

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on March 7, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., Lane Auditorium of the County Office Building on McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PRESENT: Mr. Ken C. Boyd, Mr. Lindsay G. Dorrier, Jr., Mr. Dennis S. Rooker, Mr. David Slutzky, Ms. Sally H. Thomas and Mr. David C. Wyant.

ABSENT: None.

OFFICERS PRESENT: County Executive, Robert W. Tucker, Jr., County Attorney, Larry W. Davis, Deputy Clerk, Meagan Hoy, and Director of Planning, V. Wayne Cilimberg.

Agenda Item No. 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by the Chairman, Mr. Boyd.

Agenda Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Item No. 3. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 4. ~~Recognitions~~. This item had been moved to the agenda for the night portion of this meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters not listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Rooker wanted to make sure the Board members had received a copy of the letter from Del. Steve Landes, along with a funding summary for the proposed State Transportation Bill.

Ms. Thomas said an air quality monitor will be installed by DEQ close to Albemarle High School and Jack Jouett Middle School. Apparently they could not find a site further out in the County.

Ms. Thomas said that at a recent Planning District Commission meeting, the members received a green build design series master plan. There will be a number of meetings and educational programs scheduled to help the public learn how to work with LEED design and how to perform their own residential energy audit. Meetings will be for both builders and homeowners. It is a series that will take much of the next year. It is being funded by a grant provided to the Habitat for Humanity Building Supply Store.

Ms. Thomas said she sent e-mails to people about two bills in the General Assembly concerning billboards. Mr. Andy Bowen sent her a draft letter which she thinks might be good for this Board to send to Governor Kaine requesting that he veto the bill which was passed by the General Assembly. It would allow billboards to be placed almost anywhere overriding any zoning that may exist in a community, or any sign ordinance. She asked if there is a consensus to do so.

Mr. Boyd said he thinks staff heard from most Board members on this question. He asked if there is a consensus. Mr. Tucker said staff took the replies as a consensus and the letter is ready for the Chair to sign.

Mr. Slutzky said this is the first time he had heard about the DEQ choice of location for the air quality monitor, which at first glance strikes him as ludicrous because the winds come over the mountains, pass over Albemarle High School and then get to Route 29 where there is a tremendous traffic volume. He asked that Ms. Thomas send him the correspondence so he can probe this further. He does not want DEQ to take measurements that create the impression in the public's mind that there is not an air quality problem, if there is one. He would rather not have an air quality station there versus putting one upwind from the major source of pollution.

Ms. Thomas said DEQ worked for a couple of years and could not find another site.

Mr. Slutzky said property owned by the County in the northeast corner is in the geographic domain of potentially acceptable measurement locations. He finds it odd that they would choose a place in the other direction.

Mr. Rooker suggested someone speak with the person at DEQ who made that decision. He understands from reading the letter that they found a site that met all of the criteria.

Mr. Boyd said he would like to change the agenda tonight for the budget hearing. He thinks there will be a lot of people present and by the time the Board members get an opportunity to speak and make observations and comments it will be very late, and a lot of the people will have left. If everybody agrees, at the beginning of the hearing immediately after Mr. Tucker presents his budget, he would like to give each Board member three minutes to give their thoughts about that budget.

Mr. Dorrier said he thinks it would make more sense to hear from some of the public first.

Mr. Boyd said he expects that after the public hearing the Board will take the opportunity to speak about the budget.

Mr. Slutzky asked if, under those circumstances, the other Board members would speak; he probably would choose not to speak. He wants to hear what the public says before taking a position.

Mr. Dorrier said three minutes is too long.

Mr. Boyd said he will have to explain how the three-minute timer in the Auditorium works, so he thought this could be used as way of explanation.

Mr. Rooker said in the past the Board has not commented on the budget either before or after the public hearing, usually just adjourning to its first work session. He is amenable to commenting, but it will just add another 15 or more minutes to the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Thomas said she likes new ideas, but thinks she would only let the public know the Board members do listen. She suggested the Chairman speak for three minutes just for a lighthearted demonstration of the timer.

Mr. Boyd asked if any Board member has an interest in doing this.

Mr. Wyant said he thinks it is a good idea, but like Mr. Slutzky he probably would not speak. He will be listening to what the public has to say, and make his final decision later.

Mr. Rooker said he does not have a strong opinion, but if people were going to speak, he would certainly say something. He does not know how wise it is to take a position on the budget before hearing from the public.

Mr. Boyd said he does not think the Board should take a position on any particular line item, but he has some philosophical issues with how the Board approaches the budget process.

Mr. Dorrier said the Board spends a long time going through the work sessions and analyzing every item in the budget, and then it will make its decision after it has all the facts before it. If the Board members make a decision before it gets the facts, what is the use of the work sessions?

Mr. Boyd said he was talking about framing the work sessions. He said Mr. Tucker will present a budget which has been prepared by staff. Maybe there is more framing about how those work sessions should work. In years past when he talked about this, he was told it was too late. He has some definite thoughts about how the work sessions should be framed this year, and that might be different than what has occurred in the past. He asked when that should be interjected into the conversation.

Mr. Rooker said it could be done at anytime, but he thinks the most meaningful time would have been in the fall when the budget process started.

Mr. Boyd said he appreciates those comments, but in the fall the potential increase in appraised value is not known. The Board does not know what the budget will look like, or what the needs will be. It is difficult to philosophically make changes at that point.

Mr. Rooker said he thought Mr. Boyd was talking about the way work sessions are structured; he thought Mr. Boyd was talking about more procedural things.

Ms. Thomas suggested that Mr. Boyd bring this up again at the end of today's meeting.

Mr. Boyd agreed.

Mr. Boyd said the Resident's Association in Forest Lakes is concerned with what is happening to the lakes in their area, particularly Arbor Lake and Hollymead Lake. They believe the lakes are being filled in as a result of what is going on at Hollymead Towncenter. The homeowners have asked if this Board might support looking at some methodology to help them with the filling of their lake. At a Places29 meeting the other night, it was said a notice had been sent to the Homeowners' suggesting they accrue a certain amount of money to deal with this situation. He knows that after Route 29 broke up and a lot of it washed into Arbor Lake, VDOT was doing remediation and cleanup there. The Residents' are asking for help because they feel these lakes are regional drainage areas. It would be somewhat of a precedent for the Board to do this, but the County has taken over other lakes in similar situations; maybe they were not as big as these. He said it involves money, so he wondered if the Board is interested in having staff draft a report on this request. He said Mr. Mark Graham has done some preliminary work on this situation.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks it is a regional issue and it would be good to get a staff report on what needs to be done and the cost. It would be helpful to get a better understanding of the situation.

Mr. Davis said there is a process set out in the Water Protection Ordinance where owners of a stormwater facility can petition the Board to accept it as a public facility. There is an existing process. However, nothing official has been received from the Homeowners' petitioning the County to take over ownership of that facility, which is a prerequisite for the County spending public funds on that type of facility.

Mr. Boyd said Mr. Graham has been involved in several Homeowners' meeting with him and that was discussed. There is a real problem with the necessary easements. A lot of the property along that lake is privately owned which impacts mortgages, so there are a lot of ramifications of going through that process.

Mr. Graham said staff went through the process and laid out a number of alternatives for the Homeowners'. He said the process in the ordinance requires them to provide easements so this could be a public facility in order to have public ownership of the facility. What staff has heard so far is that there is either an unwillingness or inability to grant the County those easements.

Mr. Wyant said he is bothered by this request. He does not want to see this happen again, so how did it happen this time, why would the County feel it is responsible when back in the 1970s the Attorney General declared that silt is a pollutant. When he worked for VDOT they were fined, and one person lost his job because of it. Now there is this situation, and damage has been done to someone. Why would the County think it did the damage?

Mr. Graham said it has not been suggested the County is responsible for any of the damage they feel occurred to their facility. There is construction on property above them, but it is in compliance with ordinance requirements. The State has checked a number of times to verify that things are being done in compliance with State law. He said no erosion and control measure is ever perfect; some amount of sediment will go from an upstream property to a downstream property no matter how efficient the controls. Before work on Hollymead Towncenter even started, staff noted this as a potential issue for the downstream property owners. Staff worked with them and strongly advised them to do some initial surveys before the construction started so they could have some estimate if they felt the upstream property owner harmed them. Those surveys were not done. That makes it difficult for them to say that "x" amount of material came from that site.

Mr. Wyant said just in the natural process they would get some of that material. Every time there is work done upstream in the future they will get more material.

Mr. Graham said it was not just Hollymead Towncenter that was being constructed at that time. There was also work being done on Airport Road, work at the Airport and at Deerwood, a considerable amount of development activity was occurring in the entire watershed that drains to their lake. He believes a significant amount of sediment came from the Hollymead Towncenter site and went into their lake.

Mr. Boyd said this has been a difficult situation. He and Mr. Graham have met on several occasions with the Homeowners' over the past three years. From the residents' standpoint, they are saying it is a regional basin and they need some help from the County.

Ms. Thomas asked how this situation is distinguished from that at Bellair where their lakes are being ruined, and at their own dollar, the residents are undertaking the dredging of those lakes. Their silt comes from construction on Old Ivy Road. Bellair is taking this as their responsibility.

Mr. Graham said this is not a unique situation. The primary difference is an order of scale. The significance of the impact to the Bellair residents is probably no different than it is to the residents in Forest Lakes. They both feel they have been harmed by activities above them in the watershed.

Mr. Rooker said all ponds silt in over time.

Mr. Graham said that is correct. Lake Hollymead was actually used as a sediment basin during construction of the Hollymead and North Forest Lakes subdivisions. It was deliberately used to accumulate sediment during construction of those developments.

Mr. Boyd said the Board may need to have a bigger discussion about what responsibility the County should or should not take in this area. He asked if the Board would be willing to have staff bring back a report and have it scheduled as a regular agenda item.

Mr. Rooker said he agrees, but would want it looked at in a broader view. He said when there is a rezoning and there is an existing lake in the area, the County might extract some proffers to cover the situation.

Mr. Boyd said it seems there is agreement for staff to bring back a report on the broader issue of what the County might do in terms of taking over some of these lakes.

Mr. Slutzky said he would not want staff to focus on that aspect. He is more interested in having staff take a global look at the strategies the Board can employ to insure that new projects do no harm. He said North Pointe had these same issues and he pushed to be sure the commercial property owners were part of the same homeowners association that would retain long-term responsibility for maintaining those sedimentation beds because of this issue. He is interested, personally, in having staff bring back something showing that the ongoing responsibility lies on the owners who created the sedimentation basins that will later be impacted by the upstream disturbances of the soils.

Mr. Boyd said he agrees, but the Forest Lakes community needs some closure on this question. It is not a new problem; it has been going on for years. They will have to accrue some money to deal with it or look to the County for assistance.

Mr. Rooker said he is willing to look at both sides. He does not want to treat one area differently from the other. There is a procedure set out in the ordinance whereby the Homeowners' could petition to have the lake taken into the County system; that has been done before. In this case he needs to know why they won't go that route.

Mr. Wyant said back in the 70s he studied every project in the State. The biggest issue with erosion control was maintenance of whatever measure was used. He said 95 percent of silt is taken out by a silt fence. Sediment basins do the same. If it has not been maintained, the County needs to take a broader look at making this a regional basin. There are a lot of issues involved with this one problem.

Mr. Boyd said the Board needs to give staff a clear picture of what it wants them to do. He knows that petitioning to have the lake taken over by the County is not acceptable to them.

Ms. Thomas said other neighborhoods have weighed that and if it is not acceptable they have come up with the money. It is shafting others who went about that process and made their decision to get the money.

Mr. Slutzky said it sounds like staff advised them there is something they should do on the front end so they could document the problem.

Mr. Boyd said the vast majority of the people living in Forest Lakes are perfectly willing to give away easements on someone else's property, but the people who own the property are the ones that do not want to do it. It gets into a technical issue. If someone has a mortgage they must get approval from that mortgage company in order to do that. That can be difficult to do. He does not know that the County would or could use condemnation.

Mr. Wyant said cleaning is one thing. The other is whether the County would want to take it over as a regional facility.

Mr. Boyd said cleaning of the lake might be a compromise the County could work on. In the future, the County might do a better job in not letting it get filled, and have the community recognize that future work would have to be done by them. He asked the County Attorney for an opinion.

Mr. Davis said the general principle is that the County cannot spend public funds on a private facility unless the County admitted some fault for it being damaged. He understands staff has said the County has no liability in this area. If the County wants to take it on as a public facility and take responsibility for drainage, the County has enabling authority to own and maintain regional stormwater facilities. In this case it might not be appropriate for the County to expend public funds on the facility unless it is either a public facility or the County was responsible for the damage.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks the Homeowners' will either have to petition to have it taken in as a County facility, or they will have to go the private route and fund it themselves. He does not see that there is another option.

Mr. Tucker said staff has heard everything said and will bring back a report.

Mr. Tucker said a couple of days ago staff learned that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be presenting an award to the City and the County because they were chosen to be put on the list of a dozen distinctive destinations. The date for the ceremony could not be changed so is at 12:30 p.m. today at Court Square. It would be nice if one Board member could attend with Lee Catlin.

Agenda Item No. 6. From the Public: Matters not listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda.

Mr. Jim Grace, from Forest Lakes, said he appreciates the discussion the Board just had about their lake. He said the homeowners feel the lakes are regional in nature and serve a common good. The commercial development in their area serves all of the people of the County. Presently, they are accruing money to dredge these lakes, but they had thought it would not need to be done this soon. The lakes were pristine until Hollymead Towncenter started. He said it serves the public good, and yet a limited number of homeowners in Hollymead and Forest Lakes will have to pay for the dredging. They are asking that the County work with them to dedicate the lakes to the County on a limited easement, where they would grant an easement on the public areas, which they are willing to do, and work with the private homeowners on the Forest Lakes side. This involves about 15 homeowners. He does not think any Board member would want to grant an easement on his own personal property because it involves an intent that makes it hard to sell the property. They think they can work out some notification where people are aware they are in the floodplain. He thinks they were notified by the County, and the floodplain has changed from when some people originally bought their property. They just want some positive indication that they can work with the County to identify major issues for this dedication, and go forward, recognizing the value of their lakes to the entire County.

Mr. Jeff Werner, with the Piedmont Environmental Council, spoke next. He said Mr. Dan Holmes at PEC and Dr. Dudley Rochester were the individuals who initiated getting the air quality monitor installed in Albemarle. He came to speak about the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Earlsyville. He said an issue came up last week in a discussion he had with a member of the Airport Authority when he shared some information about efforts to revisit the historic nature of that church. He was told that because "we"

preservationists had meddled in this issue, the nine years of good-faith negotiations to acquire the property have been placed in jeopardy. The congregation is at-risk of getting less than had initially been agreed upon. He was informed that this finding came from the Airport Authority's legal counsel. Among the things the Authority was led to believe by their counsel were, if the church is designated as an historic structure the FAA might opt to nix the entire project and thus force the congregation to preserve and maintain the church. He said there is no Federal action that can force the church to do anything. They were also told that if the congregation is located to a new site with an historic church, they would not be allowed to take with them any of the historic material of the church. This is not true. The Section 106 process has not occurred, so there has been no finding of how demolition, etc. would be mitigated. Also, the Authority said that if they acquired the property, they would be required to fund and preserve the structure. This is false. He said Section 106 is clear. It states that "Section 106 review encourages, but does not mandate, preservation." In letters from VDHR to the FAA, the FAA consultant never told VDHR why they were asking about the church. If they had said it was due to a Federal action that could result in demolition of that church, their response would have been different. He has been told repeatedly that the siding had been replaced on the church, but he has photos which show that the wood siding is still there underneath the vinyl siding. He was also told the church has been extensively renovated, but looking at the interior of the church, it is much as it was 107 years ago. What VDHR told the FAA is that reliance on this survey is not enough. If the FAA wants to hide behind their failure to follow Federal guidelines and essentially take away the opportunity for the congregation, preservationists should not be held responsible, but the FAA should be held responsible. He hopes the community, on behalf of the congregation, would hold the FAA accountable for their failure, and not because "we" asked them to follow Federal law.

Mr. Slutzky asked if it would be appropriate and of value to other members of the Board if the Board asked its legal counsel to look into some of these assertions. He is concerned by what he has heard, and if there is truth to it, the church is part of the community and the Board would not want to be unwittingly supportive of an injustice. If, by approving the rezoning a couple of months ago, the Board put these people in a weaker position, he thinks the Board might want to understand what it has done. He is disturbed by what Mr. Werner said, so he would be interested in learning more about the situation.

Ms. Thomas and Mr. Rooker also said they would like to know more. Mr. Rooker said he never understood why the church decided not to move the building. It would cost less to move the building than to build a new one.

Mr. Boyd said the congregation said the building would not suit their needs in the future.

Mr. Rooker said the congregation is very small and it would appear that the facility is more than adequate for the number of people they currently have. He just has never understood the hesitancy to preserve the building to which they have such a strong emotional attachment.

Mr. Boyd suggested legal staff look into it and give the Board a written interpretation of what is going on. Mr. Davis said he will do that, but does not know what role the County can play in this matter.

Mr. Tucker said he thinks the Airport Authority got an opinion from its legal counsel, and he thought Mr. Slutzky was asking the County Attorney to look over their shoulder.

Mr. Slutzky said he was not suggesting that there be second-guessing, only that this Board be informed of the process requirements and whether they have been followed. If this thing is not playing out as it should, this Board should know that and get involved.

Mr. Tucker said it was his understanding that VDHR had requested the Airport and the FAA to update their information on this matter. That is what the Airport Authority's consultants are doing now; this work has not yet been completed.

Mr. Slutzky said he does not think any Board member is objecting to having Mr. Davis look into the process aspects, and give the Board a report.

Mr. Tucker said legal counsel to the Airport Authority is provided by the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks there is a perception that there is some competitive interest involved. The Airport Authority has an interest in accomplishing its goals, and there is the historic aspect of the facility, and the interest of the congregation. Perhaps, the Board can serve some role in looking at the information coming in on those three sides, so it knows exactly what the facts are.

Agenda Item No. 7. Consent Agenda. Mr. Rooker offered **motion** to approve Items 7.1 (as noted) through 7.6, and to accept the remaining items on the Consent Agenda for information.

The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Wyant. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.
NAYS: None.

Item 7.1. Approval of Minutes: June 7 and July 12, 2006.

Mr. Dorrier had read the minutes of June 7, 2006, pages 1-40, and found them to be in order as presented.

Mr. Boyd had read the minutes of June 7, 2006, pages 41 to the end and found them to be in order as presented.

By the recorded vote set out above, the minutes of June 7, 2006, were approved as presented. The minutes which had not been read will go forward to another meeting.

Item 7.2. Resolution and letter in support – Crozet Meadows Revitalization and Expansion.

It was noted in the Executive Summary that The Meadows, located in Crozet and owned by Jordan Development Corp., currently consists of 28 housing units designated for seniors. The existing financing for the property through Rural Development (formerly the Farmer's Home Administration) provides rental subsidies to 27 of the 28 units. The owner proposes to transfer the ownership from Jordan Development to Crozet Meadows, LP, for the purpose of applying for federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in order to rehabilitate the existing units and to construct 38 new units on the site. Jordan Development will be the general partner in the LP. The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), as the administrator of LIHTC, is required by the Internal Revenue Service to provide localities an opportunity to comment on developments under consideration for LIHTC. Favorable comments supporting the application receive the highest number of points in that category. In addition, applicants for LIHTC may receive additional points for their project if there is local financial support.

The property currently known as The Meadows was rezoned in 2004 to permit the expansion of the project. The rezoning allows for an additional 38 by-right units. A preliminary site development plan, submitted in January, 2007 has been reviewed by Community Development. No major issues were identified and no review or approval by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors is anticipated.

The owners have received approval from Rural Development to expand the project with Rural Development continuing to provide rental assistance to 27 of the existing units. The owner requested that Albemarle County commit up to eight project-based vouchers for rental assistance, with seven designated to support newly-created units. All of the vouchers will be restricted to those households with incomes below 40 percent of the area median income. The value of these vouchers over a ten-year period is estimated to be approximately \$480,000, which is recognized as a local financial commitment.

VHDA has provided a form letter that allows jurisdictions to support the applicant's application for LIHTC. The County's housing policy includes a number of recommended strategies that are relative to this project including: supporting projects seeking LIHTC; and, preserving existing affordable housing.

