions, it is a match and $33,333 would be paid by Caswell County Schools by August 1st and then an additional amount would be paid for insurance and benefits. Chairman McVey asked Sheriff Durden to let the Board know when the grant is approved so this can be revisited. Sheriff Durden responded that if it weren’t for COVID he would be in front of the Board requesting information for this position. He added that he remembered the conversation that if the funding was lost that he would be back in front of the Board because this position is needed.

Chairman McVey stated that the Board was talking about Grant & Other funded positions. Sheriff Durden responded that the Domestic Violence officer has been approved and received the grant funding so this position is a no brainer. He added that he had entered into an agreement with the Town of Yanceyville that it will pay the salary of an officer. Sheriff Durden stated that the officer will do more than just answer calls within the town limits, this position will also help to establish a relationship in the town.

Commissioner Owen asked how many years was the Domestic Violence position grant for. Ms. Vaughn responded that the grant was either for 2 or 3 years. Mr. Miller responded that GSS is normally a 3 year grant term. Commissioner Owen asked if this position would be able visit the Library and Parks and Rec as a walk through from time to time. Sheriff Durden responded that the county manager had already asked this question on Friday and his response to the county manager was whatever was needed to make everything work.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “We would greatly appreciate that type of an agreement so those needs are met as well without spending a lot of extra money.”

Commissioner Hall stated that he would vote yes for Town of Yanceyville position and grant funded position as long as the funds last. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes).

Sheriff – Detention – Full Time Position $48,788 is included in the budget. Ms. Vaughn stated that this position is listed as a new hire but it is just a vacant position. She added that the Transport is a vacant position. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Vaughn if the process was necessary since it is a vacant position. Ms. Vaughn responded no. Mr. Miller asked if this position was included in last year’s budget. Ms. Vaughn responded yes.

Sheriff – Vehicle Lease $50,000 – Commissioner W. Carter asked Sheriff Durden to explain the need for the cars. Sheriff Durden stated that Enterprise recommended that the Sheriff’s Office get 14 new vehicles but the county cannot afford 14 new vehicles. He added that the county could not probably afford the 9 that he was asking for but there is a need for 9 new vehicles. Sheriff Durden stated that the same problem is happening that has been happening for the last 3 years; vehicles are ordered but they are not received. He stated that 4 vehicles of the 8 vehicles have been received from the budget approval last year.

Chairman McVey asked the county manager to contact Enterprise to see why the vehicles are not being received in a timely fashion. Mr. Miller asked Sheriff Durden if he had asked this question. Sheriff Durden responded that he had asked the question but the response was first in first out. He added that Enterprise is holding 4 vehicles for him now and if he will make sure that the police agreement Enterprise would guarantee Caswell County’s vehicles up front. Chairman McVey responded that he was confused because the Sheriff’s Office has order 4 vehicles that have not been received and Enterprise is telling the Sheriff that if the County will order the other 9 that Enterprise will get the vehicles right away. Sheriff Durden stated yes but there is a need for the cars and if the cars are not ordered this year it will be even harder next year because the pandemic has mess us car rentals and car sales.

Commissioner W. Carter stated that if the 9 vehicles are ordered they will probably not arrive until next year. Sheriff Durden responded that Enterprise promised him that they would send 4 but it would probably be next year before receiving the next 5. Chairman McVey stated that it sounds like the county is being held hostage by Enterprise. Commissioner Oestreicher responded that by linking the purchase of 4 more vehicles to the 4 already on order that is illegal. Commissioner S. Carter responded “Very.” Sheriff Durden stated that he was telling the Board what was told to him. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that it sounded like the Sheriff’s Office was only going to get 4 anyway so he voted for 4. Commissioner W. Carter responded that several years ago the Board agreed to a car rotation of 6 per year.

