

A Public Budget Hearing of the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, held in Room 307 of #1 Courthouse Plaza thereof on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: MARY HYNES, Chair  
J. WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman  
\*JAY FISETTE, Member  
CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member

ALSO PRESENT: BARBARA M. DONNELLAN, County Manager  
HOPE L. HALLECK, Clerk

\*arrived at 7:15 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013 BUDGET**

The Board held a duly advertised public hearing from 7:01 p.m. to 9:48 p.m. at which 72 persons testified on the proposed County and Schools expenditures budget for FY 2013 which begins July 1, 2012.

### **TWO-MINUTE SPEAKERS:**

Michael Nardolilli, President of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, stated his support for the renewal of the public/private partnership for NVCT.

Michael Gessel of Citizens for Cherrydale Library requested restoration of operating hours and supports a plan to maintain the restored hours.

Nancy Pallesen of the Arlington Free Clinic updated the board on the lottery held in February at which 211 people applied for services. She spoke about the need for additional resources to provide more health care.

Joan Horwitt of the Reevesland Learning Center stated that many groups and individuals support rehabilitating the existing farmhouse to make the Reevesland Learning Center. The Center's supporters stood behind Ms. Horwitt as she spoke.

Mary Beth Emerson, a volunteer with Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN), stated that she has been an Arlington resident since 1985 and serves as Deacon at the Trinity Church. She spoke about the need for additional resources to serve the homeless.

Melissa Henderson, a Board member of the Northern Virginia Family Service, spoke about the need for increased resources for youth for gang prevention services.

Shelly Wade asked the Board to consider restoring library hours and stated her support for the Manager's recommendation.

Kathy Sibert, Executive Director of A-SPAN, informed the Board that a client of A-SPAN, a lifelong Arlington resident had passed away that morning. She requested more resources to provide housing with a multi-disciplinary approach including a 100 Homes case manager.

Ron Battocchi, member of the Reevesland Learning Center Steering Committee, spoke in support of County funding for the Learning Center.

Ann Felker of the A-SPAN Board, thanked the Board for their support, requested that the support continue and informed the Board that A-SPAN now has a homeless services center that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Bruce Neilson spoke on behalf of the Northern Virginia Community College Board and thanked the Manager for support of programs preparing students for four-year college and employment.

Andrew Keyes, President of A-SPAN Board of Directors, supports the homeless shelter being proposed in the Courthouse area and a homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program and spoke about the need for a program supporting single homeless people.

Yvonne Aiken, resident of Columbia Grove Apartments, has been an Arlington resident for 20 years. She advocated for affordable housing.

Linda Kelleher of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) stated that there are 995 households of working low-income residents in Arlington, 1,600 new units have been created since 2000, and there has been a 34% decrease in multi-family rental units available.

Michael O'Rourke of the Arlington/Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless supports the homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program.

Caroline Jones of Doorways for Women and Families stated that she supports the homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program and supports expansion of the program with local funding.

Tom Leckey of A-SPAN has been an Arlington resident for 50 years and participated in the homeless survey. He expressed his support for the 100 homes campaign and funding for a case manager.

Antonio Bautista of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia stated that immigration related services are expensive and often inadequate. He requested additional support for the more than 300 people served per year by the Committee.

Norman Hill of the Peer Empowerment Center supports the five-point plan and peer-to-peer services.

Jack Cornman of the Alliance for Housing Solutions supports affordable housing.

Adrienne Kay of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia spoke in support of the Committee's programs.

Samuel Gatewood of A-SPAN spoke of the need for services for homeless single people.

Annie Rodgers of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance requested additional investments in housing grants, grants for single homeless people and the homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing program.

Peter Olivere of Arlington Villages supports the model of services used by Arlington Village. Mr. Olivere's testimony stated that a village is "a grassroots organization whose purpose is to enable older adults to stay in their homes and remain active in their communities as long as possible."

Richard Cobb thanked the board for their support of homeless services and stated his support for wrap-around services for the homeless.

Jim Burke, President of the Arlington Interfaith Council thanked the Board for support of programs serving the homeless. He stated that he supports a year-round shelter, a living wage, and stated that the 100 Homes campaign is a great start for affordable housing.

David Leibson, Chair of the Task Force on Homelessness emphasized the role of AHIF and housing grants in homelessness prevention.

Jim Hurysz stated that the Fairlington condominiums are tiny and the taxes are high, as are the condo fees. He questioned the Board's approval of funding for public arts projects and streetcars.

Nelso Brizuela of the BU-GATA Tenant Association stated that BU-GATA helps people get connected with local resources.

Ruth Rosales, an employee of BU-GATA Tenant Association, requested \$50,000 in funding to help tenants participate in civic activities and be educated about tenants rights.

Francisco Henriquez, an employee of BU-GATA Tenant Association, stated that the BU-GATA Tenant Association helps tenants ensure that buildings are properly maintained. He requested \$50,000 in funding to help 30 families find affordable housing.

Wendy Gradison, President of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc. thanked the Board for recommending funding to support intensive skills and support services to help clients maintain housing.

Carol Skelly of the Arlington Community Services Board (CSB) stated that \$700,000 is needed for services and \$2.2 million is needed for housing grants.

Naomi Verdugo of the Arlington Community Services Board thanked the Board for funding last fiscal year for children's psychiatric services and requested an increase in funding this year.