This project will improve 28 existing units of affordable rental housing and create 38 new units with rents controlled for a minimum of 15 years by the IRS. There will be no impact on local funding. The commitment of project-based vouchers is conditioned upon continued annual funding from HUD for the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a resolution that will allow for the commitment of up to eight project-based vouchers once the development is completed. In addition, staff recommends that the Board authorize the County Executive to sign the Local CEO Support Letter indicating that the development will help meet the housing needs and priorities of the County and, therefore, the County supports the applicant's application for tax credits.

By the recorded vote set out above, the Board adopted the following resolution and authorized the County Executive to sign the Local CEO Support Letter indicating that the development will help meet the housing needs and priorities of the County and, therefore, the County supports the applicant's application for tax credits.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle is committed to ensuring that safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing is available for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle is committed to improving the livability of all neighborhoods and access to support services by residents; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle is committed to preserving existing and promoting the development of new affordable housing stock; and

WHEREAS, the Jordan Development Corporation is applying for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to renovate 28 existing and construct 38 new low-income elderly rental units at The Meadows in Crozet; and

WHEREAS, all proposed units in the development will be restricted to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income; and

WHEREAS, the Albemarle County Office of Housing proposes the use of Housing Choice Vouchers to provide project-based assistance for up to eight units with household incomes below 40% of the area median income.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors supports the commitment of eight project-based vouchers to provide rental assistance for households with income below 40 percent of the area median income.

Item 7.3. Bowen Property – Request to amend the Albemarle County Service Authority Jurisdictional Area Boundary to provide water and sewer service to Tax Map 55, Parcels 51 and 51A, located in the Crozet Development Area.

It was noted in the Executive Summary that the applicant is requesting Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) Jurisdictional Area designation for water and sewer service to two parcels totaling approximately 2.048 acres located on the north side of Railroad Avenue (Route 788) at its intersection with Buck Road (Route 789) along the northernmost boundary of the Crozet Development Area in the White Hall District. The parcels are currently designated “water only to existing structures.” Given the location of the parcels within the Crozet Development Area, and because of a failing drainfield, the applicant has requested connection to public water and sewer. The requested connections would be consistent with County utility policies. The properties adjacent and to the north of the subject parcels are located in the Rural Areas and are not currently served by public water and sewer.

The properties across Railroad Avenue from the subject parcels are located in the Crozet Development Area and are designated for public water and sewer service. Nearby parcels 46B and 49 are also located within the Development Area, but are currently designated “water only to existing structures”. The Crozet Development Area drains into Lickinghole Creek which is located entirely within the South Fork Rivanna River water supply watershed. Water supply in Crozet is provided by the Beaver Creek Reservoir; wastewater service is currently being provided through the Crozet Interceptor and Moores Creek Treatment Plant.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends serving the Development Areas with public water and sewer service. These parcels are located within the Crozet Development Area so designating them as part of the ACSA Jurisdictional Area for public water and sewer service would align with County policy. Staff notes that while most of this part of the Crozet Development Area is designated for water and sewer service, there are some parcels in the area with restricted designations or which are not included in the Jurisdictional Area. In the future the Board may want to consider amending the Jurisdictional Area to designate all properties within the designated Development Area for water and sewer service. The property owner will bear the costs for water and sewer hook-up.

As a general policy, staff has advised that public utility capacity should be reserved to support development of designated Development Areas. Since this property is located within a designated Development Area, the provision of both water and sewer service to the property would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan public utility policy. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board set a public hearing for April 4, 2007, for this request for public water and sewer service to Tax Map 55, Parcels 51 and 51A. Furthermore, staff recommends that the Board direct staff to do the necessary research and set a separate public hearing to designate all properties within the designated Development Area for water and sewer service.

(Discussion: Mr. Wyant said there are two recommendations in the Executive Summary. He said staff has suggested that all properties within the Development Area be designated for both public water and public sewer service. Mr. Tucker said even if the Board concurs with that suggestion, this request for service to the Bowen property must still go to a public hearing to amend the ACSA jurisdictional area. Mr. David Benish said work on inclusion of all properties in the Development Area is on staff’s work program, but at this time it has been moved further down the list. Staff wants to get a new boundary for Crozet and then have one mass jurisdictional area change. This was an individual request and the applicant needs to move forward.

Ms. Thomas asked if there is sufficient capacity in the Crozet system to take in this property. Mr. Benish said this is domestic service, so there is sufficient capacity now.)

By the recorded vote set out above, the Board set a public hearing for April 4, 2007, for this request for public water and sewer service to Tax Map 55, Parcels 51 and 51A, and also directed staff to do the necessary research and set a separate public hearing to designate all properties within the designated Development Area for water and sewer service.

Item 7.4. Requested FY 2007.

It was noted in the Executive Summary that the Code of Virginia § 15.2-2507 stipulates that any locality may amend its budget to adjust the aggregate amount to be appropriated during the fiscal year as shown in the currently adopted budget. However, any such amendment which exceeds one percent of the total expenditures shown in the currently adopted budget or the sum of \$500,000, whichever is lesser, must be accomplished by first publishing a notice of a meeting and holding a public hearing before amending the budget. The total of this requested FY ‘2007 appropriation is \$201,946.23. It is anticipated that a budget amendment public hearing will be proposed in April, 2007 and these appropriations would be incorporated into it. This request involves the approval of seven new FY ‘2007 appropriations as follows:

Two appropriations (No. 2007-027 and No. 2007-059) totaling \$15,487.05 for grants received by the Commission on Children and Families; two appropriations (No. 2007-056 and No. 2007-058) totaling \$170,809.52 for various Education programs and grants; one appropriation (No. 2007-057) provides \$50,000.00 for funding of the Regional Transit Authority Plan from the Board's contingency; one appropriation (No. 2007-060) in the amount of \$18,105.00 for a Police Department grant; and one appropriation (No. 2007-061) to refund \$2,080.66 insurance proceeds to Stony Point Volunteer Fire Company, all as outlined below:

Appropriation No. 2007-027, \$3,810.05. Revenue Source: State Revenue, \$3,810.05. The Commission on Children and Families, as fiscal agent for the Foothills Child Advocacy Center, has received a grant in the amount of \$3,810.05 to purchase the NCA Trak case tracking system. This system will assist in compiling an efficient and accurate case tracking system to ensure service implementation and accurate record keeping. There is no local match.

Appropriation No. 2007-056, \$18,900.00. Revenue Source: Local Revenues (Donations/Grants), \$18,900.00. At its meeting on January 25, 2007, the School Board approved the following appropriation requests:

Brownsville Elementary School received a donation in the amount of \$12,800.00 from the Brownsville PTO. It has been requested that this donation go toward the purchase of any instructional supplies needed at Brownsville Elementary School.

Albemarle High School received a donation in the amount of \$150.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Scott Goodman. This donation was made to defray the costs of a new teleprompter for the Broadcasting Department at Albemarle High School.

The Albemarle County Public Schools received a grant award from the Knights of Virginia Assistance for the Retarded (KOVAR) in the amount of \$5,950.00 for FY 2006-07. This grant will facilitate a training program for students with mental retardation to increase the knowledge capacity of these students to use public transportation in order to access employment opportunities in the community.

Appropriation No. 2007-057, \$50,000.00. Revenue Source: Board Contingency, \$50,000.00. At its meeting on February 14, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's participating in funding for a Regional Transit Authority Plan. The request is a one-time cost of \$50,000.00 for the County with \$5,000.00 used as a local match for a grant and an additional \$45,000.00 to complete the identified scope of work. Funding will be appropriated from the Board of Supervisors' contingency.

Appropriation No. 2007-058, \$151,909.52. Revenue Source: Local Revenues (Grants/Donations) \$102,489.00; State Revenues \$8,866.00; Federal Revenues \$23,755.05; and, School Special Revenue Fund Balance \$16,799.47.

The Teaching American History Grant is based on a partnership of five public school systems in central Virginia (Charlottesville City, Albemarle, Madison, Orange and Greene counties). The City of Charlottesville is the fiscal agent and Albemarle County Schools will seek reimbursement for salary and compensation expenses incurred in the amount of \$89,689.00. The purpose of this grant is to create a sustainable, long-term project that will become a model to share both teaching strategies and content-based activities as well as inform future historical projects.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts made grant awards to several Albemarle County Schools. Teacher Incentive Grants were made to Hollymead Elementary in the amount of \$1,786.00, Murray Elementary in the amount of \$300.00, Stony Point Elementary in the amount of \$4,500.00, Woodbrook Elementary in the amount of \$530.00, Monticello High School in the amount of \$300.00, and Western Albemarle High School in the amount of \$300.00. These programs will involve interactive activities to include hands-on learning experience for students with performing, visual and musical arts.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts awarded a Touring Grant to Hollymead Elementary School in the amount of \$1,150.00. This grant will assist with funding a Theatre IV performance.

The Henley Middle School Cultural Enrichment Program, formally the Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grant, received a grant donation from J.P. Morgan Company in the amount of \$5,800.00. This donation will support Henley's Cultural Enrichment Program in funding artists-in-residence programs: Sculpture, Writer, and Dramatic Interpretation. The projects will involve interactive activities to include hand-on learning experiences for students with performing, visual and musical arts.

Albemarle County Schools received additional funds from the Department of Education for Emergency Impact Aid for students enrolled in the School Division who were displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita for FY '06/07 in the amount of \$23,755.05. The funds will be used to pay compensation of personnel, acquiring curricular material and classroom supplies, providing basic instructional services and supporting services for displaced students. There is also a local fund balance from FY '05/06 in the amount of \$16,799.47 which may be reappropriated for FY '06/07.

The Freas Foundation awarded Jack Jouett Middle School a grant in the amount of \$7,000.00. These grant funds will be used to purchase devices such as: laptops, SMART boards, digital cameras, still cameras, document cameras and portable voting systems for classroom use. These devices will allow the school to engage student learning through technology and assist with accomplishing specific goals.

Appropriation No. 2007-059, \$11,667.00. Revenue Source: Local Revenues (Community Attention) \$1,667.00; State Revenues \$5,000.00; Federal Revenues \$5,000.00. The Department of Criminal Justice awarded the Commission on Children and Families a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 in Federal funds and \$5,000.00 in State funds, with a local match of \$1,667.00 for a total award of \$11,667.00. This grant will be used to provide 200 service-learning sessions for 48 weeks for youth who are at-risk of gang involvement. The local match will be funded by the Community Attention agency.

Appropriation No. 2007-060, \$18,105.00. Revenue Source: Local Revenues (Transfer from Police) \$4,526.00; Federal Revenues \$13,579.00. The Department of Criminal Justice Services awarded the Albemarle County Police Department a grant in the amount of \$13,579.00 with a local match of \$4,526.00 for a total award of \$18,105.00. This grant will be used to increase the recruiting and hiring of qualified police officers to be accomplished through the selection and training of a police recruiter, development materials, and participation in up to ten job fairs and recruiting events in Virginia. The object is to increase the number of female, minority and bilingual police officers. The local match will be provided through funds appropriated in the existing Police Department budget and will require no additional local funding.

Appropriation No. 2007-061, \$2,080.66. Revenue Source: General Fund Balance \$2,080.66. In May 2006, the County received an insurance reimbursement check in the amount of \$3,561.66 for damage to equipment at Stony Point Volunteer Fire Company as a result of a power surge. Of this amount, \$1,821.00 was for equipment used primarily by ACFR career staff and the remaining \$2,080.66 was for equipment owned by Stony Point Volunteer Fire Company. Since the reimbursement check was received in the previous fiscal year, an appropriation is required from the Fund Balance to reimburse this amount to Stony Point.

Staff recommends approval of the FY 2007 Appropriation No. 2007-027, No. 2007-056, No. 2007-057, No. 2007-058, No. 2007-059, No. 2007-060, and No. 2007-061.

By the recorded vote set out above, the Board adopted the following Resolutions of Appropriation:

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-027
 DATE: 03/07/07
 EXPLANATION: NCA Track Grant

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
2	1571	24000	240428	Revenue - State	J2	3,810.05		
1	1571	53157	550100	Travel/Training/Education	J1	3,810.05		
	1571		0501	Est. Revenue			3,810.05	
	1571		0701	Appropriation				3,810.05
TOTAL						7,620.10	3,810.05	3,810.05

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-056
 DATE: 03/07/07
 EXPLANATION: Education Donation and Grants

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
2	2000	18100	181109	Donation	J2	12,950.00		
2	3159	18120	189913	KOVAR Grant	J2	5,950.00		
1	2202	61101	601300	Inst/Rec Supplies	J1	12,800.00		
1	2301	61101	800100	Mach/Equip-New	J1	150.00		
1	3159	61102	138100	P/T Wages-Work Study	J1	1,108.20		
1	3159	61102	210000	FICA	J1	91.80		
1	3159	61102	420100	Transportation	J1	4,000.00		
1	3159	61102	601700	Printing	J1	750.00		
	2000		0501	Est. Revenue			12,950.00	
	3159		0701	Appropriation				12,950.00
	3159		0501	Est. Revenue			5,950.00	
			0701	Appropriation				5,950.00
TOTAL						37,800.00	18,900.00	18,900.00

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-057
 DATE: 03/07/07
 EXPLANATION: Funding for Regional Transit Authority Plan

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
1	1000	89000	562501	TJPDC-Transit Authority Plan	J1	50,000.00		
1	1000	95000	999999	Board Contingency	J1	(50,000.00)		
TOTAL						0.00	0.00	0.00

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-058
 DATE: 03/07/07

EXPLANATION: Education Donations, Grants and Programs, School Board Meeting, February 8, 2007

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
1	3104	60205	312500	Prof Service - Instr	J1	1,150.00		
1	3104	60205	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	1,786.00		
1	3104	60211	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	4,500.00		
1	3104	60212	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	530.00		
1	3104	60216	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	300.00		
1	3104	60252	312500	Prof Service - Instr	J1	5,800.00		
1	3104	60253	800700	ADP-Equipment	J1	7,000.00		
1	3104	60302	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	300.00		
1	3104	60304	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	300.00		
1	3158	61101	112100	Salaries-Teacher	J1	55,000.00		
1	3158	61101	160100	Stipends-Career Incentive	J1	14,000.00		
1	3158	61101	210000	FICA	J1	5,531.00		
1	3158	61101	221000	VRS	J1	8,118.00		
1	3158	61101	231000	Health Insurance	J1	6,153.00		
1	3158	61101	232000	Dental Insurance	J1	216.00		
1	3158	61101	241000	VRS Group Life	J1	671.00		
1	3315	61101	111400	Salaries - Other Management	J1	9,775.43		
1	3315	61101	132100	PT/Wages-Teacher	J1	14,115.34		
1	3315	61101	210000	FICA	J1	1,774.63		
1	3315	61101	221000	VRS	J1	1,436.02		
1	3315	61101	231000	Health Insurance	J1	399.95		
1	3315	61101	232000	Dental Insurance	J1	14.04		
1	3315	61101	241000	VRS Group Life Insurance	J1	110.46		
1	3315	61101	601300	Education & Recreation Supp.	J1	12,928.65		
2	3104	18000	181221	Henley MS-Cultural Enrich	J2	5,800.00		
2	3104	18000	189900	Miscellaneous Revenues	J2	7,000.00		
2	3104	24000	240281	Revenue - Stony Point	J2	4,500.00		
2	3104	24000	240328	Revenue - Murray	J2	300.00		
2	3104	24000	240330	Revenue - Hollymead	J2	1,786.00		
2	3104	24000	240336	Revenue - Hollymead	J2	1,150.00		
2	3104	24000	240344	Revenue - Woodbrook	J2	530.00		
2	3104	24000	240418	Revenue - WAHS/MHS	J2	600.00		
2	3158	18000	181273	Teaching American History Gr	J2	89,689.00		
2	3315	51000	510100	Appropriation Fund Balance	J2	16,799.47		
2	3315	33000	330001	Emergency Aid Impact Grant	J2	23,755.05		
	3104		0501				21,666.00	
	3158		0701					21,666.00
			0701				89,689.00	89,689.00
	3315		0501				40,554.52	
			0701					40,554.42
Total						303,819.04	151,909.52	151,909.42

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-059
 DATE: 03/07/07

EXPLANATION: CCF - DCJS Grant

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
2	1573	33000	330001	Revenue - Federal (DCJS)	J2	5,000.00		
2	1573	24000	240000	Revenue - State (DCJS)	J2	5,000.00		
2	1573	18110	181318	Revenue - Local (Comm Attn)	J2	1,667.00		
1	1573	53160	312105	Consulting Services	J1	11,667.00		
	1573		0501	Est. Revenue			11,667.00	
			0701	Appropriation				11,677.00
TOTAL						23,334.00	11,667.00	11,677.00

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-060
 DATE: 03/07/07

EXPLANATION: Police Department - DCJS Recruiting and Hiring Grant

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
2	1512	33000	330001	Revenue - Federal (DCJS)	J2	13,579.00		
2	1512	51000	512004	Transfer from General Fund	J2	4,526.00		
1	1512	31013	120000	Overtime	J1	1,584.00		
1	1512	31013	210000	FICA	J1	121.00		
1	1512	31013	350000	Printing & Binding	J1	1,000.00		
1	1512	31013	390000	Purchased Services	J1	12,800.00		
1	1512	31013	550100	Travel/Training	J1	2,600.00		
	1512		0501	Est. Revenue			18,105.00	
			0701	Appropriation				18,105.00
1	1000	31013	120000	Police - Overtime	J1	(426.00)		
1	1000	31013	390000	Police - Purchased Services	J1	(3,450.00)		
1	1000	31013	550100	Police - Travel/Substi	J1	(650.00)		
1	1000	31013	930210	Transfer to Grant Projects	J1	4,526.00		
TOTAL						36,210.00	18,105.00	18,105.00

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
 APPROPRIATION NO. 2007-061
 DATE: 03/07-07

EXPLANATION: Reimbursement of insurance proceeds - Stony Point Fire Company

TYPE	FUND	DEPT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	SUB LEDGER		GENERAL LEDGER	
					CODE	AMOUNT	DEBIT	CREDIT
2	1000	51000	510100	Appropriation - G/F Balance	J2	2,080.66		
1	1000	32029	580315	Stony Point VFD	J1	2,080.66		
	1000		0501	Est. Revenue			2,080.66	
			0701	Appropriation				2,080.66
TOTAL						4,161.32	2,080.66	2,080.66

Item 7.5. Resolution to accept the realignment of Route 606 (Old Dickerson Road) into the State Secondary Road System.

(Discussion: Mr. Wyant asked if tying in Old Mill Road caused the realignment of Old Dickerson Road. Mr. Tucker said "yes.")

As requested by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and by the recorded vote set out above, the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Old Dickerson Road (Route 606) as described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3 dated March 7, 2007, fully incorporated herein by reference, is shown on plats recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation has advised the Board that the street(s) meet the requirements established by the Subdivision Street Requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albemarle Board of County Supervisors requests the Virginia Department of Transportation add Old Dickerson Road (Route 606), due to the developer's relocation of the roadway, as described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3 dated March 7, 2007, to the secondary system of state highways, pursuant to §33.1-229, Code of Virginia, and the Department's Subdivision Street Requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board guarantees a clear and unrestricted right-of-way, as described, exclusive of any necessary easements for cuts, fills and drainage as described on the recorded plats; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Item 7.6. Appeal: SDP-2006-0071. Gillispie Preliminary Site Plan - Critical Slopes waiver/curb and gutter request.

The applicant has requested withdrawal of this appeal.

(Discussion: Mr. Wyant said he understands they want to bring back a different plan.)

By the recorded vote set out above, the Board approved the applicant's request.

Item 7.7. Copy of letter dated February 21, 2007, from John Shepherd, Manager of Zoning Administration, to William Rieley, Rieley & Associates, re: OFFICIAL DETERMINATION OF PARCELS AND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS -- Tax Map 71, Parcels 14, 15A & 20-White Hall District (Property of L. B. Disharoon LLC) Section 10.3.1, **was received as information.**

(Discussion: Mr. Wyant asked that north/south arrows be sketched on the maps with this kind of information.)