Commissioner Owen stated that Commissioner W. Carter was correct but in the current position the County is in he would rather approve 4 and possible revisit the other 4 later in October. Commissioner Hall stated that the County is not in the position to vote for any new cars. Chairman McVey asked Commissioner Hall if he knew that 9 cars were included in the budget. Commissioner Hall responded yes. Commissioners Jefferies and Oestreicher voted for 4 vehicles. Commissioner W. Carter voted for 4 vehicles and asked to revisit the other 5 in October. Commissioner S. Carter and McVey voted for 4.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Is there some way we can communicate to Enterprise that we are not going to play like that if that’s what they said?” Mr. Miller responded “That was not my conversation with them.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I understand.” Commissioner Owen stated that he understood with COVID-19 that all service industries are held up several weeks but if the cars cannot be received faster than the County may need to start back purchasing them. Commissioner W. Carter agreed with Commissioner Owen and that that this was the main reason for going with Enterprise to get the cars faster. He added that ordering car in July and not receiving until the next July is unacceptable. Commissioner Oestreicher stated that Enterprise promised the Board that there would not be a delay. He added that the problem that Sheriff Durden is facing existed before COVID-19 so that excuse does not wash. Chairman McVey directed the county manager to speak with Enterprise to see if they can do a little bit better job.

911 Communications – Cost no longer eligible in state funding $55,836. Mr. Miller stated that he checked on the reconsideration with 911 and the State Board and the County is not eligible to submit a reconsideration for this funding. Commissioner Owen stated that this money is included in the budget. Mr. Miller responded that it is included in the budget. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes).

Commissioner W. Carter asked the county manager if any of the old cars would have to be turned in to Enterprise once the new cars are received or could they be sold at public auction to try to get some of the money back. Mr. Miller responded that the current old cars would be auctioned off.

Chairman McVey asked if the Board would like to schedule another budget meeting.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “We’ve got one more item.” Commissioner W. Carter stated to continue on with the meeting. Mr. Miller responded “I thought the agreement was today that we would wait until the end or until you were finished and look at this one.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Specify which items you are talking about.” Chairman McVey responded “The salary adjustment.”

Commissioner Owen asked if the Board talked about Ballot Creation & Printing Equipment and IT assessment management. Mr. Miller responded no.

Elections – Ballot Creation & Printing Equipment $52,000 included in the budget – Commissioner Owen stated this said to purchase new printer compatible with new voting equipment and he wanted to know if this was a necessity. He stated that he thought if it were a necessity it would have been included in the original package. Commissioner Owen asked if this printer would only print ballots or could the ballots be printed on anything else.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Do we have Mr. Webb?” Commissioner Oestreicher stated that he had the same question that Commissioner Owen did. Commissioner S. Carter asked “Mr. Webb are you with us?” Mr. Robert Webb, Elections Director, responded “I am.”

Commissioner Owen asked for an explanation for the need of a new printer. Mr. Webb responded that the County always farmed out the printing and coding of the elections and the ballot creation but the problem that was ran into with the primary elections was with the new system and because the State is still learning the ins and outs with the vendor there was a very tight timeline on receiving the ballots and this was not a good situation and hoped to not have to go through it again. He stated that the $52,000 would cover the cost for a special workstation as well as the licensing for the software that creates and codes and election and ballots could be printed in house. Mr. Webb stated that what took so long with the primary election was the coding and the creation of the ballots themselves and the vendor was creating these. He stated that there was a lot of conversation between the vendor, the State board, and himself and this is what was discussed. Mr. Webb stated that he talked Mr. Miller about the cost per ballot and the cost per ballot is cheaper if the print service is farmed out but the advantage of having the printer is there is normally a 3 week lead time to get ballots so that is an issue but if precincts are running out of ballots and the county had the printer the ballots could be printed and sent to this precinct before they ran out. He stated that the county would be able to eliminate the coding issue by doing the printing in house. Mr. Webb stated that the printer that will be used is specifically certified by the EAC for the use of printing the ballots and it can’t be used for anything else. Commissioner Owen stated that he had a better understanding now.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked for an explanation on the line item Printing that went from $3400 to $4200. Mr. Webb responded that the Printing line items covers ballot creation as well as the cost for registration cards and confirmation cards. He added that these are sent out all the time and the cost of these have gradually gone up. Mr. Webb stated that he is also seeing an increase in requests for absentee by mail forms. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if it was possible to lease the printer rather than purchase it. Mr. Webb responded that he had already asked this question and the answer was no.