John McGuire of Arlington Community Services Board stated that his son has used CSB psychiatric services and was homeless due to mental illness. His son is now in a group home learning life skills and medication management. Mr. McGuire expressed concerns about what will happen when his son can no longer live in the group home.

Mary Anne Wahle of the Arlington Community Services Board stated she supports CSB services for adults with mental illness. Her son has schizophrenia and has benefitted from CSB services.

Stuart Cluff of the Arlington Community Services Board supports the proposed budget as a CSB consumer. He stated that he works at Volunteers of America, and that Job Avenue has provided him with a safety net.

Craig Dabney of the Arlington Community Services Board has received assistance from CSB substance abuse services and just bought his first home. He stated that he encourages the Board to continue supporting the CSB.

Shannon Seville of the Arlington Community Services Board stated she has been receiving CSB mental health services, including peer support, for 10 years and it has been very helpful.

Shaun Buckner of the Arlington Community Services Board requested funding for a full-time peer recovery specialist to serve 60 adults annually.

Bharati Patel of the Arlington Community Services Board requested permanent, on-going funding for recovery services at the Dwery center.

Donna Budway of the Arlington Community Services Board stated that her daughter is a CSB consumer. Ms. Budway also stated that she supports funding of \$99,000 for a new van route for consumers.

Burt Uchima is a client of Job Avenue through the Arlington Community Services Board, and stated that he likes working, he is saving money and he supports the CSB funding priorities.

Richard Pollack, a 6-year resident of Arlington, asked the Board to decrease spending and stated that he is not in support of the performing arts center, the streetcar program and the purchase of the 2020 building.

Mark Gill of AGENA stated that he supports a cost of living increase for County employees, the same increase that school employees are expecting.

Redda Mehari of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) stated that she came to this country in 1983 and is now involved in refugee resettlement. She stated her support for funding for ECDC programs.

Esther Bowring of the Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation thanked the Board for their support of the amphitheater and requested continued support.

Gene Kendall of the Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. spoke on behalf of Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille to thank the Board for their support last fiscal year and state the Mayor's support of the County Manager's recommendation in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

Elizabeth Giese, a physician with Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. stated that the partnership with Arlington County is successful and she is able to provide 16 hours of care per week.

Kevin Kelly, Managing Director of the ECDC/Enterprise Development Group thanked the Board for their support.

Konjit Edward of ECDC requested continued support of their programs, particularly for mental health services.

Zulma Vargas, a 20-year County employee, stated she supports a cost of living increase for County employees.

Marion Jordan, a County parks and nature center volunteer, requested the Board support restoring Sunday hours at the nature centers.

Andres Tobar of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center stated his appreciation for all the organizations in the community providing a safety net and urged the Board to continue to fund these organizations.

Gerardo Avilla of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center stated he has benefitted from the Center's services.

Connie Freeman, a County employee, spoke in support of County employees earning a cost of living increase.

Kevin Ahearn, a County employee, spoke in support of County employees earning a cost of living increase.

Steve Young, a natural resources volunteer at the Long Branch Nature Center, requested restoration of the Nature Center's operating hours.

Caroline Haynes thanked the Board for funding for the Natural Resources Manager position and requested continued funding for the nature centers.

Alexa Mavroidis, a peer counselor at the Endependence Center, requested that the Board use HOME funds to create tenant-based rental assistance vouchers. She also submitted written questions on the draft Consolidated Plan.

Cheryl Medonsa thanked the Board for their support of Aurora Highlands.

Candice Rose of the Commission on Aging requested \$133,000 for long-term care for seniors.

Cory Giacobbe requested restoration of full hours at all libraries, thanked the County Manager, and expressed support for the Manager's recommendations.

### **THREE-MINUTE SPEAKERS:**

Nury Marquez of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia stated that 1,400 clients were served last year. Ms. Marquez requested funds for the immigration/legal assistance program. She also thanked the Board for existing funding and stated her support for housing programs.

Yvette Zaragoza of the Hispanic Committee of Virginia thanked the Board for their continued support and stated the need for more resources for low income families in Arlington and she requested funds for the immigration/legal assistance program.

Charles Meng of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) requested \$75,000 for families who need food due to a recent 24% increase in families requesting assistance from AFAC.

Robert Atkins spoke about rats.

Bernard Berne requested that the Board decrease the budget by doing less mowing.

Lois Athey, Executive Director of BU-GATA Tenant Association requested \$50,000 for tenant outreach.

Saul Reyes of BU-GATA Tenant Association thanked the Board for restoring funding to the Lubber Run Community Center and requested \$50,000 to expand tenant outreach.

Charles Rinker of the Arlington New Directions Coalition stated that he supports the recommendations in the human services memo, and requested an additional \$1.7 million including \$650,000 for MIPAP.

A motion was made by CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member, seconded by WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman to conclude the public hearing on the proposed expenditures budget for County and Schools for Fiscal Year 2013 and carry-over consideration to the April 21, 2012 County Board Meeting. The motion was adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, the voting recorded as follows: MARY HYNES, Chair - Aye, J. WALTER TEJADA, Vice Chairman - Aye, JAY FISETTE, Member - Aye, CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member – Aye.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, at 9:48 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

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MARY HYNES, Chair

ATTEST:

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HOPE L. HALLECK, Clerk  
Approved: May 19, 2012