Item 7.8. Copy of letter dated February 9, 2007, from J. Paul Loether, Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program, to Kenneth C. Boyd, Chairman, re: Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, designation as a National Historic Landmark, **was received as information.**

(Discussion: Mr. Wyant asked if the National Register notifies the property owners of this designation. Mr. Tucker said the County does not do it. Mr. Wyant said some of these issues have been very contentious in Greene and Madison counties.)

Item 7.9. Board-to-Board, Communications report of activities from the Albemarle County School Board, dated March 7, 2007, **received as information (summarized below).**

Comprehensive High School Program of Studies Recommendations: The High School Program of Studies is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the Division is meeting the needs of all students, reflects changes in Virginia standards for public schools, and positions County school programs among other top performing programs in the educational marketplace. The School Board received and approved

revisions to course offerings for the 2007-08 school year in December, 2006. However, it was determined that additional time was needed to further review recommendations related to grade point average, class rank, weighted grades, grading scale, course levels, and exams and exam options. Dr. Moran presented her recommendations on these issues at the February regular board meeting. The Board is expected to take action on the recommendations at its March 8 meeting.

Redistricting: On November 29, 2006, the School Board revised the timeline of four CIP projects and indicated that it would be necessary to redistrict students in order to alleviate overcrowding at Crozet. At the December 14, 2006, School Board meeting, the following projects that have an impact on this redistricting were approved:

Brownsville Addition: This project was moved forward to begin design in 2007-08. The Board decided to authorize a change in boundaries for Crozet students to use existing capacity at Brownsville and Meriwether Lewis in order to reduce the overcrowding at Crozet next year; and,

Crozet Addition: The project was replaced by Brownsville and moved to the out years of 2012-14 except for \$440,000 in needed site work to separate car and bus traffic as well as provide new and replacement parking, which is scheduled to begin design in 2008-10. After the meeting in December, staff began work to develop a proposal for moving students from Crozet Elementary School to other elementary schools in the western feeder pattern.

School Division Calendar: At its February 22 meeting, the School Board approved a School Division Calendar for 2007-08. Based on the approved calendar school will begin in Albemarle County on August 22.

2007-2008 School Division Funding Request: At its February 15 special meeting, the School Board approved submitting a funding request for the 2007-08 fiscal year totaling \$166,714,753. This request includes \$151,360,557 in the School Fund Budget and \$15,354,196 in the Self-Sustaining Budget. It assumes the County real property tax rate will not change and it is balanced to projected revenues. This funding request is based on statutory responsibility to advocate for funding that meets the educational needs of the County, a responsibility based on student achievement and community satisfaction data.

National Board Certified Teachers: Tim Howeth, of B.F. Yancey Elementary School, Jane Shawn, of Agnor-Hurt Elementary School, Dolores Reinhold, of Mary C. Greer Elementary School, and Janina Buechner, currently teaching in Cambodia, have been named National Board Certified Teachers.

Math Work Session: At its February 22 meeting, the School Board held a work session focused on the achievement gap and student engagement as it relates to mathematics. Board members were provided a brief that contained information regarding mathematics teaching and learning in four areas: evidence of student learning, student engagement, curriculum and instruction. Following the work session, Board members provided summaries of what they learned in the focus groups, and requested that further information be provided at the March 8th meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8. ~~Board to Board, Monthly Communications Report, School Board Chairman.~~
(Moved to consent agenda).

Agenda Item No. 9a. Transportation Matters - VDOT Monthly Report.

Mr. Allan Sumptner, Residency Administrator, said the Board had his written report, so he was present to answer questions. Questions will appear under Agenda Item No. 9b.

Agenda Item No. 9b. Transportation Matters not listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Rooker said a tree fell across Roslyn Ridge Road over the weekend and broke the guardrail. The neighbors cut up the tree, but he would like for VDOT to check the guardrail for repairs, and have the extra debris moved.

Mr. Slutzky said at the intersection of Hillsdale and Greenbrier, the guardrail was hit by a car recently. He asked that VDOT address the problem.

Mr. Wyant asked if a location had been decided on for the Advanced Mills bridge replacement. Mr. Sumptner said VDOT is working to decide on a location. They have a meeting set on April 24; currently there are five to six possible alignments to consider. They already have some draft environmental comments.

Mr. Wyant asked about an advertisement date for the preliminary engineering work on the Jarman's Gap Road project. Mr. Sumptner said in a month or so he will let him know that ad date.

Ms. Thomas said she spoke to representatives of Appalachian Power Company regarding debris from trimming in their rights-of-way. She was informed that their policy is that they only clear debris when the right-of-way appears to be tended, otherwise, the brush piles will be left.

Ms. Thomas thanked VDOT for putting up the guardrail around the Ivy Interchange area that had turned into a "Park and Ride, etc." area.

Mr. Sumptner noted that the emergency bridge repair on Old Ivy Road should be completed this week. They are grooving the deck and that will hopefully bring that project to a complete and total closure.

Ms. Thomas said when the Board undertook the Rural Rustic Roads Program it clearly said it would do several different projects and then test to see how the program had worked. She would like to have a report back on the progress of the program. Mr. Sumptner said VDOT has had preliminary discussions with County staff about a study. A great advantage to the program for VDOT is that their maintenance work drops off significantly. As projects are completed, they are sending out surveys to the residents and asking them to evaluate the project.

Mr. David Benish said staff will work with VDOT to assess the projects, and give that assessment to the Board at next month's day meeting.

Mr. Boyd said one project was done in his district, and he has received nothing but thanks from the residents.

Mr. Wyant said one project was also done in his district, and he has had the same experience.

Ms. Thomas asked if VDOT is using the Jones & Jones Study for design of the Meadow Creek Parkway. She said the road was designed as a true parkway, so it would be ashamed to have any of that design lost. Mr. Jack Kelsey, County Engineer, said the basic plans being used for right-of-way acquisition are the same plans and the same alignment the Board endorsed after the design public hearing was held approximately two years ago. Right-of-way acquisition is going on now.

Mr. Rooker said the VDOT staff person, Greg Cristiack, is sensitive to the desires regarding this project. He does a good job of working on contact sensitive designs and has a strong interest in making certain this road is constructed the right way.

Mr. Sumptner said that VDOT has to acquire right-of-way from 31 different parcels. As of last Friday, six more appraisals had been completed and were in the process of being verified in preparation for contact with the landowners.

Mr. Dorrier inquired if VDOT had seen a transportation study for the Biscuit Run Development. Mr. Joel DeNunzio advised that VDOT had reviewed the traffic impact study and has been working with the County to address the proffer statement submitted. He said VDOT had worked up some preliminary dollar numbers for recommendation to the County. They have forwarded that information to Mr. Juandiego Wade so he now has their recommendation for the total dollars that should be invested in transportation improvements for the impacts of the development.

Mr. Rooker asked if Mr. DeNunzio had that number. Mr. DeNunzio said it included an amount for Route 20 improvements, widening and bike lanes, spot improvements on Avon Street and Old Lynchburg Road, curve realignments, turn lanes, bike lanes, and similar things. VDOT did a total estimate for the projects. They looked at the impact of the development compared to what the numbers would be in the build year. On a percentage basis, their estimate came to about \$11.0 million on the widening of Route 20.

Mr. Dorrier asked if this developer has proffered money. Mr. DeNunzio said none of this is included in the proffers at this point. This is what VDOT recommends should be considered in the proffers. It is part of ongoing negotiations.

Mr. Dorrier asked if this information has been presented to the Planning Commission. Mr. DeNunzio said it will be incorporated into the County's Staff Report that Mr. Wade is preparing.

Mr. Dorrier asked for a copy of that report when it goes to the Commission. Mr. DeNunzio said that will be the County's report. Mr. Cilimberg said the Commission will have a public hearing on March 27. It was originally scheduled for February 27, but the Commission held a work session instead. There have been ongoing discussions with the applicant about transportation needs. The City provided comments; VDOT provided comments. Everything has been conveyed to the applicant, and the Commission has been informed of what staff has received. Staff has compared what the proffers offer in relation to impacts identified up to the last work session. This week staff received updated comments from VDOT. There are issues beyond what VDOT has identified and beyond what the City identified. All of this will be in the report going to the Commission for their March 27 public hearing. A report on the items the applicant identified as impacts is not complete at this time. The Commission will need to base its decisions on what it has before it on March 27.

Mr. Dorrier said this is the biggest project in the County's history and there are problems with the roads in that area. He thinks the Board needs the staff report as soon as possible.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks the staff report will be extensive, so it would give the Board a longer time to study the request before it holds a work session. Mr. Cilimberg said the only thing that might change would be a deferral by the Commission.

Mr. Rooker said there have been issues brought up about the Sunset Road Connector and how it might handle some of the traffic from the Biscuit Run site. He said if it has not been done yet, he thinks it would be helpful to know what impact completion of the Sunset Road Connector would have on traffic flow from that site. Mr. DeNunzio said the Sunset Road Connector is part of that study, but he does not know that relief of traffic impacts was a part of the study. He said the proffers do put money toward the Sunset Road Connector construction project.

Mr. Rooker said he heard recently that the developer is offering \$1.5 million toward construction of that connector which is estimated to cost about \$13.0 million in today's dollars. Before money is taken from other projects and put on the Sunset Connector, it would be helpful to have traffic modeling done to show how it would impact traffic flow on the road network generally. Mr. DeNunzio said the traffic impact study could be reopened to find out if that connector road was addressed in the study.

Mr. Rooker said he is concerned because there are two other projects in the area; the Granger project and the Fontaine Research Park expansion. He said if those projects are approved (they have not yet been heard) he thinks the part of the Sunset Connector on those parcels would be built as a part of those proffers. He is hesitant to take money from Biscuit Run (money that might be used for other things) and put it on the Sunset Connector. That might only alleviate a future developer's proffer, or it might set there indefinitely if the parcels are not developed. He would like to understand what the connector would do for traffic flow in the area.

Mr. Boyd said the Board is getting a lot of questions about Biscuit Run which is only natural, but he thinks it has to go through the process first.

Mr. Rooker said he wants to make sure the process includes that traffic modeling.

Mr. Wade said when staff and VDOT started scoping the Biscuit Run traffic study in 2005, it knew that Granger, Biscuit Run and Avon/Fifth Street were on the horizon, and they wanted to get one traffic study to look at all three developments. The applicant for Biscuit Run did not want to do that, and staff could not require that he do so. The Biscuit Run traffic study does not incorporate the Sunset Connector as a completed road. It has been discussed during the various work sessions. During discussion about the last proffer, the developer agreed to proffer money for construction of that. The Southern Area "B" Study factors in that project, and part of Southern Area "B". But, when that study was done, only some of this development of Biscuit Run was factored in. It did not factor in the Sunset Connector, but they have proffered some funding for the construction of that road.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks a model should be run showing what it would do for the traffic flow in the area, because the County may be accepting proffers to improve Old Lynchburg Road in spots, etc. There are now cash proffers to save until the Sunset Connector is constructed. Before the Board makes a reasonable allocation of where proffer money should be spent, he thinks it needs to know what that project does with respect to alleviating strains on other parts of the system. He encouraged VDOT's staff to help the County look at that component of the model so it understands what it does to other pieces of the network.

Mr. Wyant said he thinks the Board needs to take a broader approach to looking at the traffic impacts.

Ms. Thomas said the Board needs to know how a transit-using community would be different from what has been modeled so far. That project could be designed in a way to encourage usage by the number of passengers the transit system needs, as well as reduce the number of trips by automobiles. It could make a major impact on every other road and intersection that is being impacted.

Mr. Slutzky said staff has told him that the modeling for Places29 was not able to take into account the implications of transit, the models were not available. They will have to do that as an after the fact calculation. He was surprised to hear that. Mr. Cilimberg said he understands Places29 has an initial modeling that gives the number of trips produced. There is a second modeling that gives the number of trips produced that might be diverted for transit.

Mr. Slutzky said he guesses it is a different scenario for Places29, and also from Biscuit Run. For Places29, land use allocations are being designed absent input about where it would make most sense to have transit orientation. He said Biscuit Run appears to be a more focused place, so the model deficiencies should not be a problem in Biscuit Run. Mr. Cilimberg said he will defer to VDOT because there is only a certain level they will normally divert to transit in any project.

Mr. Wade said when this started in 2005, transit was on the mind of the Commission. They asked for the worst case scenario for this development because typically they only take one or two percent of traffic. The traffic study in hand does not factor in transit, but it will be a transit-oriented type of development. Staff is getting some numbers now from CTS that if transit were available to this site, what

that would cost. As a result of this discussion today, staff will have to regroup and see how it can get some of this information together for future work sessions.

Mr. Slutzky said as sidewalks are being put in the urban area, he would like to know who will be responsible for their ongoing maintenance and upkeep.

Mr. Wyant asked if all Primary roads in the County and all Secondary roads that meet the criteria have edge striping. Mr. Sumptner said he believes all primaries are stripped, and only some secondary's are.

Mr. Wyant asked if the pipe being replaced on Jarman's Gap Road is within the scope of the project. Mr. Sumptner said he will find out and get back to him.

Mr. Boyd said he appreciates Mr. Sumptner's report to the Board; it is very helpful and clear. He is anxious to see the Rural Rustic Road report and hopes it will be soon. Mr. Sumptner said VDOT hopes to map out a plan containing goals and targets like any construction project would. He hopes that will be in next month's report.

Mr. Rooker said he referred earlier to the letter the Board had received from Delegate Steve Landess which included a summary of the transportation funding bill approved by both houses and sent to the Governor. If the bill is signed into law, it would be helpful if VDOT would advise the Board what it means to Albemarle. Mr. Sumptner said from what he has received so far, at his level everything is premature, and he cannot comment at this time.

Mr. Rooker said it would be helpful, whatever bill is signed into law, if someone at VDOT would get something out quickly to show what VDOT sees as the additional available transportation funding and how it is expected to be allocated. The bills are complex, and contain a lot of provisions.

Agenda Item No. 10. Sun Ridge Road Improvement Project.

Mr. Jack Kelsey, County Engineer, said at the Board's meeting on January 3, 2007, staff presented the Board with two primary alternatives for providing a public road extension for Phase II of Sun Ridge Road. One option extended the road about 450 feet to an existing "T" intersection in the platted right-of-way. A second option was a shorter extension of the public road of about 200 feet to serve the last undeveloped lot (Lot No. 8). At the Board's direction, staff further explored the feasibility of providing access to Lot 7 and Lot 14 from the current Sun Ridge Road cul-de-sac. Access to Lot 8 would be through private driveways with or without vacating the existing public right-of-way. He has discussed this last option with Mr. Foley and Mr. Davis and it would necessitate County issuance of a "license" to allow a private driveway within the public right-of-way. Such a "license" would specify the terms for private use of the public right-of-way and release the County of any responsibility and liability for the driveway.

Mr. Kelsey said since one option assumes Lots 7 and 14 would have direct access to the existing cul-de-sac, staff evaluated the existing topography and potential development of the lots to assure this assumption was feasible. Conceptual grading and access sketches were prepared for the three lots. The evaluation revealed that Lot 7 may directly access the cul-de-sac. However, Lot 14 on the east side of Sun Ridge Road slopes downward from the cul-de-sac at a slope of approximately 20 percent. For this lot to be developed and directly access the cul-de-sac, the driveway grade would exceed 20 percent and exceed the County's standard for "safe and convenient access", so a "license" would need to be granted to that lot as well. A driveway (100 feet in length) within the public right-of-way would be necessary to reach a point where safe and convenient access to the building site could be provided. To avoid the creation of a private street (serving two lots), a separate and parallel driveway within the public right-of-way, would be necessary to access Lot 8.

Mr. Kelsey said it is a reasonable solution, but not the ideal solution of being able to extend a public road to serve those lots. Since the staff report was mailed to the Board, he discussed with VDOT the option which shows a 200 foot road extension with a cul-de-sac bulb. VDOT said they would allow a "T" turnaround, rather than a cul-de-sac bulb. Cost wise it is not a significant savings, but the "T" turnaround would require only a small easement for the third leg of the "T". It would have less impact on the properties.

Mr. Slutzky said he spoke with some of the homeowners involved since he got the staff's report. He said these homeowners have owned their lots since the 1970s. Since that time they have paid property taxes based on an assessed valuation as if they were usable lots, but they are not usable lots at this time. He said the road was to be dedicated and built out by the developer, but the County did not hold a performance bond and the developer did not build the road, but he did sell lots to people who had the expectation that the lots would be usable. A few years ago, the Board agreed to build a longer version of this road, but when the bids came in high, it was decided to build only a section of the road. There is approximately \$20,000 left in that fund. Of the three options, the most expensive one is not necessary. The homeowners would not be further benefited by building the full length of the road that was the original Phase II proposal. He thinks the Board can disregard Option No. 1, which is the most expensive and it does not provide any additional benefit to anyone.

Mr. Slutzky said he would prefer Option No. 2. He said Option No. 3 is a workable solution but the disadvantage of using No. 3 is that it still imposes an additional cost burden on the homeowners to build driveways to reach the portion of the road already built. They would have to do that because they bought a lot expecting there to be a road in front of it, but the County never made that road happen even though they have been taxed as if that road would have been built. There is a fairness issue which argues in favor of promoting Option 2 over Option 3. Also, the estimate in the staff report of \$109,700 for Option 2 is probably a little higher than it needs to be because of the alternative of building the "T" turnaround instead of building the bulb.

Mr. Slutzky said there is also a drainage issue involved. In Option 3 staff has recommended allocation of \$34,470 to address the drainage issue which must be addressed anyway. He does not know how much the drainage will cost if Option 2 is chosen. The staff report does not address that issue. He requests that the Board support Option No. 2. If the Board chooses Option No. 3 instead, the only issue with this option is that staff indicated the homeowners would be building driveways to be able to use their lots. They will build the driveways and the County will deal with drainage issues. He does not think it would be fair to the homeowners to carry the long-term responsibility for addressing the drainage issues if the County does not get it right now. If the Board opted for Option 3 and shifted some of the burden on the property owners, he hopes it would also indemnify the homeowners from future drainage responsibility associated with the construction of their driveways. He asked if the Board would be agreeable to building out the shorter road, which is Option 2. If not, it should focus on the conditions of Option 3.

Mr. Rooker said Mr. Slutzky said he was not sure Option 2 included the drainage improvements. He asked Mr. Kelsey to clarify that. Mr. Kelsey said both Option 1 and Option 2 include the cost of the drainage work.

Mr. Wyant said Option 1 is the longer road with drainage; Option 2 is the shorter road with drainage; and Option 3 is drainage.

Mr. Slutzky asked how much Option 2 would save in cost by using the "T" turnaround instead of the bulb. Mr. Kelsey estimated it would be between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Mr. Slutzky asked if the total cost of Option 2 is a little over \$60,000. Mr. Kelsey said the cost of the drainage project alone is approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Rooker asked the assessed value of the lots.

Mr. Slutzky said above Lots 7 and 8 on Northfields Road there are two lots, and one has a home on it. The assessed value and approximate square footage of the lot above Lot 7 is about the same as the assessment on each of these lots. He said the lots on Northfields Road are clearly buildable lots, whereas Lots 7 and 8 are not. The owners bought the lots with the expectation that they could be used, so have been assessed the same as those lots on Northfields Road. They are now stuck with extending their driveways and possibly take on long-term drainage liability because the County years ago was not in a position to do what it should have done.

Mr. Rooker said these lots today have separate assessments. It has been said the owners have paid taxes as if the road was there. He would like to know what the assessments are. The Board is talking about paying over \$100,000 of taxpayer's money.

Mr. Slutzky said the drainage problem needs to be addressed, and that is about \$30,000 of the estimate.

Mr. Rooker asked if anybody knows the assessed values of these lots. Mr. Davis said he looked at it one time, and he believes it is close to the value of other lots along that road. He does not think they were significantly discounted because they are not on an improved road. They are not precluded from developing those lots. The expectation would be that the owner would improve the road when they developed the lot. Nothing stops them from making the improvements to the road to allow them to get a building permit to build a house. For other unimproved roads in the County that is the expectation.

Mr. Slutzky asked if those lots are assessed the same as if they were on a road where there is not that extra cost burden associated with development. He thinks they are discounted if a road must be built by the builder to get the use of the lot. Mr. Davis said he thinks the lots are looked at on a case-by-case basis. He thinks they are discounted based on circumstances.

Mr. Rooker asked if anybody knows the assessed value of these lots.

Mr. Slutzky said it is about \$90,000.