Commissioner Owen asked how much the ballots cost if printed by an outside vendor. Mr. Webb responded that the approximate cost is 23 cents per ballot. He added that the county could have them printer cheaper than printing in house but there is an uncertainty of getting the ballots on time. Mr. Webb stated that for the primary election the ballots were received the evening before early voting began. Commissioner Owen stated that he understood that but he asked how far in advance were ballots ordered. Mr. Webb responded that the ballots were ordered between 3 ½ to 4 weeks before the election and he called them daily to find out the status. He added that he and Board of Elections would like to have the ability to print ballots in house. Commissioner Owen asked why the ballots couldn’t be ordered 6 weeks in advance. Mr. Webb responded that this would be restricted by the coding of the vendor and this could be a step that could be eliminated. (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes).

Commissioner Hall stated that the County handles the voting for the Town of Yanceyville and the Town of Milton and asked if the fees that they are charged could be adjusted to handle some of the expense. Mr. Webb responded that during a municipal election the costs that are incurred are halved between the towns so yes they would incur some of the cost. Commissioner Hall stated that he wanted to make sure this was being looked at.

Information Technology – IT Assessment Management $104,500 was included in the budget.

Chairman McVey asked Mr. David Norris, IT Director, to explain the capital outlay request again. Mr. Miller stated that from his understanding $30,000 of the $104,500 for fiber connectivity between DSS, Sheriff’s Department, Health Department and the new courthouse as well as improved connectivity to the historic courthouse. He stated that the remainder of that amount was to replace Windows 7 systems. Mr. Norris responded that this was correct. He added that he had a group of consultants to look at this because he had heard that some of the fiber cables had been severed. Mr. Norris stated that this was confirmed and some of the cabling was hanging loose so this reduce the original amount. He added that he has not confirmed the Health Department. Mr. Norris stated the difference would cover the Windows 7 upgrades to workstations.

Commissioner Oestreicher stated that the county had spent a lot of money on the tax and finance software and he wondered if any of this capital outlay would work with this software. Mr. Norris responded that the improved infrastructure would help with the new software. He added that he hoped to get a primary internet circuit and a secondary internet circuit at the courthouse which would help with the tax software as well as the finance software. Mr. Norris stated that the connectivity would improve across the board. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the Windows 7 issue was within the tax office. Mr. Norris responded that this did affect the tax department as well as all the other departments except for DSS and Health.

Commissioner S. Carter stated “Mr. Chairman I’d like for us to keep this item.” (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Hall, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes).

Intern Position – Mr. Miller stated that he had one additional piece for the Board. He stated that he has spoken about an intern position several times in the past and he included in the budget $45,000 for an internship. Mr. Miller stated that internship would be largely centered around Co-Square helping the county manager’s office and economic development with several projects. He stated that the county will received 50% funding from the Danville Regional Foundation to fund this position. Mr. Miller asked the Board to approve the position with the money provided by the grant until September or October and then the Board can make a decision on funding the rest of the position.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Would it work that way?” Mr. Miller responded “It would.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “And if we decided that we were not interested in it anymore and then poof?” Mr. Miller responded “It very well could, yes.”

Commissioner Oestreicher asked “Are you saying add $0 now and then put in $22,000 in October?” Mr. Miller responded “Put $0 in now, the Board would not appropriate anything for this positon now, we would use the funding from the Danville Regional Foundation to pay for the first four months of the position and then the commissioners can look at revenues after that point and move forward with the position or eliminate it. So initially it would be no money being appropriated out of county dollars towards the position until after you are able to make a determination in October.” Commissioner Oestreicher continued “So you are asking for us to approve a $0 internship at this point?” Mr. Miller responded “Not exactly, I am saying you still have to appropriate the money in the Economic Development budget that has been given to us by the Danville Regional Foundation. That money still has to be appropriated in the budget for Economic Development but there would be no taxpayer expense for the first 4 months.” (Commissioners S. Carter, W. Carter, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted yes and Commissioner Hall abstained.).

Chairman McVey asked for the next date for the budget work session.

Commissioner S. Carter asked “Would y’all be okay with next Monday?” Commissioner Owen responded “Well I was just going to say I want to give time for our finance director to redo whatever she needs to do to present to us so we will kind of know where we’re at now as to where we were.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “Would a week be okay?” Mr. Miller asked “Does next Monday work for you Gwen?” Ms. Vaughn responded “It will, yes.” Commissioner S. Carter continued “I was asking 1:00 or earlier.” The consensus was 1:00

RECESS

At 4:05 p.m. Chairman McVey recess the budget work session until Monday, June 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

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Paula P. Seamster Rick McVey

Clerk to the Board Chairman

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