Mr. Rooker asked if \$90,000 is what is being talked about. Mr. Davis said he does not know. These lots are comparable to the underlying land values of the other lots along this road. He does not think they were significantly assessed below the value of the land prices for the developed lots.

Mr. Rooker asked if anybody knows the values of those other lots. Mr. Tucker said he can get that number, but it will take a couple of minutes.

Mr. Wyant asked how they would get to Lot 14 if the Board chose Option 3. Mr. Kelsey said the driveway would have to be extended by the property owner.

Mr. Wyant asked if the right-of-way is available. Mr. Kelsey said the right-of-way is there, has been rough graded, and is overgrown. Essentially, some of the soil would have to be scraped, and new stone put on.

Mr. Wyant said there is no restriction on their ability to get to the lot from an easement that had to be acquired through someone else. Mr. Kelsey said that no easement is required; they would only need permission from the County to put a private improvement within a public right-of-way.

Mr. Boyd said he favors Option No. 2. He knows the Board tried to solve this problem a few years ago, and allocated some money for that. It just did not get done, and he is not willing to go back on the Board's commitment to these property owners.

Mr. Rooker asked if this situation appears in many other places in the County. He is concerned that there is an expectation that people can build a road out and develop their property. If this situation is unique, he would be inclined to support Option No. 2. If the County has encountered a similar situation in the past and not taken this step, he thinks the Board needs to think about the scope of the overall obligation.

Mr. Boyd said he thought the Board came to that conclusion when it thought this problem was solved a few years ago.

Mr. Rooker said the Board voted before to spend about \$75,000 and ended up increasing that amount to even get the shorter road. The Board did not undertake to allocate whatever it would cost to build the whole project. The previous project included all the houses in existence at that time.

Mr. Slutzky said he reviewed all the documents, and the years of discussion over this problem. He said the Board voted to build out the entire road in two phases, based on staff's estimate at that time. An amount was allocated. When it was found that the amount allocated would not cover the cost of the project, staff said to build out the first and second portions, they would need an increase in money, and then that was not enough, so there is the extra \$20,000 just sitting there, and Phase II has not been addressed. He said the Board previously made a commitment to these homeowners based on extensive earlier discussions that they would make those lots usable.

Mr. Wyant said having a driveway in Option 3 will make the lots usable. He agrees with what Mr. Davis said. The owners have an easement to get to their property, so they should go to the expense of doing it.

Mr. Slutzky said these lots are inside of the urban area. When this entire subdivision was originally accepted, there was a road shown in front of those three lots that those lots expected to tie into. That road was supposed to have been built. The County did not make the developer build the road. These people have owned these lots since then, and now the Board is saying they will have to expend the money to build extra long driveways because the job was not done years ago. He said when Mr. Bowerman represented the Rio District, he brought this same issue before the Board, saying the County had a responsibility to build the road, and the Board agreed. Staff estimated a cost, but it was not enough to cover construction costs. Now, because it was not done originally, and subsequently it was not done several years ago, the Board is now confronted with either Option 2 or Option 3. Option 2 solves the problem, and Option 3 solves the problem by sharing the expense burden with the homeowners who he thinks have been taxed as if this road was going to be built. That is the ethical concern he has. This land is in the growth area. If this land was in the rural area, the roads would be built for them. He would rather see that happen than the lots not be usable. He said the \$60,000+ extra it would cost the County to put in the portion of the road that should have been there all along, is an appropriate thing for the Board to do.

Mr. Boyd asked Ms. Thomas and Mr. Dorrier for their comments.

Ms. Thomas said Lot 7 would have to build a driveway as shown in Option 3 no matter what the Board did. Lots 8 and 14 would build only a portion of what is shown, but not the total. On the same day that she believes some members of the Board will be promising they will drastically cut the tax rate, she finds it hard to put the County's tax dollars on this project. She said anyone arguing for Option 2 should keep that in mind. She suspects there are other situations like this throughout the rural areas, and the County should also think about what it requires developers to do and how well it "keeps their toes to the fire." She said it is a toss up for her.

Mr. Rooker said this land does lie in the growth area, so it can be distinguished from a rural area plan with a similar circumstance. He asked if staff had any idea how many such circumstances might exist in the growth areas. Mr. Kelsey said in his 15 years with the County this is the only one of this nature that has ever come up.

Ms. Thomas said that makes no difference to her.

Mr. Dorrier said it makes a difference to him. He asked if the money would be taken from the Stormwater Fund. Mr. Kelsey said for the drainage improvement portion money could be taken from that fund.

Ms. Thomas said if the Board approves this request, it is the same money being considered for use for the lakes in Forest Lakes.

Mr. Dorrier said he favors Option No. 3. There should be some participation by the landowners.

Mr. Wyant asked why in Option 3 the County is looking at the drainage that far down the hill versus onsite. Mr. Kelsey said there is runoff being carried by the drainage ditches along existing Sun Ridge Road. It continues along the right-of-way and discharges down through a pipe and channel that crosses and heads toward Huntington Road. There is also other drainage coming through the public right-of-way farther down the hill which is causing erosion problems.

Mr. Wyant asked who would look after this in the future. Mr. Kelsey said these would all be public drainage improvements. They would be constructed within the existing public right-of-way. Mr. Davis said what would be in the right-of-way would be given to VDOT for maintenance. What is outside of the right-of-way would be in a separate County easement and would be the County's responsibility for maintenance. He said the main road improvements proposed in Option 1 or 2 and to some extent Option 3, are in existing County-owned right-of-way. In Options 1 and 2, the extensions would be built to VDOT standards and would be given to VDOT to maintain, so the roadway under Option 1 and Option 2, along with any drainage facilities within the VDOT right-of-way would be given to VDOT to maintain. In Option 3, it would depend on what is done with the license agreement. It remains County-owned right-of-way and there would need to be a decision made as to whether or not the property owners, if they built driveways within the County-owned right-of-way, would be responsible for the drainage maintenance. That has not been discussed yet.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks Option 3 is a mess. He thinks going forward with it would be a real problem deciding who is responsible for what. Since this seems to be somewhat of a unique situation, he will support Option No. 2. He said Mr. Bowerman did not bring this forward a second time because he was alarmed at the cost run-up. If this comes back and it is going to cost an additional \$40,000, he will not support it at that time. This will be the third or fourth time the Board has "gotten its foot in the door" only to find the cost is much greater than originally thought.

Mr. Boyd asked if any member wished to make a motion.

Mr. Slutzky said he would **move** that the Board direct staff to implement Option 2 (Partial Road Extension with Drainage Improvements), and allocate an amount to cover the project (exact amount to be determined at a later date), and use a "T" turnaround not a cul-de-sac, and use some money from the Drainage Improvement Fund.

Mr. Rooker gave **second** to the motion.

Mr. Dorrier asked if this is the only situation like this in the County. Mr. Tucker said staff finds these situations occasionally, but he thinks the majority of these kinds of issues are behind us. He cannot guarantee that there may not be other situations where land was platted in the 1960s or 1970s where the County held a bond that has now expired. He said there are few, if any, left.

Mr. Dorrier said the Stormwater Fund is supposed to be dealing with those issues. Mr. Tucker said the drainage issues can be dealt with; the road improvements are of more concern.

Mr. Wyant said when staff brings back the amount for the project, be sure everyone is clear about who will be responsible for maintenance.

Mr. Slutzky asked if under Option 2 it will be VDOT.

Mr. Rooker said part of it will be the County's responsibility, and part will be VDOT's. Mr. Davis said VDOT has a tendency now not to accept any drainage easements to maintain outside of their right-of-way, except under limited circumstances.

At this point, roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.

NAYS: None.

(Note: At 11:00 a.m., the Board took a recess, and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.)

Agenda Item No. 11. Crozet Library Parameters.

Mr. Tom Foley, Assistant County Executive, said the Crozet Master Plan identified a new and expanded public library in downtown Crozet as a critical anchor to provide a focal point for downtown development, and implementation of the master plan as a whole. In addition to it being a focal point for the community, it is also something that will work with other infrastructure development in the downtown area. After an extensive process with the community, it was decided to put the library downtown in the same proximity as development of Main Street. It is adjacent to redevelopment of Crozet Avenue through the streetscape project. In addition to library parking there would be other parking made available for the community.

Mr. Foley said before moving ahead through the necessary rezoning and preliminary design stages, staff needs the Board's guidance on several critical decision points. The issues he will discuss with the Board today are: Mixed-use design of the library; the total square footage of the library, potential phasing of library construction; and, the budget.

Mr. Foley said the first discussion concerns the potential of a permanent mixed use/commercial component to the project. Staff did an extensive review of alternatives. They discussed things like senior living/senior housing on top of the library, an extensive commercial presence on the site, and a temporary museum location in the library. The idea of a permanent mixed-use addition to this library project is something staff felt was so complex that it probably would extend consideration of the library a long time, and also add to the budget. Staff felt that providing community parking, establishing Main Street, and supporting redevelopment of Crozet Avenue, is the same concept that might be considered in some mixed-use type of development.

Mr. Foley said with the complexity of doing those four projects, particularly since the site has already been bought, it should stick with the priority of getting the library done and add some temporary mixed-use alternatives. Staff feels there is a possibility a temporary complementary use could be accommodated in the building, including functions like community meeting space, arts and crafts displays, historical displays, Crozet visitor's center, etc., but the permanent mixed-use concept would make the project too complex to deliver and meet the Board's expectations.

Mr. Foley said considering whether or not temporary uses are done makes it important to consider the total square footage of the library. There have been several estimates of size and a lot of discussion by the public about this issue. Staff relied on State Standards to help make the decision. The first factor to consider in determining square footage is the service area for the library. The library standard uses a six-mile radius. He referred the Board to a map in their agenda packet and said that more than six miles is shown because staff used census block data to help them determine the service area. After the population to be served was determined using census block data they projected that for 20 years to determine the size of the library needed to serve that population.

Mr. Rooker asked if in looking at the service area, the location of other libraries was considered. Mr. Foley said it was. It is important to note that there are also libraries in the City of Charlottesville and around the area which overlap with some other areas. Staff took the worse case scenario including all the population in all the census blocks that touched the six-mile radius of Crozet. In doing so, some population could have been counted twice. He pointed out the Ivy census block on the map and said it has the highest density population per square mile in all of the County's rural area, but only a small portion of that block is included in the six miles. In its analysis, staff included that census block, but also did a scenario where it took out that census block to see if it would change the square footage of the library. What that did was extend the time under which the County would expect to get to 20,000 square feet. In 2027, there would be the need for 20,000 square feet. If that census block is deleted, the 20,000 square feet is not needed until 2030. In the end, this analysis justified the 20,000 square foot library. It is just a matter of timing.

Mr. Foley said staff had to project the population both in the development area of Crozet, and in the rural areas outside of Crozet, in the service district. Staff used the Master Plan as the basis for projecting population. In the Comprehensive Plan, it says there will be a population of 12,000 in Crozet in 20 years. That equates to about a five percent population growth per year. For the rural areas, staff took the entire County population growth and since two-thirds of population growth is occurring in the Development Areas, they used one-third as the projection for growth in the rural areas to combine and came up with a population estimate. The service area which was defined and the estimated population growth combined together say whether a 20,000 square foot library will be needed in 2027 or 2030.

Mr. Foley said another factor considered when determining the size of the library is the standard used by the Regional Library of .7 square feet per person. With the service area defined, and the population projected, staff determined that a 20,000 square foot building would be needed for this area. The only question concerns the timing of that size facility. The next question has to do with phasing. Should the building start as a 15,000 square foot library, or a 20,000 square foot library? Staff analysis concluded that with budget constraints, starting with 15,000 square feet is the way the process should begin. If the building started out at 20,000 square feet, could community uses go in the building in the interim? Staff concluded that temporary uses could go into the extra 5,000 square feet and serve the community; however, that would require more money to build the facility.

Mr. Foley said the final issue concerns budget impacts. The amount of money in the CIP at this time is based on a 15,000 square foot library. Staff would need to either ask the Board for more money or just build 15,000 square feet and in 2027 or when necessary, begin the process of adding the extra 5,000 square feet. Staff met with people from the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library and gave them their conclusions and said that 15,000 square feet was all it could justify. It is the desire of the Regional Library to build 20,000 square feet in the beginning. Because of budget constraints, the Library has stepped forward and offered to pick up some of the components to make up for building that additional amount of square feet.

Mr. Foley said the budget forwarded to the Board shows that the original plan for this project was about \$8.5 million. That included the cost of the land purchase as well as building construction. It also included the cost of books and furnishings. In discussions with members of the Library Board and the Library Director, it was agreed that the library in partnership would fund \$1.6 million upfront for the 20,000 square foot library. This commitment shows that the project is only \$130,000 short of the original budget. Staff felt that was a reasonable proposal to bring to the Board. It would require an additional \$130,000 for this project, but would be in partnership with the Library and have some other benefits. First, there would be excess space to use for community meetings, and there are some agencies who would like to use some space in Crozet. There has been a discussion about having a museum display of Crozet's history in the new facility.

Mr. Foley said one other thing to consider is that the cost of constructing the extra 5,000 square feet 15 years from now would be much more expensive. Building that square footage now with the other benefits that would come with it is something staff felt was a reasonable approach, and recommends that the County move forward with a 20,000 square foot library using the extra space for temporary compatible community use until it is needed for the library. As mentioned, the majority of that additional cost, with the exception of the \$130,000, is something the Library has agreed to do through an aggressive fundraising campaign.

Mr. Boyd asked where the \$1.6 million would come from. Is that just redirecting moneys the County gives to the Library? Mr. Foley said the Library will do its own independent fundraising in the community. He said there are representatives of the Library present who can talk about that. It will not redirect any County moneys.

Mr. Dorrier asked the two areas where the Library will get money. Mr. Foley said the Library would raise all of the money to pay for books and half of the furnishings. Staff will have to work with them on basic wiring and computers to be sure they are in the County's budget. They would raise money for tables, chairs and bookshelves, etc.

Mr. Boyd asked what would happen if the County went forward and the Library fell short on its fundraising. He asked if the County would have to pick up the difference in funds. Mr. Foley said he does not have a clear answer to that question.

Mr. Dorrier said the fundraising period could be extended. Mr. Foley said there is a three-year period before the County will get the land, so there is time for an extensive fundraising effort.

Mr. Rooker asked if it would be possible to build 5,000 square feet of space that could be leased out with the idea that the lease would end when the space was needed. Mr. Foley said that is possible. It would create issues with how the project is financed. At this time, it is expected the project will be done with cash. He does not think there is anything that would prohibit the County from leasing space in order to generate money.

Mr. Boyd said using cash as opposed to financing the project could change based on what this Board decides to do on long-term financing of capital projects.

Ms. Thomas said the Board has been making certain decisions all along. Mr. Foley said the information shared with the Board is that it would pay a high premium to finance a non-essential public facility like a library versus shifting the financing to a fire station which is considered essential. In the plan before the Board, staff made the shift in order to get the optimum interest rate.

Mr. Rooker said the County could get approximately \$60,000 a year assuming it could find a tenant to occupy the 5,000 square feet. Mr. Davis said that is possible, but there are complications involved. If the County used financing, it would have to be structured to meet tax exempt status for bonds. He said there are compatible use issues which would need to be worked out with the library. There are potential parking issues. There are building code issues involved with the type of use in the building that would have to be preplanned in order to design the building. There are issues with having a tenant who would be competing against private interests in Crozet, and there is the question of how it would be marketed. It would probably need to be done through the IDA rather than from the County directly; the County does not have the enabling authority to be in the commercial market. It is possible to do, but it is complicated.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks the Board should have an open mind if the opportunity presents itself. If the Board decides to build the larger space, and it is used for community space, there should be a sign in that space saying it is for future library space. He said people would get comfortable having the space for community meetings, and if it is then taken over for library space there might be an adverse reaction.

Ms. Lee Catlin said the Library envisions that when they get to the 20,000 square foot need, they would still have a significant amount of space dedicated to community use, and meeting rooms. That use would not necessarily go away, but only look different in the way it was managed.

Mr. Boyd asked if someone from the Library would like to address the two issues mentioned so far, community use and fundraising.

Mr. John Halliday, Director of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, was present along with County-appointed Trustees, Mr. Tim Tolson and Ms. Jacquelyn Rice; also present was Mr. Bill Schrader, a citizen from Crozet who plans on being actively involved in the fundraising. He said they enjoyed working with County staff on this project and talked about all of the issues Mr. Foley addressed. As far as raising the money, the Library would provide money for the books – most of the funding would come from State funding for library books.

Mr. Tolson said the current Crozet Library has books which will be moved to the new facility. They want to stage in the collection. Purchasing \$1.6 million in books when the Library opened would make those books old in three or more years and they would have no way to replace them. There was fundraising for the new library in Greene County, almost \$500,000. He said modern libraries have meeting rooms, so he thinks that as the Library expanded and the rooms were reconfigured, there would not be a disappearance of meeting rooms in the library. They are aware that this is one of several projects the County will be starting for library usage. This is only the second library the County has ever built, but they hope for a 20,000 square foot library.

Ms. Rice said she has a particular interest in seeing that the northern sector of the County receive a library. She reminded the Board that the Library is in a difficult situation because it is paying tremendous rent every month for the Northside Library space. That situation was created as a stopgap and has nothing happened since. Crozet is ready to go. All factions support it and are in agreement. They look forward to seeing the Crozet Library built so they can begin talking about a library facility in the northern corridor.

Mr. Bill Schrader said he represented the community for the site selection and architect work for the Crozet Branch Library. He is now involved in the funding of the work. There have been two meetings with a nine member group discussing how to raise the money. This amount of money does not scare them. This new library is something the community is very excited about. They looked at what other communities have done and they know what the Perry Foundation did back when the Crozet Library was put into the train station, they know who they can go back to, and they have identified other foundations they can approach plus local people. Because Charlottesville is the home of the Festival of the Book, they think the right size library should be built. The people on the fundraising committee are dedicated to doing that.

Mr. Boyd asked if the Board members had any questions.

Mr. Slutzky said he is struggling with the library project. He is supportive of the concept of building an appropriate learning environment for the community. However, he is completely mystified by the scale, the scope and the proposed location of this library. He understands that years of planning have been involved and a 20,000 square foot library discussed in the process. He is convinced a library should be built on this site and is critical to anchoring the revitalization process for downtown Crozet. Obviously the existing library facility is inadequate to accommodate the anticipated growth. However, he cannot comprehend how the County got from a 1,900 square foot library to one ten times that size. He said there is presently a change in the way people use libraries. It is starting to be seen in statistics. That usage is influenced by the Internet and other research tools have made library usage subject to some uncertainty in the future. It may be that in ten years libraries as traditionally viewed will have become a different environment. He is concerned with the Board putting this much of the County's capital resources into a project of this scale based on uncertain variables. He looked at staff's analysis which shows use by 15,000 people, but there is clearly an overlap in service area with other libraries. The Board would be funding an amenity to serve not just the growth areas, but also the rural areas when the geographic domain is broadened out of the designated growth area of Crozet. In a sense, this would fund a community amenity for the rural area, and he has mixed feelings about that. There is a construction estimate of \$254.00 a square foot, with \$500,000 for the design phase of the library. He thinks the scale of this proposal is out of sync with what should be done and a lot of the assumptions need to be revisited. He would not want staff to do a lot of work unless he senses that other Board members have similar apprehensions.

Mr. Dorrier said he lives in the rural area, and he knows that the Scottsville Library is the hub of the community. In a small town, a library takes on special significance because it becomes a focal point for meetings. There are 3,500 square feet in that library and it is always crowded and busy. He thinks the \$130,000 difference between the CIP estimate and the Library proposal for 20,000 square feet could be added to the Library's fundraising campaign. He asked if that is possible. From the County's standpoint, to provide a cultural base and a major center for that activity in the Crozet area is extremely important. He thinks the whole Crozet Master Plan might depend on this library.

Mr. Slutzky said he favors the library, but questions the scale.

Mr. Rooker agreed with Mr. Dorrier. He said the Board has envisioned the library as being one of the most important pieces of infrastructure in Crozet. The Board spent a lot of time on site selection, and he thinks this is the right site. Staff spent a lot of time working with the Library Board analyzing the size of the facility needed. Assuming there will be a 15,000 square foot facility when considering the offer made, it makes sense to him to do the additional 5,000 square feet because it would be paid for with private fundraising. The cost in the future of building that additional footage would probably be equal to the cost of building the 15,000 square feet today. It appears to be wise if the Board agrees with the original assumption that 15,000 square feet is needed. He asked if the assumptions have been checked against what other communities are doing. Mr. Foley said he will let Mr. Halliday answer those questions. He said the County's standards in the Community Facilities Plan were used by staff to study this issue.

Mr. Halliday said all of these issues were discussed with staff which did a good job of raising hard questions like those posed by Mr. Slutzky. He said that in 2001 Albemarle County went out for an RFP and hired a library consultant and library architect to look at library facility needs in the County. From that report, the .7 square feet per person was settled on, and it is what is being used now nationally. He said Chesterfield County is actually aiming for .82. In North Carolina, their State standard is 1.0 foot per capita. He said .7 is a conservative figure. He and the consultants hired a few years ago felt it was adequate. As to library usage, it has been increasing. From 1994 to 2004 library visits increased 51 percent. A lot of that is probably connected to people coming in to use the library's computers. Outside of the Charlottesville area, the number of people having high speed internet service at home drops. The use of children's books has increased. In the last 10 years book use has gone up 20 percent. Another use which has increased relates to electronic uses, such as books on tapes, CDs and DVDs; that use has increased over 400 percent. Traditional uses of books is going up more slowly, but use of the library for computers and public meetings has increased. They expect those uses to increase, so he thinks the .7 square footage multiplier recommended in the County-funded study in 2001 is still a good standard.

Mr. Slutzky asked if the group that looked at this explored alternative distribution strategies. Did they examine the possibility of building a smaller scale capital project and creating a "Netflix" style book access distribution system? He knows this has been tried in other places.

Mr. Halliday said they did not talk about phasing this project. He said there is a use for downloading electronic books, etc. No electronic substitute has been found for children's books. A large part of their service is with people who check out picture books to read to their children at home.

Mr. Slutzky said he was talking about an electronic distribution system where hard copy books are distributed by mail. Mr. Halliday said that would be an operating cost, and they did not discuss that in any detail.

Mr. Slutzky asked if users of the library in Crozet and the library at Northside have been surveyed to determine why they use that particular branch library. In other words, would improving the Northside Library situation in the near future allow the scope of the Crozet Library to be scaled back? Mr. Halliday said the Crozet Library is the fourth busiest library in the system even though it has the smallest building. He knows people sometimes do not use the Crozet Library because it has a smaller collection and parking can be a problem. The Library keeps statistics on who uses which library; a lot of people come to Crozet from the Northside area. If the building is built at 20,000 square feet in Crozet, there will be people coming from other areas of the County to use it.

Ms. Thomas said when Mr. Slutzky mentioned that the County is providing an amenity for the rural area, one of the things the Crozet Master Plan is based on is the assumption that people can be enticed into downtown Crozet instead of coming into Charlottesville for everything. He said those rural people are going somewhere to a library and having it in Crozet will be important to the success of having a viable town. If the .7 recommendation is wrong, the library will be designed with the extra 5,000 square feet separate enough that the library would never have to expand into that space, and the space would still be valuable. The Board would not be committing today to a super-sized library, and would be committing to something the library could expand into.

Mr. Wyant asked if the \$254.00 a square foot is for the footprint or for each floor space. Mr. Foley said that is the cost per square foot of construction.

Mr. Wyant asked if that is for both the first and the second floors even though a roof is over each floor. Mr. Foley said "yes." Mr. Wyant said when there is a first floor there is a roof, so when adding a second floor there is already a roof serving the same purpose. He said the cost should be going down per floor if it is being done per square foot. Mr. Foley said the architect was familiar with the site, and the type of facility, and that it would have two floors, and that is the estimate provided based on the project. This architect specializes in library construction, and gave a lot of information to staff about the cost of libraries in other places. Staff relied on him for those estimates.

Mr. Wyant said he is upset about a lot of things. He has been waiting for the consultant to discuss this project with him; he has not been interviewed. He talked with a lot of the citizens in Crozet. He said this Board made a commitment to the people of Crozet for parking. He has been making comments on all site plans and rezonings presented for approval in the downtown area to be sure the downtown area is maintained. The business people are concerned about that. He thinks parking in addition to parking for the library is critical. He voted for the downtown plan for that reason and also it was claimed to have a great view. People requested a community room, not a room to be turned into a library in the future. The commitment made by the library people of \$1.6 million is equivalent to about 6,300 square feet at the \$254.00 a square foot. He believes parking can be increased which would help the churches and the downtown area; it was an example shown in the FROSTBERG of parking on the lower level with a walk-in because there is a grade difference of 17 to 20 feet. Parking and the utility of the building could be increased; he is not supportive of a mixed-use because it complicates things. He does not think the Board should change the scope; the Board said it would give the town parking and a library. He is not supportive of a mixed-use. He believes the 20,000 square feet can be built, and maybe at a lesser cost than that shown. He believes the extra space could be on the second level along with a community room the community has talked to him about. He has been waiting for the consultant to contact him so he could share all of this information. He thinks there could be a community room on the top floor with a great view at night, and the additional space for the library, a first floor walk-in for the library, and additional parking on the lower level. He thinks this library could enhance the downtown. Mr. Foley said that is good input and staff will need to involve Mr. Wyant in the design process, but the process has not even begun. What staff is trying to do at this time is have initial decisions made about total square footage. It is trying to establish the broadest parameters so the budget is adequate, and the process can be started. He said the architect will talk with whoever on the Board wants to talk to him. They do not want to come before decisions are made about square footage and mixed-uses.

Mr. Wyant said the decision this Board needs to make is whether to phase in an extra 5,000 square feet. With the kind of structure being discussed, he thinks it will be difficult to do. With the offer from the Library he thinks the 20,000 square feet could be constructed. He has sketched out the size of a building he thinks would accommodate that square footage.

Ms. Thomas said she is lost. She asked Mr. Wyant if he wants the County to build a 20,000 square foot library this year.

Mr. Wyant said you cannot call a community room a library. The .7 figure being used is for library space alone. A community room would be additional so taking one and one-half times that for library space makes two floors of a building about 115 feet x 115 feet. There is a two-acre tract of land, and the

building would use only a small amount of square footage from that 80,000 square feet. The 20,000 square feet are for a library, and the rest is additional. Mr. Foley said the library will include community rooms that can be used for meeting spaces. He said a lot of these issues will come up in the design process that will have to be worked through.

Mr. Wyant asked if the library group considers the community room part of their .7 of the library. Mr. Foley said "yes."

Mr. Wyant said the total library can then be downsized, but the folks have asked for a community room. They have been using the firehouse for meeting space. He voted for the library to be built in the downtown area because of the requests from the community.

Ms. Thomas said all the libraries have meeting rooms which are a crucial part of a library. She asked if someone from the Library could speak to what the .7 means. Mr. Halliday said .7 includes meeting room space. In the 1970s there was a great demand for meeting spaces. Then in the 1980s and later libraries started adding larger meeting rooms. The libraries being built now include large meeting room spaces. There is no building plan at this time, but it is expected that the upstairs space would include 1,000+ square feet for meetings.

Mr. Wyant said it is difficult in Crozet today to find a space to meet. He thinks the Board made a commitment to the people in Crozet for meeting space, and he does not want that to be an expansion of the library. Mr. Halliday said if there is 15,000 square feet on the main floor, there will be over 1,000 square feet of that used as meeting rooms. Mr. Tucker said that will be seen when the design is known.

Ms. Catlin said that meeting space would not go away when the library expanded. The configuration might change, but it would be an integral part of the building forever.

Mr. Wyant said that was not clear in the staff report.

Mr. Boyd asked the impact on operation costs for the building if the size of the facility is increased by 5,000 square feet. Who will pay for that? For long-range planning in Crozet generally, what will the County do with the Old Crozet School?

Mr. Wyant said citizens in Crozet have already started looking at that use in order to help the Board. He thinks the Board should be planning for its use before the Waldorf School lease expires. He has talked with the Crozet Community Association and they want people to give the Board ideas about its use. Mr. Foley said there is money set aside for a study of that building space, and staff is presently developing an RFP. The community will be involved in giving ideas. He said the Board has talked about it being a school, breaking up elementary schools into two sections. It has not been discussed with the School Board yet. There has been a proposal for senior housing, and many other ideas. There will need to be a community process to get to options. That will start in the next few months; staff does not have an answer to that now. In answer to Mr. Boyd's question, he said the operating costs for the library would only go up at the time they need more than 15,000 square feet. If the County used some of the space for meetings, costs for that usage have not been determined.

Mr. Wyant said the County is looking for a "green" building in Crozet, and if that is done, he would not expect operating costs to go up. He thought that was the commitment of this Board for its public buildings.

Mr. Boyd said he was talking about the difference in maintaining a 15,000 square foot building and maintaining a 20,000 square foot building. He thinks there is a difference in costs.

Mr. Wyant said it could be zero.

Mr. Boyd asked what the Board is going to do with this library. He asked if staff needs a decision today. Mr. Foley said staff is looking for approval to begin the planning process for a 20,000 square foot library. He said there is a \$130,000 difference in what is currently set aside in the CIP.

Mr. Dorrier asked if Mr. Schrader was still present. He asked if it would be possible to raise \$130,000 more dollars.

Mr. Schrader said the number discussed by the library group was not seen as an issue. He does not see an issue for an additional \$130,000 but he cannot represent both the committee and the community.

Mr. Wyant said he would like to see that done, and he thinks the commitment is there to do it. He was going to ask the same thing because he is really committed to this library because he thinks it is the key piece for downtown Crozet.

Mr. Schrader said he believes the one way to keep Crozet as it is today, and yet put in a new building, is through building community use of the building along with the library.

Mr. Boyd said it makes it an easier decision for him if there is no additional money needed from the County.

Mr. Rooker said he is satisfied. He guesses it is a "gentleman's understanding" that if the Board approves this, it will make an effort to do it. With that, he is satisfied on the .7 standard. He said a lot of time has been spent getting to this point in the process.

Mr. Boyd asked if there was a motion.

Mr. Wyant **moved** that the Board approve planning for a 20,000 square foot library within the current budget estimate. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Rooker. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.

NAYS: Mr. Slutzky.

Mr. Slutzky said he would like for people to understand that he voted against committing at this time to a 20,000 square foot building because he is not convinced a case was made for that size facility. He thinks a library facility in this location should be built at this time that has significant community facilities beyond just the use of books. It is the size of the library that he is uncomfortable with.

Mr. Wyant asked for a clarification. He asked if Mr. Slutzky is uncomfortable because of population projections, or the .7.

Mr. Slutzky said the Board has voted, so further data is moot now. He is skeptical that the size of the library is appropriate given the totality of the County's circumstances. There is data showing roads are needed in Crozet and the Board is not committing to spending that money. He thinks the library has been given disproportionate satisfaction while other unfunded infrastructure mandates have not been funded. He said the CIP budget has about \$26.0 million for libraries, and about \$10.0 million for transportation. He thinks the Board should pause and prioritize differently.

Mr. Boyd said he was influenced by the fact that the budget was not being increased.

Agenda Item No. 12. Proposed Sallyport Design at County Court House, Sheriff Robb and Jim Camblos.

Mr. Tucker said Sheriff Robb had another commitment today, and Mr. Camblos is ill. He said Sheriff Robb sent a statement basically supporting the option of a tunnel which would require an additional \$113,000 above the original estimate for the sallyport. He suggested this item be deferred until it can be rescheduled on a later agenda.

Motion was offered by Mr. Dorrier, **seconded** by Ms. Thomas to defer this item until it can be rescheduled on a future agenda. Roll was called and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.

NAYS: None.

Agenda Item No. 13. RWSA Capital Improvement Program Presentation, Tom Frederick.

Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, was present to discuss the RWSA's new five-year CIP. He said the needs of the RWSA at this time are significant, probably as significant as they have been since the authority was created. RWSA is using operating infrastructure purchased when the authority was formed in 1973, and there have been no significant upgrades. Infrastructure is aging and there are a significant number of State and Federal mandates, some relating to environmental protection, but they do cost money. When forming this plan, RWSA tried to be sure it was complying with the regulatory requirements already imposed. There is also the issue of how the County's urban areas will be developed.

Mr. Frederick said the plan contains three major areas. The total five-year plan is \$118.0 million. Of that amount, \$37.0 million is associated with the Ragged Mountain Dam (which is the water supply for the fifty-year need of the community). Another \$34.6 million project is the upgrade to the Moores Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to treat nitrogen and phosphorus. This project is involved with studies of the Chesapeake Bay and the James River, and the water quality objectives of the Commonwealth. Then there is the issue of a sewer interceptor system. The RWSA operates major trunk lines to carry wastewater from the Albemarle County Service Authority's (ACSA) and the City of Charlottesville's systems collectively to where they are combined into the treatment facility; the two entities have significant collection systems. This plan focuses on those major interceptors; the number one project in this five-year plan is the Meadow Creek Interceptor. Connected with the interceptor issue is the Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study which was conceived in 2004 and put into their first five-year plan. There was a significant amount of engineering study done to answer such questions as: the capacity of the systems, the current usage, projected use in the future, and how the system can be made first rate.

Mr. Frederick said their consultant has completed six-plus months of data collection about the sewer system. They are in the final stages of quality control, checking data and converting it into a model for use in making future projections. There should be information on existing capacity by the end of this month. That information will be used by the ACSA, County Planning, and others, in their planning. From this stage of the study, they will go to projections of future flows; information needed to generate future

needs. Master planning is where the size of future facilities needed by the RWSA will be determined, along with the flows necessary to serve the comprehensive plan interests of the City and the County, and to what extent the City and ACSA can reduce their flows, particularly wet weather flows, to make an overall cost-effective plan.

Mr. Frederick said next fall, their consultant will furnish a significant number of conclusions based on what they think is the most cost-effective approach. The RWSA, the City and the ACSA will then need to sit down and negotiate a contract. As difficult as negotiations can be, it is the only way to get a "handle" on this issue. Those contracts will allocate wastewater flow to each of the RWSA's two customers, provide for permanent measurement of flows and provide for consequences if targets are not met. That is not a vision the RWSA Board of Directors has yet voted on, but he discussed it with Mr. Fern and Ms. Mueller. He then offered to answer questions.

Mr. Rooker said construction of the pipeline from Ragged Mountain to the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir is not on the list of projects. Mr. Frederick said right-of-way acquisition is included in the plan. They felt it was important to finalize the route and acquire the rights-of-way to be reserved for the future. They labored over how to put all issues and projects in this plan and have it be a responsible document. The first emphasis for the community water supply has to be the Ragged Mountain Dam because there are some safety issues with the existing dam. Present planning will depend on what type of future water rates the community is willing to accept. Modeling has been done based on constructing the dam first. Near 2015 there will be a need for additional capacity for water treatment. They targeted the Observatory Water Treatment Plant because it is the oldest plant and in the greatest need for rehabilitation. Focusing expansion needs and rehabilitation needs in one project, they can be done more cost-effectively. They think the next project after that one should be the pipeline. If this community can accept increases in the wholesale rate for the community water supply element, about five percent per year, they believe that all three of the projects just mentioned can be built in a 15-year timeframe.

Mr. Wyant said he was talking to someone from VDOT recently and that person was surprised that water was going to be backed up near the right-of-way. He thought someone talked to VDOT about the increase in height for Ragged Mountain and the flooding of the slopes of the Interstate. Mr. Frederick said there have been extensive discussions with representatives of VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration about that issue.

Ms. Thomas said she is glad to know that VDOT and RWSA will be working together on the design stage of Reservoir Road. She said someone has to pick up that cost, and she wonders when that will be discussed. Will that be the obligation of the City for the portion that goes beyond where the road is closed to the public? Mr. Frederick said the parties have not discussed financing. The consultant to be selected in the next few months will work with VDOT and make projections as to the minimum amount of work needed to make the road passable for construction vehicles. The next question is what the County and the property owners in that area are looking for. If they are interested in something beyond what it costs to build the project, it might introduce the idea of cost-sharing. Broader benefits based on citizen input would be an appropriate way to identify another source of funding.

Mr. Boyd said there is \$13.4 million in the plan for the Meadow Creek Interceptor. He knows it is being studied now. Mr. Frederick said the consulting firm will be finished this year, but he thinks negotiations for a three-party contract will probably run into the next year.

Mr. Boyd said the County is working on a number of master plans for development areas. He knows they were taken into consideration when working on the fifty-year water supply problem, but he wonders if they were considered for sewer. There are a number of projects currently under construction, but there may be a snag with Albemarle Place. What can be done to prevent that from happening in other areas? There needs to be good input on how to accommodate sewage facilities in the future. Mr. Frederick said the project which is underway now is to solve the problem Mr. Boyd just mentioned; when the study is complete it will be a living, breathing document furnishing answers to such questions. Projections for future flow being worked on now will be completed later this year. The data that goes into the projections for future wastewater flow come from the County's and City's adopted Comprehensive Plans. RWSA staff has talked with the County's Community Development staff about the Places29 plan. RWSA is working with the County so the data it puts into its plan is in sync and consistent with decisions the Board is currently making.

Mr. Boyd said Biscuit Run is a huge project. How can the County know whether it needs to ask for proffers for improvements to the Moores Creek interceptor? How will the Board know the County is getting what is needed from the developer? Mr. Frederick said when the ACSA tells the RWSA there is a specific plan on the table, based on the housing units and square footage of building space, there are plenty of standards in the industry that can be used to convert that into projected flows. If the ACSA asks the RWSA if they have the capacity to handle those additional flows, they can answer the question "yes" or "no." If the answer is "no", that can become the basis for future discussions of proffers. He and Mr. Fern have discussed this to make sure they are coordinating their efforts in terms of the negotiation process for proffers. The organizational agreements in place now make it clear that as the retailer the ACSA takes the lead in negotiations, but the RWSA provides the data to support where consideration of facilities needs to take place.

Mr. Boyd asked if that is based on total build-out. He said the number for Biscuit Run is now 3,100 homes. Does the Board ask what capacity is needed to accommodate those homes even though it might be a 20-year build-out? Mr. Frederick said the specific answer to that question needs to come from the ACSA. Whatever commitment a developer needs in the way of a decision to build "x" number of units, they have to be able to provide funding to support that level of infrastructure.

Ms. Thomas said there have been no proffers for sewer interceptors in the past. She thinks Albemarle Place was approved without asking that question, but she did ask the question when the Board was discussing North Pointe. Mr. Tucker said staff asked that question for Albemarle Place when it was first brought in five years ago, but there was no answer at that time.

Mr. Boyd said he thought connection fees were supposed to cover the cost of infrastructure.

Ms. Thomas said she had always thought connection fees covered those cost but discovered a year or more ago that they do not.

Mr. Gary Fern, Executive Director of the Albemarle County Service Authority, said those fees do not cover the cost for a project of that size. In the past there was plenty of capacity, and the age of the sewers was less. The system has now reached the point where the infrastructure is at the end of its useful life. Large developments with greater densities were not anticipated when these facilities were designed and constructed. Now, with the larger-scale projects it is time to get proffers from the developers for the cost of the infrastructure. If that is not done, all users of the ACSA and the City's facilities will be paying for those large projects.

Mr. Wyant said a good example would be the Crozet community. The Crozet Interceptor flows all the way to Charlottesville, but the treatment plants are not adequate to receive that flow even though the pipes are adequate. Mr. Fern said even in Crozet the ACSA has an agreement with the Old Trail developers that they can only built to a certain point, and then they will need to upgrade one of the RWSA interceptors before they can go further. The same issues will be involved with the Biscuit Run development.

Mr. Rooker asked if the ACSA can negotiate with the developer regardless of whether there is a proffer. Mr. Fern said in the past the ACSA has negotiated those types of agreements, but has not asked for money upfront.

Mr. Rooker asked if the ACSA can ask for money upfront. Mr. Fern said he is not sure they can.

Mr. Rooker said the question is whether the ACSA, before accepting a large hookup, can determine the impact on the system and the upgrades necessary for that hookup and get the payment for that from the developer. Mr. Davis said he cannot speak on behalf of the ACSA, but in the past when the ACSA determined it was out of capacity, they did not have to allow any additional connections until there was an adequate plan financed to provide those connections. That is the scenario they will go through now. When a large proposed development exceeds capacity, there must be an agreement in place before the number of units which exceeds the capacity can be approved. Housing in Albemarle County requires an approved sewage connection before a building permit can be issued. The County relies on the ACSA to tell it whether that capacity exists.

Mr. Boyd said the Fiscal Impact Committee is struggling with the issue of proffers for schools. If a development adds 100 children to a school and that exceeds the capacity of that school so a new elementary school is needed, does that new development have to pay for that school? It seems the same principle would apply in this case. Just because a development pushes it over the limit, it would not be contributing 100 percent of the cost of the sewer line. Mr. Davis said that is part of the agreement the ACSA looks at. There are some developments which may require that 100 percent of the cost be attributed to that development whereas for a sewage treatment plant there may be a cost share and the Authorities would contemplate that as being part of an appropriate agreement.

Mr. Slutzky said he assumes the infrastructure burden will not be addressed by impact fees in the near future, sadly. He apologizes to members of the General Assembly for referring to them as idiots in this morning's paper; that did not apply to all of them, just those opposed to impact fees. He said the dilemma is that on the one hand the rate payers can pay for it, or on the other hand you can kid yourself into thinking that by asking for proffers it is filling in the void. He thinks the proffers are a zero sum game. If the developer proffers a deal with the sewer infrastructure, the County will not be able to get enough money on other proffers and that cost will end up on the backs of the property owners in the form of property taxes. If the Board talks about asking for proffers to address the sewer infrastructure needs knowing revenues can be obtained through the rate payers, and the Board says that is not acceptable, then it will just go on the backs of the real estate tax payers. He thinks the Board should recognize that is all it is doing.

Ms. Thomas said that assumes the County can never get enough proffers from a developer to handle the impact of that development.

Mr. Slutzky said given the relief valve of by-right development, he is convinced the County will rarely, if ever, get true impact fee equivalents out of proffers. That is his cynicism, but he has looked at a series of projects developed over the years and has not seen a lot of evidence that the County is getting the true impact covered in the proffers.

Ms. Thomas said the ACSA has suggested its rates will have to go up a certain percentage every year; there has even been talk of a 15 percent increase. She feels there is some ignorance concerning this subject that should be cut through; the Board needs to know more about the impacts of various things even if the ACSA rate payers end up paying the costs. She said if Mr. Fern knows how much the rates would have to go up in order to pay the ACSA's portion of RWSA's obligations she had hoped that could be shared with the Board today, or soon. Mr. Fern said the ACSA is still working on next year's budget

and trying to take into account the costs the RWSA is passing to the ACSA. That cost is passed to its customers, but in addition, the ACSA has its own CIP.

Mr. Rooker said Mr. Frederick had said the RWSA would need to charge about five percent more per year in order to implement the plan he handed out today. Mr. Frederick said the impact of the community water supply plan by itself on the wholesale water rate would be on the order of an additional five percent per year for the next 15 years. Under that scenario, RWSA's projections suggest the three projects he mentioned earlier can be implemented in a 15-year timeframe.

Mr. Rooker and Ms. Thomas asked if that is just for water. Mr. Frederick said that is just for the community water supply plan. If sewer interceptors, sewage treatment and other issues are added in, that is a different issue. One issue of significant concern is the inflation in costs of the construction industry. He thinks everyone involved with passing new regulations and laws has the best interest of the Commonwealth in their mind; however, he has never seen so many large initiatives pushing through at the same time. People who monitor the construction industry see a significant demand versus supply problem brewing. Inflation is hitting the construction industry and the RWSA is doing its cost estimates based on trends and projections, but they can be wrong.

Mr. Boyd asked if because of new Federal and State regulations, a lot of localities will be dealing with these situations, and there are only a finite number of people who can do that type of construction. Mr. Frederick said that is correct. The Board and members of the community have asked what a developer's contribution to infrastructure should be. He wants to be sure there are no allusions that if a developer were paying 100 percent of his needs, that there would be no need for water and sewer rate increases. The Moores Creek Nutrient Treatment is an excellent example; that project goes to the first drop of wastewater treated. It will have to be done in a more expensive way in the future. From a legal perspective, what he has seen allows communities to charge developers in fees or proffers, etc., a reasonable contribution, but there may be legal questions with charging new development for everything including enhancing existing infrastructure. He said there are parts of the sewer system over 50 years of age that will have to be replaced even if no more customers are added. Those are issues which will bring pressure to bear on sewer rates.

Mr. Boyd said when the Biscuit Run development comes before the Board he hopes it has the information needed to consider the impact. In fairness to the developer, he does not want them to end up where Albemarle Place is today without adequate capacity to move forward with their plans. The Board needs that type of capacity information in order to make a good decision. Mr. Frederick said he is pushing the consultants to get that information. He wants the information they provide to be accurate, and that is why he wants to wait until the report is finished.

Mr. Rooker said in the past the ACSA has operated on a first-come, first-served basis. Mr. Fern said it will continue to do so.

Mr. Rooker said if there is no capacity left to serve a development, in effect that puts a moratorium on development until the capacity issue is settled. Mr. Fern said one key piece of information needed from developers is how they will phase their project. He has been told that the market will determine how it is phased, but the ACSA needs to see the developer's best guess as to how it might be developed. They can provide that information to the RWSA who will then keep them apprised of available capacity. By not getting that kind of guess, it delays everybody who is trying to make the best possible decision.

Ms. Thomas said years ago when the ACSA was formed the Board isolated itself from these issues. As a group of elected officials, the Board has not had to deal with these issues, but the Board makes land use decisions. The ACSA and the RWSA are also being affected by decisions made at the Federal level. The upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant is something everybody will pay more for every time a new person comes to the community. What is being required of the ACSA is a set amount of nutrients going down stream, and not a percentage of the flow, but poundage. That is a cost of growth all will be facing. Then, some of the interceptors are old and that impacts the treatment plants because old interceptors leak both in and out, so when Moores Creek covers the interceptor, there is more water to be treated at the water treatment plants. The condition of the interceptors is interrelated to the cost of treatment. Then there is the capacity of the interceptors. It has been discovered that the Meadow Creek interceptor had a major break, so is probably not sufficient to handle effluent from some developments. She was fascinated to learn that the interceptor physically goes underneath a grocery store, so it will need a different route if it is going to be enlarged and repaired. Then there is the dam that must be built for the future. She said people at Moormans River do not want placement of the pipe between the two reservoirs delayed too long because they do not want to see the Moormans drained dry to fill the new reservoir. There is a whole "lot of stuff" going on, and a whole lot of questions have been raised today.

Mr. Boyd said he would like to go back to Mr. Fern's point about getting expectations from developers about the phasing of their developments. He thinks that question needs to be asked, and he agrees with Mr. Rooker that if they go beyond that capacity, they would have to wait. He said market conditions may not dictate it; he would have a problem if developers had to specify exactly how many units they would build each year and that were made a specific part of their proffer statement. He thinks estimates are a good planning tool. He does not want to see that made part of their Code of Development. Mr. Fern said he has worked with developers for a long time and you do not put those kinds of limitations on them. It is not fair for the market. An ideal way of managing the interceptor system would be to have a continuing calculation of available capacity, and how much was being used. The RWSA cannot wait until capacity is gone before doing something even if it would be ahead of proposed development projects. When building additional infrastructure, you take a long-term view such as 50

years. Although all of that system may not be used immediately, when developers are ready to use it they still buy into the system.

Mr. Tucker said Mr. Frederick is pushing the consultants now, and maybe next month he will have a clearer understanding of the situation. He said that next month Mr. Frederick and Mr. Fern will give an update on the capacity issue.

Mr. Wyant said one of the issues the Board faces with land use is that nobody wants to live next to a treatment plant. He suggested that when planning, the RWSA think about buffering these facilities.

Mr. Rooker said he noticed that there is an amount in the plan presented today for odor control at the Moores Creek Treatment Plant. Mr. Frederick said the best protection for those facilities is buffering and he wishes they had it now.

Ms. Thomas said one project not listed in the plan is the line from the Ivy Landfill. She asked if that project is going forward and if VDOT will participate. Mr. Frederick said there has been no decision made about that project yet. They have done additional work with the two cells at Ivy to get the best estimate as to the flow rates. It is refined to a point where he questions the economics of the pipeline versus continuing to truck the material away. The only way they will get to the final answer is to install the collection system, turn the valves on, have a plan in place for capturing and treating that volume, measure it for a 60-day period of time, and then make a final determination. He is holding back on the decision to commit to that pipeline. If he is convinced it is necessary from an economic standpoint, he may propose to the RWSA Board that the line not be built. He said the decision about the permits needed to build the leachate collection system is in the hands of DEQ at this time. They have projected that it may be late May or early June before they complete their review. There are no problems with the review, but they have to go through a public process.

Mr. Boyd thanked Mr. Frederick and Mr. Fern for the report.

Ms. Thomas said she would like to make a statement for the public. A week from this Thursday, March 15, DEQ will hold a meeting on the total maximum daily loadings of Albemarle's impaired streams. This is DEQ's public hearing; it will be held at COB-Fifth Street. They have not done a good job of letting the public know about the meeting. She was supposed to make this announcement at the beginning of today's meeting, but forgot. The Rivanna River, North and South Fork, Preddy Creek, Meadow Creek, Mechums River, Beaver Creek, are all impaired waters. She said the County will be participating in deciding what the limit of pollution and nutrients can be. It is an important public hearing where the public has not been properly informed of its being held.

Mr. Slutzky asked if the County's Natural Heritage Committee could be sent an e-mail specifically advising them of this meeting.

Mr. Rooker said this meeting has nothing to do with treatment; it has to do with the condition of the streams. He wonders how DEQ intends to cause the reduction they are interested in. From discussions he has had with DEQ in the past, they have never had a good plan for non-point source reduction of pollution.

Ms. Thomas said it has been said that if the goal is not met for the Chesapeake Bay, restrictions will be imposed whether or not there is a good idea of how to reduce daily load requirements.

Mr. Rooker said imposing large buffers is one way.

Mr. Slutzky suggested that organic farming is another way.

Agenda Item No. 14. Closed Session. Mr. Boyd asked for a motion to go into closed session.

At 1:01 p.m., **motion** was offered by Mr. Slutzky that the Board adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia under Subsection (1) to consider appointments to boards, committees and commissions; under Subsection (1) to discuss the appointment of an administrative position; under Subsection (7) to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding a matter of probable litigation relating to a construction contract; and, under Subsection (7) to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding specific matters requiring legal advice relating to an inter-jurisdictional agreement.

The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Rooker. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.
NAYS: None.

Agenda Item No. 15. Certify Closed Session. At 2:45 p.m., the Board reconvened into open session.

Motion was immediately offered by Mr. Slutzky that the Board certify by a recorded vote that to the best of each Board member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from the

open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

The motion was **seconded** by Rooker. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.
NAYS: None.

Agenda Item No. 16. Appointments. **Motion** was offered by Mr. Wyant to:

Appoint Dr. Seki Balogun to the Jefferson Area Board for Aging with said term to expire on March 31, 2009, to replace Hovey Dabney.

Appoint Ms. Shirley Copeland to the Jefferson Area Board for Aging with said term to expire March 31, 2009, to replace Joe Jones.

Appoint Mr. Wallace McKeel to the Jefferson Area Board for Aging with said term to expire October 20, 2008, to replace Mark Reisler.

Reappoint Dr. Richard Lindsay to the Jefferson Area Board for Aging with said term to expire March 31, 2009.

Appoint Mr. Leif Riddervold to the Natural Heritage Committee with said term to expire September 30, 2007, to replace E. N. Garnett.

Appoint Mr. Phil Stokes to the Natural Heritage Committee with said term to expire September 30, 2007, to replace John Scrivani.

Appoint Mr. Bryan Elliott as an Assistant County Executive for Community Services effective April 16, 2007. Mr. Elliott takes the place of Ms. Roxanne White who is retiring from County service.

The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Rooker. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.
NAYS: None.

Agenda Item No. 17. Recess. At 2:48 p.m., the Board recessed.

Agenda Item No. 18. Reconvene. The Board reconvened in the Lane Auditorium at 6:05 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 19. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by 6:05 p.m., by the Chairman. He noted for people who were standing in the Auditorium that there was additional seating in the balcony.

All Board members were present, along with staff members: County Executive, Robert W. Tucker, Jr., County Attorney, Larry W. Davis, Clerk, Ella W. Carey, and Deputy Clerk, Meagan Hoy.

Agenda Item No. 20. Pledge of Allegiance.
Agenda Item No. 21. Moment of Silence.

Agenda Item No. 22a. Recognition: Proclamation - Virginia Festival of the Book.

Mr. Boyd announced that starting on Wednesday March 21 through March 25 there will be the 13th Annual Festival of the Book. He read the following proclamation into the record and then presented same to Ms. Nancy Damon.

VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK

WHEREAS, Albemarle County is committed to promoting reading, writing, and storytelling within and outside its borders; and

WHEREAS, our devotion to literacy and our support of literature has attracted over 1,000 writers and tens of thousands of readers to our VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK; and

WHEREAS, the VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK celebrates the power of books and publishing; and

WHEREAS, businesses, cultural and civic organizations, and individuals have contributed to the ongoing success of the VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the County of Albemarle and Virginia, and the world, have made the VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK the best book festival in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth C. Boyd, Chairman, on behalf of the Albemarle Board of County Supervisors, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 21, 2007 through Sunday, March 25, 2007 as the Thirteenth Annual

VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK

and encourage community members to participate fully in the wide range of available events and activities.

Agenda Item No. 22b. Resolution Honoring Returning Service Men.

Mr. Boyd said he would come down to the floor of the Auditorium for this item. He said it is a great privilege in honoring some County employees who have also served in the military. He then read the following resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION

**“Honoring the heroic service of
Raleigh L. Anderson
Jason Beech
George Hartwell
Caleb Martin
George Noteman
Wayne Rollins
Steve Reeves
Montie Shields
David Wallace**

**for his participation, dedication, courage and sacrifice
upon his return from military service”**

WHEREAS, “x” selflessly gave of himself and displayed dedication and devotion to his family and friends, his country, state and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and sacrifices which “x” exercised in this ongoing military effort will never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle wishes to convey its respect and recognition to all of those courageous county employees who have faced the opposition in the name of freedom not only for our country, but around the world; and

WHEREAS, all veterans deserve our gratitude and praise for their selfless sacrifices, service and commitment to duty on behalf of their country and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the significance of what the men and women of the armed forces have provided for the citizens of this nation should never be understated; and

WHEREAS, we will never forget all of the valiant men and women who still are risking their lives, foregoing their own freedom and happiness, in order to allow us to safely enjoy our liberty;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, hereby honors and extends its deepest gratitude for the heroic service of “x” in recognition of his courageous military service.

Mr. Boyd said he thinks it is important that the timing of this recognition came tonight when there are so many people present. All are here to participate in a public town meeting. There may be a little discourse tonight, but it is important to recognize that these gentlemen, as well as their colleagues in the military service, keep this country free so that we can enjoy meetings like this and discuss issues.

Agenda Item No. 23. PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on the County Executive’s FY 2007/2008 Recommended Budget. (Notice of this hearing was advertised in the Daily Progress on February March 4, 2007.)

Mr. Boyd said this meeting will continue by having the County Executive present a summary of his proposed budget for FY 2007-08 before the public hearing is opened.

Mr. Tucker said this public hearing begins a process of dialogue and thoughtful deliberation and decision-making about the County’s budget, which is the roadmap for how County resources will support programs, services, construction, etc. He thanked everyone for being here this evening and for choosing to be a constructive part of the process. There are critical decisions ahead in creating this budget roadmap. He will begin this dialogue with a thorough and accurate presentation of what this budget

proposal contains – what it is built on and why – so that choices can be made based on the best possible information and with a full understanding of potential impacts.

Mr. Tucker said he will start by outlining the County's general budget goals, the top level framework within which the budget is built.

1. Stay within adopted fiscal policies that maintain the County's AAA bond rating. For example, not exceeding the debt service limit recommended by the County's financial advisors.
2. Follow guidelines and direction established by the Board. For example, committing extra dollars to ACE that equate to one-cent of the tax rate.
3. Address education needs and public safety service gaps. For example, providing the School Division with 60 percent of new local revenues, funding a full year of the Hollymead Fire/Rescue Station, and, trying to achieve the Police staffing goal of 1.5 officers per 1000 residents.
4. Address Strategic Planning goals. For example, our focus on dealing with urbanization impacts through efforts like master planning and protection of natural resources.
5. Invest in our future through the Capital Program. For example, committing two cents of the tax rate and end-of-year savings and revenue to the Capital Program every year.
6. Maintain competitive compensation for employees. Four percent market adjustment as agreed upon by Board of Supervisors and School Board last fall.

Mr. Tucker said he would review some of the key elements of the Fiscal Year 2007-08 budget proposal.

- The proposed Operating Budget is \$266.1 million, an increase of \$16.7 million (6.7%) over FY 2006-07.
- \$8.9 million of the budget increase is attributed to the School Division budget.
- \$3.3 million of the budget increase funds Public Safety.
- The proposed Capital Budget is \$32.6 million.
- The Revenue-Sharing Agreement with the City of Charlottesville totals \$13.0 million, a 30 percent increase from last year.
- The budget includes \$3.5 million set aside for use at the Board's discretion.
- The total budget is \$315.4 million.
- The budget is built on \$0.74 property tax rate; however, the County actually operates on a \$0.64 rate after \$.10 is given to Charlottesville via Revenue-Sharing.

Mr. Tucker said the largest portion of the revenues is generated by property taxes, which is made up of two categories: Real estate taxes which accounts for 38 percent, and, other property taxes, which accounts for seven percent. Other local revenues make up 20 percent of the total and include sources like sales tax, meals tax, permits and fees. While the 38 percent of the revenue pie chart consisting of real estate taxes increased significantly - 30 percent - due to reassessments, the remaining revenue sources grew at a more moderate rate, close to flat in some cases, like State revenues which increased only 1.5 percent from last year. Therefore, our overall revenues increased 5.6 percent and not 30 percent.

Mr. Tucker said before going further, he would like to focus on what he knows is a major concern for many of those present this evening, and that is reassessments. By State law the County is required to assess properties at 100 percent of their fair market value. While the reassessment is market driven, the reassessment process is an objective analysis of the property's actual worth in the marketplace, and does not reflect any action or decision on the part of the County. Albemarle County has consistently ranked among the top jurisdictions in the State in Statewide Assessment/Sales Ratio studies conducted by the Virginia Department of Taxation, which means assessments should be near to the actual sales prices of properties.

Mr. Tucker said the most recent reassessment averaged 14.90 percent annually (or 29.80% for the two-year reassessment period). Several recent reassessment periods showed strong increases due to strong demand in the housing market. Based on the current market and on feedback from the community, a much more modest increase of five percent is being planned for next year. The County has gone to an annual reassessment process - property owners will receive their next reassessment in January, 2008. An annual process will allow reassessments to more closely and accurately parallel recent activity in the local real estate market and will help moderate increases or decreases. What Albemarle is experiencing with reassessments is similar to what is happening throughout communities in this region, many of whom are experiencing even more dramatic increases in their reassessment values.

Mr. Tucker said the County recognizes its responsibility to fund educational needs, provide infrastructure in the Master planned areas and to provide for other critical capital needs for the growing County. The potential financial burden the recent tax reassessment places on County taxpayers has been recognized. Therefore, this proposed budget includes a total set aside of \$4.1 million, consisting of \$3.5 mentioned earlier plus \$600,000 put in reserve in the operating budget, to be used at the Board's discretion to fund critical capital or school needs, or to be returned to the taxpayers as a tax rate adjustment.

Mr. Tucker said qualification for the County's Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled program has been expanded to include:

- The income limit, for instance, was increased from \$30,000 in 2005 to \$50,000 in 2007; the net worth limit went from \$90,000 in 2005 to \$125,000 in 2007, and the exemption for the residence in 2007 is for the house and five acres as compared to the house and one acre in 2005.

- This program is funded at \$679,000 – during the budget work sessions this month, the Board will consider expanding the qualification standards even further

Mr. Tucker said he mentioned earlier that the total budget is \$315.0 million. He then showed a chart detailing the operating portion of the total budget, which is \$266.0 million. He said the School Division accounts for 65 percent of operating expenditures, and Public Safety and Human Development account for another 20 percent as the major areas of funding. That leaves 15 percent of the budget to fund the remainder of the other General Government operations and Debt Service.

Mr. Tucker then showed a chart detailing the Capital budget which totals about \$32.5 million. School projects account for 50 percent of the budget, with the next largest category being the Reserve which keeps building in order to fund future needs. Other major categories are Community Development, where Transportation and Infrastructure Projects are funded, and Public Safety where the major expense is the new fire station. The remainder gives you a sense of the many varied areas of need addressed in the Capital budget.

Mr. Tucker said it is certainly obvious that reassessments have resulted in increased revenues for the County and it is natural for citizens to be wondering how that new revenue is being allocated in the budget. Growth in expenditures outlined in the budget is attributable to two major factors: 1) Meeting Obligations and Commitments; and, 2) responding to Community Priorities. Some budget items are not really choices but are required by some level of mandate, obligation or policy direction already established by the Board.

Mr. Tucker said mandates and obligations include things like Landfill Remediation or Stormwater Management. Established policy direction includes things like funding ACE at \$.01 of the tax rate, the 60/40 split of new revenues between Schools and Local Government or dedicating \$.02 to the Capital Program. He then outlined those major mandates and obligations that require a substantial investment of new revenue beyond what was expended last year and which represents over 65 percent of the County's new revenues for FY '07-08:

- Public safety agency obligations
- School Division Funding Policy
- City Revenue-Sharing Agreement
- Revenue Transfer – Capital
- Public Safety Agency obligations include funds for the Regional Jail, the Juvenile Detention Center and the Emergency Communications Center.
- Foster care/youth residential treatment (CSA)
- Ongoing Fire/Rescue Commitments
- Minimum police staffing standards
- Landfill Expenses.

Mr. Tucker said this proposed budget is designed to support the citizens' priorities. The results from our most recent Citizen Survey, conducted this summer, provided direction to the County's strategic planning efforts that guide County activities and resource choices. The survey is done every two years to gauge public opinion on community priorities. A review of the budget demonstrates how citizen priorities have shaped the Strategic Plan and provided the framework for important programming and budget decisions. The budget invests tax dollars back into the community based on how the citizens define the most critical public needs. He then mentioned some specific ways this budget addresses the citizens' highest priorities:

Education: Albemarle citizens identify quality education as the top priority in the community, and this budget reflects that by supporting the School Division by: Provides \$100 million for school operations; Provides \$13.3 million for School Capital and Debt including renovations at Greer and additions at Albemarle and Brownsville.

Public safety: It is another critical responsibility that citizens expect from County government. Citizens ranked Fire Protection, Police Service and Emergency Rescue among the top five most important goals in the survey. A particular focus of this budget is in closing service gaps that result in emergency response levels and times that are less than established goals and not in line with citizen expectations. This budget funds four police officers toward the goal of 1.5 officers per 1000 population, a standard that is well below most other agencies in the region. It funds six new firefighters/ALS providers at East Rivanna Volunteer Fire Department. It provides for full year of staffing for the new Hollymead Fire Rescue Station.

Infrastructure is clearly an area that citizens found very important. According to the survey they feel the County could be doing more to address this item. While this goal was ranked ninth in importance, it was ranked only twenty-first in level of satisfaction.

The County's increasing urbanization along with a decrease in State transportation funding and construction has required the Board to consider new roles and responsibilities in addressing infrastructure needs. This proposed budget reflects a more aggressive approach to supporting multi-modal transportation systems that complement the land uses which the community needs to prosper, including pedestrian, bicycle and transit opportunities. This budget sets aside \$1.0 million for Secondary roads for VDOT Revenue-Sharing. It provides \$1.7 million to supplement the construction of transportation projects like Jarmans Gap Road, Georgetown Road and the Meadow Creek Parkway. It funds sidewalk construction on Hillsdale Drive. It funds roadway landscaping and streetlamps. It supports the Places29 and Rivanna Master Plans.

The Citizen Survey reflects the citizens' continued focus on the importance of natural, scenic and historic resources. Citizens have also indicated a need for greater attention to this priority - efforts to preserve open space and efforts to protect natural resources and the environment ranked in the bottom half of the survey results. In this budget, Acquisition of Conservation Easements funding increases to \$1.6 million, which is equivalent to \$.01 on the tax rate. It provides \$725,000 for stormwater control, a portion of which funds mandates. It funds Preddy Creek Trail Park, a new park in the northern area of the County at \$198,000.

Mr. Tucker said Albemarle County is focused on meeting the human service needs of the community that contribute to a good quality of life for all residents. Individual and family self-sufficiency and affordable housing issues are primary areas of emphasis. Efforts to support youth received the highest importance ranking among all social issues in the survey. This budget funds two child welfare workers for Child Protective Services and foster care/adoption. It supports recreation program expansion. It continues providing \$250,000 in Albemarle's Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Tucker said he would close by summarizing the highlights of this budget: It stays within adopted fiscal policies; it responds to Board and community priorities, including creating the set aside mentioned earlier; it meets mandates and commitments; it addresses education needs and public safety service gaps; it addresses Strategic Planning goals; and it invests in the County's future through the Capital Program.

Before opening the public hearing, Mr. Boyd stated the ground rules for this hearing. He then opened the hearing and read the names of the first five people who had signed to speak.

Mr. Sam Massey said he is a County resident and pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, a 1500 member congregation that has parishioners in the City and in the County. He is also co-President of IMPACT (Interfaith Movement Promotion Action by Congregations Together), and he asked that members of that organization who were present stand. He said they had not come to talk about taxes, but to express the concerns of IMPACT about budget priorities. This past summer, within their respective 24 congregations, they engaged in almost 70 intensive house meeting conversations about the region's needs. They named two areas that cry out for a response. Their research showed them that in Albemarle County those who make no more than \$20,000 a year in household income are challenged severely in the areas of public transportation and affordable housing. The members of IMPACT are convinced that the Board members also share these concerns. He said they know the Board welcomes them because government will not survive unless citizens get involved, support their better instincts publicly, and hold respectfully all who are responsible and accountable for doing the right thing. Because they are making a request for transportation, and it has a budget implication, Ms. Susan Pleiss is present with him tonight to describe the actions they are asking the Board to take. (**Note:** See copy of full speech on file in the Clerk's Office with the permanent records of the Board of Supervisors.)

Mr. Al Highsmith said he understands the tax rate became 58 cents automatically under state law when the 30 percent increase in assessments was announced. Even if the tax rate were set at 58 cents it would still represent a real estate tax increase of one percent. If it was returned to 74 cents, property owners would be faced with a 30 percent real estate tax increase. Two years ago his tax increase was 38 percent, so a 74-cent rate would inflict another real estate tax increase on him in just two years compounded to 77 percent. He said public officials often talk about the need for affordable housing in the area, and then turn around and raise real estate taxes again and again. Over the past seven years, the County's budget has risen an alarming 122 percent while growth in the County has been about 12 percent. The biggest slice of the budget is for schools. He asked why the School portion of the budget has increased at an alarming rate while enrollment in the schools has remained virtually level; between 1997 and 2002, the total increase was only one student. He asked that the cost-of-living in Albemarle be kept level so people can actually live here and send their children to school. If the tax rate is set at 72 cents, that would give the owner of a \$200,000 property relief of \$40. Increasing the tax for the owner of that property 28 percent instead of 30 percent and calling it a tax cut is an insult to the taxpayers. He asked that the Board do right for the people of Albemarle and raise the tax rate no higher than 66 cents. (**Note:** See copy of full speech on file in the Clerk's Office with the permanent records of the Board of Supervisors.)

Ms. Susan Pleiss said she is a member of IMPACT's Research Committee that studied the issue of public transportation. Since October they have met with all members of City Council, five members of the Board of Supervisors, and senior staff from CTS, UTS, JAUNT and TJPDC. The Committee reviewed the August, 2006, Charlottesville Transit Development Plan and gathered information from County Social Services staff, the International Rescue Committee director, many area employers, and a variety of low-wage workers (for instance, residents of Southwood, service personnel at UVA, bus riders and some refugee families). Their research has uncovered three service gaps in the existing public transit system. Two of these routes are funded by the County. They feel it is more beneficial for low-wage workers and others who depend on public transportation to establish service where it is missing or to extend hours of services on existing routes than to improve headways. They ask that the Board address two service gaps. The first is "no night service" on Bus Route 5 which serves Barracks Road, The Colonnades, Heritage Nursing Home, a large number of apartment complexes located on Garth Road, Georgetown Road, Commonwealth Drive, Four Seasons Drive and Rio Road, as well as Fashion Square Mall, Albemarle Square, Rio Hill Shopping Center, Wal-Mart, the Double Tree Hotel and Sam's Club. She said this route has no service after 7:00 p.m. The chief reason evening service is needed is to provide access to jobs at UVA for employees living along Route 5 and working the evening shifts at UVA, the Medical Center, and Air Mark Dining Services. On UVA Grounds, Air Mark employees 550 people and the Food Services Manager estimated that between 50 and 60 percent of all these employees use public transportation when it is available. In addition, the many retail centers along Route 29 North also have evening shift work as do

the two nursing homes and the hotel. The IRC settles about 150 refugees including children annually in Charlottesville. Many live in the apartment complexes along Route 5 and work evening shifts in dining or housekeeping at UVA, on the kitchen staff at the Omni or the Double Tree. These shifts end at 10:30 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. Reliable low-cost public transportation to and from work is needed for these entry level wage earners. IMPACT asks that the Board add five hours of night service on Route 5 with buses every 45 minutes. The second gap they found is the lack of public transportation on Fifth Street Extended (time expired). They ask that the Board establish daytime bus service to Southwood, Mountainwood, and the Fifth Street Extended County Office Building. She said the Charlottesville Transit Plan estimates this would cost \$60,000 annually. She said IMPACT is having an important meeting on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the M.L. King Center, and they expect over 1,000 people to attend. They feel it is important for the Board to see how many people support these requests to spend taxpayer dollars to extend public transit to those in the County who depend on it most.

Rev. Bruce Beard said he is the pastor of Transformation Ministries at First Baptist Church on Main Street in Charlottesville. He is also present on behalf of the IMPACT organization which is a group of 24 or more congregations who are concerned about housing, transportation and other issues in the Community. He encouraged the Board to consider their proposal relative to transportation particularly since all know that the housing costs in the area are high and rising. There are persons who have to work two or three jobs just to afford housing. Transportation is critical for them to get to those areas where service workers are desperately needed. He said these people number in the hundreds. In his congregation of about 800 there are people who are considering moving to some other area where they can afford housing, and have a way to get to their jobs. These are people who want to be productive citizens in the community, but government policies are causing them to think about leaving the area. He asked that the Board consider this proposal, and he looks forward to seeing Board members on the 15th. They know the Board has many things to consider, but these things are the basis of the community.

Ms. Mary Huffard Kegley Scott said she is a parent from Meriwether Lewis Elementary and a member of the Executive Committee of the Albemarle County Schools Parent Council. She asked members of the Council who were present tonight to stand, and also other parents who are present to request full funding of education. She said there is no one more important than the classroom teacher. The staff needed to provide a world class education to our children requires that teachers be compensated at a competitive level. Students also need the most up-to-date technology available. The School Board's funding request reflects initiatives that address both of these issues. The School's Strategic Plan revolves around preparing all students to succeed as members of a global community. Basics, such as literacy specialists, are necessary at every elementary school to help lay the groundwork for a successful, enjoyable school career. Full-time Gifted Resource Teachers and CTIP technology staff is crucial to the Schools' ability to serve students on an ongoing basis. There is also a need for Math specialists in elementary and middle schools. She said on the County's 2006 Citizen Survey 99 percent of respondents felt providing a quality education was very important. She asked that the Board fully fund the School Board's funding request in order for the Schools to maintain and build upon their educational success.

Mr. Tom Strassburg said the Code of Virginia provides protection for homeowners from excessive real estate tax increases. He noted Page 58 of the proposed budget showing the inflation rate for 2006 at 3.2 percent increase. He understands there is a proposed pay increase of about four percent for employees; that is about 80 percent of the budget. However, the bottom line of the proposed budget is increased by about 5.6 percent. He would suggest that the real estate tax increase of nearly 30 percent is not fair. He complimented the person who put together the chart on Page 61 of the budget documents. That chart shows that in FY '01 real estate taxes provided slightly more than other revenues, but now is projected to provide more than twice as much as other local sources of revenue. He said that does not bode well for the future of the County's Strategic Plan which is committed to affordable housing and a strong sustainable economy. He said when real estate taxes go up that much, homeownership costs increase and it becomes less affordable. The same thing applies for landlords who have to increase their rents, making rental housing less affordable. Business people have to increase their prices for goods and services. For businesses in Albemarle County that compete in the global economy, it suggests that they may go elsewhere or not locate here in the first place. In support of affordable housing, the Strategic Plan as set forth by the County, and a sustainable economy, he asks that the Board consider the spirit of Section 58.1-3321 of the Virginia Code.

Ms. Sally Cushing said she is president of the Brownsville PTO with two children in the County schools. She came tonight with others from the PTO to support Superintendent Moran's budget plan and initiatives that will benefit their children. They ask the County to invest in compensation, benefits and other support efforts to recruit and retain the best people to teach the children. They support increased compensation for teachers with 21 years of experience or more, improving the school's position in the top quartile of a very competitive labor market, to continue the novice teacher network which has proven to provide support to new teachers and improved the County's ability to retain their talents here. They ask for funding for four Math Specialists to support teacher efforts to improve the quality of math instruction in the middle and elementary schools. They ask that implementation of the Data Warehouse be completed and that necessary staffing be provided. She said teachers and administrators need an efficient support system in order to assess integrated student data and to survey student needs across the division to plan and implement the best teaching strategies. She said that 92 percent of the County's residents with children in the schools report satisfaction with the quality of education their children are receiving. Last year was the first time the Albemarle County School Division met every growth requirement for student performance on statewide standardized tests in reading and math with pass rates of 69 and 67 percent, respectively. She said the goals of the Federal "No Child Left behind Act" will continue to raise the pass rate until all students, by 2014, prove to be proficient in reading and math. She said after analyzing the proposed budget, it is clear Superintendent Moran and the School Board is responsive to the children's

educational needs. Great value is received for our tax dollars and she is impressed that 75 percent of the budget will be used for instruction-related costs; the National average for school districts is only 68 percent. While student enrollment continues to increase, Federal/State aid will not be sufficient. They want the children to excel, so the community must remain responsible and commit to an investment in public education. This is a highly educated community, and the schools reflect the community. Sight must never be lost of the responsibility to provide the best education possible for the children. On their behalf, she asked that the Board continue to support the Schools and accept Dr. Moran's budget proposal in full.

Ms. Mary Ann Robertson said she is a retired teacher, a long-time County resident, and a parent representative for Murray High School where her son is a student. For the past several years Albemarle County Schools have committed themselves to achieving important goals for the children in the community including preparing all students to succeed in a global economy, eliminating the achievement gap, recruiting and retaining the highest quality teaching staff and becoming a world-class educational system. He said these goals will not be achieved overnight or through ordinary efforts. Extraordinary efforts are needed and are the kind of efforts which have been seen in the School Division for a number of years. These efforts have only been possible because of the commitment of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors to providing adequate funding for the Schools, especially in the area of compensation for teachers and staff. This progress cannot be stopped now. If we want the students to own their future, we must invest in their present today. As a retiree she is concerned about rising expenses on a fixed income, but for her to pay her share of taxes to support full funding for education is not an expense, it is an investment. It is an investment in her son, in his school, in the School Division, and in the community. It is an investment she thinks will yield rich returns. As a resident of Albemarle County for the past 38 years, she has a responsibility to do what she can to protect that investment. She asks that the Board join her in making this investment in the future of the community by fully funding the School Board request.

Ms. Carole Hastings said she is a long-term resident of Albemarle County, a taxpayer, a mother of children who went through the School System, a former County department head, and now the principal of Hollymead Elementary School. She thanked the Supervisors for their support of the School's budget over the past several years. The Division has accomplished a great deal and appreciates the Supervisor's understanding that in order to achieve, resources are needed. When she considers the idea of a tax reduction, she does so in light of the School Board's goal to become a world-class school system. She then mentioned several things that happen during her day as a principal. She tutors four different groups of students, most of whom are economically disadvantaged, who are not achieving at grade level. Because Hollymead School is considered affluent, they do not have personnel to assist these students in the way they need to be served. Their parents cannot afford private tutoring. Is this world class? Someone has to pay for it. She said the children at Hollymead delight in the use of interactive technology in their classrooms and they are fortunate the PTO has been able to supply this valuable instructional equipment. In a world class school system does the PTO have to pay for such extra technology? The parents already pay taxes for the schools and she questions why all of the schools do not have this equipment. Somebody has to pay for it. On Monday, she talked with two senior teachers who decided to retire because the proposed salary for next year would not make much difference in pay for them. She thinks of the experience and wisdom the children will lose and reflects on why Albemarle's salaries are not at the top. She said the scores on national tests demonstrate that more work is needed on math. Math specialists are needed to help the teachers. She said when registering her children in Hollymead an economically-disadvantaged mother asks about a program for four-year olds. Although, some schools have these programs, Hollymead does not. Should not every child from this type of family be given that advantage? Her stories are not unique, every school has similar situations. Looking at all the things that would be lost with every penny, namely about \$1.0 million to the school for each penny of tax reduction, she questions whether reducing the tax rate is going to get them to where the School Board wants them to be. She understands that moments are not growing by leaps and bounds, but in times when they are stable is this not the time to make improvements and move ahead. She asked that the Supervisors support the Superintendent's request for funds. It is not a frivolous request and a goal cannot be reached without the resources to achieve it.

Ms. Sue Friedman said she is Chair of the Albemarle County School Board. She urged full support of their funding request for FY '08. She said this request represents an approximate six-percent increase over last year's School Fund budget. This request represents the joint agreement of November 1, 2006, to provide a School Division funding request balance to projected April, 2007 revenues. This funding request is based on their statutory responsibility to advocate for funding that meets the educational needs of the County. Their outcomes, based on student achievement and community satisfaction data, show they are meeting their responsibility. 1) All Albemarle County Schools are fully accredited. 2) The School Division has met adequate yearly progress under the "No Child left Behind Act" for the first time. 3) Their Standards of Learning pass rates are climbing. 4) Their SAT scores continue to significantly outpace both Virginia and National averages. 5) The Albemarle County 2006 Citizen Satisfaction Survey showed a rating of 88 percent satisfied with the quality of education in the County schools and a satisfaction rating for quality of education in County schools was 92 percent for those with children in public schools. Their funding request for the 2007-08 school year aligns current resources, redirects resources and directs new funding toward achieving their five Strategic Plan goals. It reflects the importance of investing in the framework for quality learning, their professional learning communities and their highly qualified educators. It implements their vision that all learners will excel, embrace learning and own their future. This funding request is based on competitive compensation for teachers, support staff and administrators. As the School Board and Supervisors have jointly agreed, maintaining their position in the top quartile of the competitive market for employee compensation requires \$7.6 million in new revenue. This request will strengthen their business and education partnerships and expand preschool services to again reach their goals and priorities. This request will enhance teacher mentoring and

coaching, specialty center development, and information management systems in terms of data warehousing and others that will help teachers to provide real time access to student learning data assessments, and other teaching learning tools. (Time expired) They are encouraged by the Supervisors' adoption of a new vision that commits local government to assist the School Division in achieving recognition as a world class education system. The best way to assist the School Board to do this is by fully funding the budget request.

Ms. Dawn Greco said she is the parent/council representative for the Broadus Wood Elementary School. She is here tonight for the PTO to show support for the funding request for public schools. As a parent and a taxpayer, she is concerned that financing a reduction in the tax rate with funds that could be devoted to improving the schools is not in the best interests of the County. The School Board's budget request supports initiatives that are vital to the achievement of numerous strategic goals for the County's schools. It prioritizes keeping teacher salaries competitive with neighboring markets so Albemarle can hire and retain the best teachers for the children. It seeks to improve the School System's use of technology both in the classroom and at an administrative level by funding additional staff and support positions. It would add four math specialists to work in elementary and middle schools to help teachers with curriculum and teaching techniques. Without full funding, achieving these initiatives and others included in the School Board's proposal will be jeopardized. While there are always tough choices to make when deciding where to spend revenue and whether to grant tax relief, she hopes the Supervisors will not sacrifice the money needed to continue to improve the public schools and better prepare the children for the future. For these reasons, she requested that the Supervisors fully fund the School Board's funding request. She asked those from Broadus Wood who are in favor of her statement to stand.

Mr. Peter Wurzer handed in a copy of his presentation which is on file in the Clerk's Office with the permanent records of the Board of Supervisors. He had prepared a chart which shows the tax implications for a house assessed at \$150,000 in 2000. That house is now assessed for \$333,000. The homeowners pay \$2,464 in taxes now, which means the taxes on that house have increased 122 percent in seven years. Their tax burden increased from \$93 a month to \$205 a month. The tax increase in 2007 was more than one-half of the entire tax during the year 2000. Few people's income matched these kinds of increases. As to who suffers from this increase, he thinks it is the retiree who is living on a fixed income and long-time residents (even if these people qualify for a reduced tax rate). He said these taxes are also passed to those who rent. Young families with children who have many demands on their incomes are affected. At the beginning of this decade, the County had a budget of \$176.1 million, while the budget for FY '08 is proposed at \$315.4 million, an increase of 79 percent. The total County population during this same time increased only nine percent. During this same period of time, School spending increased by 54 percent, while School enrollment increased only two percent. He said this level of budget growth is unsustainable. He thinks these numbers are frightening for a resident who would like to stay in the County. If the proposed budget is the best the Board can do to control spending, what confidence can any resident in the County have that the next seven years will be any different?

Ms. Betsy Haire said she is the mother of a CATEC student and a graduate of Albemarle High School. She is on the CATEC Strategic Planning Committee and she urges the Supervisors to fully fund the School Board's request for funds. This funding request supports the needs of students at all levels. There is a need to fund the compensations of teachers so as to attract the most competent to the School Division because they provide a high level of service for students to learn 21st Century workforce skills. Also, there is a need to increase security in the schools. Albemarle County Schools need to maintain their reputation as the best in class. She said that she and her family moved to Albemarle from Florida based solely on the Albemarle County Schools. They bought their house sight unseen from Florida so that their children could go to Hollymead and Sutherland. They are grateful to their teachers and administrators for the excellent education their children have received.

Ms. Martha Redinger said she is vice-president of the Western Albemarle High School PTO. Her youngest son is a senior and will graduate this June. That means her family will not have any children in the public schools of Albemarle County after 2007. Their three boys have greatly benefited by public education in the Samuel Miller District. Her family temporarily lived in Munich, Germany, where two of her sons went to a private, international school. After two and a half years they knew it was time to return to Albemarle schools where they knew that public education was far superior. Although her son benefited by attaining his international baccalaureate degree, and even though her youngest son speaks German fluently, they knew a high school diploma from Western Albemarle High School was far superior, represented more work, gave broader exposure to meaningful subjects, and overall represents a better quality education and higher standards. As representatives of the County, the Supervisors are funding a higher quality public school system and have every reason to have confidence in the staff and structure of the schools. Two of the high schools ranked in the top half of the 2006 Washington Newsweek challenge index or top 1200 public high schools in the United States. There may be differences of opinion on how every school program is run. For example, she is concerned about the prospect of specialty centers or magnet school type of operations that exclude some children because they are not offered in all schools. She asked that the Supervisors fund the budget that has been put forth. It supports increasing technology needs, math specialists, world language education and salary increases which are the largest portion of the budget. She said they are concerned that all three principal positions are fully funded at Western and Albemarle High schools as they are at Monticello High School. She thinks local taxpayers must recognize that this community supports three comprehensive high schools, not one like in Charlottesville or neighboring counties. As the area becomes more urban and populated, cost, support and care for education and other aspects of the community become more expensive. Public education is a core government function no matter how large the population grows, no matter how rural or urban, no matter how many private schools there are in the area, no matter the politics. It is a Jeffersonian idea that reflects the wisdom that an educated population is a requirement of a free and democratic society and that

it is and always will be our duty to support it. She has faith in the teachers and the direct role and commitment they have to our children and the Supervisors should too. She asked those in the audience in support of her statement to stand.

Mr. Trevor Przyuski said he is conflicted because he is a teacher and a homeowner. More importantly, he is the father of a Greer Elementary second grader. He is a member of the Albemarle County School Division and believes the work they do to support and sustain the young citizens of the community has partly led to the County's growth and the booming value of homes in the region. It has not escaped the teachers that a by-product of their success is that they can now scarcely afford to live in the same community they nurture and support. He understands the job of the Supervisors to supply all of the County's needs is difficult. He knows that many stand to benefit from a reduction in property taxes, but he also knows the reduction in the revenue stream that funds the schools and pays teachers will have a negative impact on every child in the County. He will not repeat the anecdotes about overburdened teachers, crowded classrooms, underfed, under prepared children who are expected to learn not having had their basic needs met at their impoverished homes. The Supervisors have heard all of that before. He will not show pictures of the affluence and prosperity in this beautiful place. The juxtaposition of these two images is what brought him to this meeting. It seems too obvious to say that reducing the property tax and cutting any funding to education is a decision to further widen the gap between those who own their home and those struggling to pay rent. It is the decision to maintain the *status quo* that makes it more difficult to pretend to live in a community that values and supports every one of its member. Can the County claim it cannot afford to offer a living wage to the workers who support the community, and then agree there are sufficient resources available to justify a decrease in property taxes for the middle and upper class residents who benefit from the work of those who cannot afford to buy a house? Can we claim on one day that adequately funding the schools and offering competitive wages to teachers is the highest priority and on the next day decrease by any increment the primary source of revenue for which those properties are financed? He said that when he moved to Charlottesville five years ago, he learned that in order to claim full citizenship here you have to be able to quote Thomas Jefferson in public. The previous speaker beat him to the punch, but he will close by quoting Jefferson who spoke to this issue some 230 years ago when he said: "The tax which will be paid for the purpose of education is not more than a thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance." He asked that the Supervisors vote to fully fund Dr. Moran's school budget.

Mr. Steve Gissendanner said he represents the Albemarle Education Association. He said it is the Supervisors' task to fund the needs of the County. The decisions made at the Federal level impact that task, as do the decisions made at the State level, plus decisions made in the past. However, it is the task of the Supervisors to fund the needs of the County, so the decisions made by the Supervisors this year will impact their tasks next year. Over-reliance on real estate assessments has been a "free lunch", but it was not really free. He is pleased to see conservation easements covering substantial portions of the County, but did the Supervisors plan on how to make up for the lost revenues. Development continues, but did the Supervisors plan for how to pay for the increased needs for services. Real estate values are predicted to level out. The No Child Left Behind Act performance standards increase yearly. The Federal government does need to fully fund NCLB and the State needs to do its share, but it is the Supervisors' task to find the revenue. He attended School Board budget work sessions and watched while they, with their staff, carefully weighed needs against allotted revenues. They sent the Supervisors a "bare bones" budget. He thinks that at a minimum the Supervisors should fully fund this budget. The last item added was a restoration of moneys for the top end of teacher salaries. If the Schools budget is cut, that will likely be the first thing to go. He said the average teacher in Virginia works 50 hours per week. Calculating 50 hours a week during the school year with no time off (compare that to a 40-hour per week year-round employee with typical paid holidays) shows that teachers put in 15 more days per year than that typical full-time employee. The County's Compensation Goal of paying at the bottom of the top quartile of a flawed market sample does not reflect the work of the teachers or the successes they have achieved. He recently talked to a first year teacher in Albemarle who took a \$30,000 a year pay cut to enter the teaching profession. He wonders if her enthusiasm will last when it sinks in that after 30 years of teaching she will be making less than she was at a previous job in retail automotive service in Charlottesville.

Ms. Patty Marbury said standing with her is Ms. Ginger Burger. They have come tonight to speak on behalf of Crozet Elementary School. She is the PTO president at Crozet and the mother of a third grader at Crozet and a sixth grader at Henley Middle School. Ms. Burger is a teaching assistant at Crozet and has worked in the County Schools for nine years; she is the mother of a child currently at Western Albemarle High School. They came as advocates for public education in the County and as opponents to reducing the current tax rate by two cents which could result in eliminating or cutting anticipated funding for many programs and initiatives proposed in the School Division's recommended budget. They will highlight a few they feel are critical to students, teachers and families. First, it is vital to fully fund technology in the schools. The initiative to complete the establishment of a fund for computer replacements and programs to increase CTIP staff at the middle and high school levels must not be cut. Advancements in technology cannot be ignored if we want children to be competitive in the use of technology and be prepared to work in the 21st Century. Second, children need to have first rate math instruction through high school. Adding math specialists to work in elementary and middle schools to help teachers with curriculum, lesson planning, and instructional techniques is critical to such success. Third, literacy specialists are needed at all schools, particularly literacy intervention specialists in identified middle schools. All should be ashamed if any child is allowed to go through school without learning to read to their ability simply because there was not enough money in the budget to pay for instruction and support that would come from such specialists. Fourth, teachers need to be assured of support in professional development by participating in the Curriculum Assessment and Instruction Institute each summer. Money for professional development for teachers should not have to come from PTO budgets,

or from a teacher's own pocketbook. Professional development for teachers needs to continue to be supported and funded by the County. Finally, there is a need to increase compensation for teachers, particularly those with 21 years of experience and higher in order to retain the high quality educators that are valued so much. The calculation of savings for a two-cent decrease in the tax rate is straight forward. A homeowner of a \$350,000 home would save about \$70 per year. This equates to 19 cents per day. They hope the Supervisors and most others would agree it is worth 19 cents a day to save these programs since Albemarle is striving for a world class educational system. They know quality education benefits the entire community and they are proud that their children go to some of the best schools in the state of Virginia. It is one of the main reasons people give for moving here. She thinks it is owed to the children to make education a top priority. These children are the leaders of the future. (Time expired) Each and every citizen in the County has a responsibility to ensure that all children continue to receive a first rate education. They hope the Supervisors will consider this in its decision about the tax rate and remember its impact on education in Albemarle County.

Ms. Wendy (Criss) Rushman said she represents the Meriwether Lewis Elementary School as the co-president of its PTO. She came to encourage the Supervisors to not lower the tax rate and to support the School budget as submitted. She said that budget includes critical elements needed to offer a world class educational system. 1) The Meriwether Lewis community is committed to preparing students as members of a global community. Each fall they organize a festival of international cultures and for many years the PTO has organized after-school foreign language classes. They want to raise children who understand the global community and they ask for the Supervisors' support to begin the process of the IB program at their school. 2) They believe the goal to have the highest quality teaching personnel, staff and administrators will be at risk if we don't improve to quartile competitiveness for the T-21 to T-30 teachers. 3) They believe the addition of math specialists and continued provision of computer replacements are necessary to keep the schools strong. If the Supervisors cut the tax rate these initiatives might be at risk for funding. Finally, last week she got an e-mail from a teacher in North Carolina wanting to relocate her family to Albemarle County. She wants to move here because of the Schools' high test scores posted on the Albemarle County School website. To continue attracting new families to this area, schools must be kept strong. Cutting the tax rate will take away needed funds to keep the schools competitive and on top. She asked that the tax rate not be cut thus jeopardizing provision of a world class education to all Albemarle County students.

Mr. Chris Schoenewald said he is vice-chairman of the Albemarle County Republicans. He said to Mr. Slutzky that he will continue to advocate the things he has been advocating for the past few weeks. It is not a distraction to inform the community how the laws of the Commonwealth try to protect them. He referred to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3321 and said it requires counties to decrease the tax rate as property assessments increase. This is meant to protect the citizenry from out-of-control property valuation increases and out-of-control taxation. This law also provides an option so the Supervisors can increase taxes if necessary. He commended Ms. Thomas for her honesty in a letter she sent to a constituent pointing out that if the Supervisors do not hold the special hearing this law allows for, the Supervisors are required to adopt that lowered rate. He said the law requires this hearing to be held before April 15. The lowered rate must be advertised in a newspaper seven days before that hearing. The Republicans have calculated that lowered rate to be 58 cents. He said the law requires that the ad indicate the increased tax rate. The law uses a special term; it says the difference between those two numbers is the effective tax rate increase. Seventy-six cents to 74 cents may sound like a decrease of two cents, but in reality, two years ago Section 58.1-3321 required the basis of the discussion to be 61 cents, so there was a 13-cent increase. The Republicans believe the basis this year is 58 cents which means the Supervisors are talking about anywhere from a 12-cent to 16-cent increase on the tax rate. He is not advocating any particular rate, but is advocating for honesty in the discussion. When this ad is published, he suggested the Supervisors send their words to the media and all others. If there is a need to increase taxes, say that, but be honest about it, don't call an increase a decrease. Show everybody the respect they deserve, have an honest conversation with the citizens and do the right thing.

Ms. Rachel Henderson said she is a graduate of Red Hill Elementary School, and she is present tonight on behalf of the Red Hill PTO. Red Hill is a smaller school with approximately 190 students. Based on their small population size, they do not get much full-time help or funding needed. She asked that the Supervisors consider funding the School Division's 2007-08 budget as proposed. Several initiatives to consider are: to provide the STAMP on-line testing program to assess proficiency of students in speaking, reading and writing world languages; staff for non-European languages; maintaining existing programs; add four math specialists to work in the elementary and middle schools to help teachers with curriculum, lesson planning and instructional techniques; increase gifted resource teacher staffing to full-time in all schools and add an additional position in schools with 600 students or more, since there are not half time gifted kids. She said some of these items would enable a small school like Red Hill to reach its full potential.

Ms. Cathy Jolly said she is the parent of two elementary school students at Stone Robinson Elementary School and a member of its PTO. She is present to ask for full support of the Superintendent's proposed budget. There are multiple unfunded initiatives and she would like to speak about four of those. The first is for four math specialists to help the teachers. Math education is recognized as a national concern. Their literacy specialists have been successful in helping teachers so she would like for there to be math specialists as well. Second is to increase funds for intervention programs for students who are below grade level. Third is to increase compensation for the teachers. Albemarle has to. Other counties in the state have done so and if Albemarle does not, it will continue to lose its best and brightest educators. The fourth is for gifted resource staffing to provide full-time positions in all schools, and additional resources where needed. These children are future policymakers, engineers, architects and physicians. She asked that the Supervisors make all possible funds available to the schools.

Mr. John Baldino said he is now a retiree on a fixed income. He said that \$55,660 is not the average teacher's salary, but in 1975 that was the assessment on his house and property. It has grown over eight times since then. When he got his tax bill he had a real 30 percent increase over two years. He calculated that increase would cost him another \$810 in taxes, but he does not mind paying those taxes because the benefits he gets from the County are worth it. His children went through the Albemarle Public Schools. He has a son and a future daughter-in-law who work with the rescue squads and the Crozet Fire Department. He knows the Supervisors have fire and public safety issues to deal with. There is also the issue of conservation easements. He looked at what two cents would mean to him given the value of his property; it is \$90. If all he needs to pay is \$90 more on a two-cent tax increase, if he can afford that, most anybody else that will be getting a \$90 reduction, can also afford that \$90. The people who are most impacted will be people at the lowest end but they also will have the least benefit from a two-cent decrease. He urged the Supervisors to fund the budget for education at the full tax rate. He then related a story about dropping a coin into a cylindrical device where the coin eventually spins very fast and goes out of sight. He said the Supervisors could put themselves on that spiral or continue doing the things they have done for this county and keep the services people say they want and appreciate. He urged that the budget be fully funded with the 74-cent tax rate, not just for education, remembering that 10 cents goes to the City.

Ms. Amo Gunsallus said she is an Albemarle County teacher and has been a teacher for 35 years, 32 of those in Albemarle. She came to share some personal information on behalf of many teachers in the County. She said the teachers rise to every occasion to make the children first, and they work as hard as possible. She thinks that shows in the kinds of scores being produced. One of the ways they accomplished this was by putting in 12-hour days lots of the time. However, their families have suffered because they are not at home as much as they would like to be. Also, the health of some teachers is suffering. She looked at the original salary proposal and saw that for herself with two degrees and 35 years of experience she would get only a \$600 a year increase. With help with one of the payroll clerks, she found that would translate into an increase in take home pay of about \$31 per month for next year. She will have to save more than that to pay her personal property and real estate taxes. She hopes this shows what teachers at the top of the scale are facing. She encouraged the Supervisors to give their heartfelt support to fully funding the budget.

Mr. Keith Drake said he is a County taxpayer. He said the County is proposing a massive tax increase on its citizens. State law 58.1-3321 requires that when assessments go up, the tax rate must fall proportionately. Before the recent assessment, the tax rate was 74 cents. Because of this law, the tax rate is now 58 cents. This law does say the Supervisors may raise the rate if certain actions are taken. If the Board does not act, and there is no requirement to act, then the rate on the next tax bill will be 58 cents. It is not a difference of viewpoint; it is an issue of honesty. He said that two years ago the tax rate automatically dropped from 76 cents to 61 cents in compliance with this law. To raise the rate to 74 cents the Board published the required announcement on March 8, 2005, in the Daily Progress. He said the Board raised the rate, but told everyone it lowered the rate. While the County does follow the letter of the law it consistently violates the law's intent which is to provide an honest starting place for the budgeting process. This year that starting place is 58 cents. That is the rate required to generate the same amount of money from assessments that the County ran on last year and allow for growth as well. He thinks there is confusion among the Supervisors about lowering the tax rate to perhaps 70 cents; that is not correct. Seventy cents is an effective tax rate increase of nearly 21 percent. He said Mr. Rooker may be the most confused of all because on February 13 he stated that whether it is called a tax increase or a tax decrease, "we do not label it, we just say this is what we are proposing." Two years ago when Mr. Rooker was Chairman he called the 74-cent rate an effective tax rate increase, but when he campaigned in 2005 he said "we lowered the tax rate to 74 cents." (Mr. Boyd interrupted and asked the speaker to address his remarks to the entire Board.) Mr. Drake said it is not a matter of semantics; it is an issue of integrity. When will the Supervisors recognize that the tax rate is now 58 cents and that any amount above that rate is a tax rate increase on its citizens? This is an issue of respect for the taxpayer. It is time there was more of a ladder in the budgeting process. He asked that all taxpayers who agreed with his point of view stand.

Ms. Marjorie Shepherd said she is an Albemarle County teacher, parent and homeowner. Before beginning, she would like to state that she resents the Board scheduling for the third year in a row the final budget hearing during the School's spring vacation so that members of PTOs and teachers most likely cannot be present. She said some things in the County seem to take inflation into account and others do not. The property tax rate more than accounts for inflation, but other sources of revenue in Albemarle, like fees, have not reflected inflation for 20 years. Cutting revenues by neglecting inflation cuts into money that should be available for schools and citizens. She made this same statement five years ago in this same forum, but nothing has changed. She related the story of a friend who had moved their business to the County and now pays a fee considerably lower than that paid in the City. She said teacher supply allocations failed to change with inflation. Now the Supervisors are talking about reducing the tax rate and cutting revenues for everything. The Supervisors have set up County initiatives, master plans, strategic planning goals, and now will not be able to do those things which are essential to the County, and the Schools will not be able to fund their initiatives either. She said her friend would call this "fear of success." She said the Schools have no such fear; in fact, they are running teachers "ragged" trying to keep up with the programs, testings, meetings and initiatives in order to constantly improve. At least the Schools are moving toward a vision of excellence. She thinks the Supervisors should fix the revenue problems first to reflect inflation and then fund what they know is necessary, and not cut anything until they know they have taken care of all they promised the people of Albemarle County.

Mr. Peter Reismers thanked the Supervisors for their time in helping the community. He is a senior at Albemarle High School and is in Culinary Arts at CATEC. He asked that the Supervisors fully fund the School Board's funding request. He said CATEC provides a great education, especially for

children who do not plan on going to college. The CATEC programs get you straight into the workforce. He is in a lot of classes with students who are struggling, and supporting them in their education will decrease the chances that they would drop out of school.

Ms. Diane Guyer said she lives in Western Albemarle County. They left Rhode Island 20 years ago for the same reason she is here tonight, taxes and development. She said young people have left Rhode Island because they can't afford to live there. She said there used to be 65,000 acres of farmland where they lived in Rhode Island, and there are only 2,000 acres left. She feels the Supervisors get an "F" on their report card for not representing the people of Albemarle. It is the citizen's money which is spent, but the Supervisors do not listen to them. She heard some people say they don't attend Board meetings because they feel it is a waste of time. She said they work hard for their money and the Supervisors do not spend it wisely. Development has been allowed while infrastructure has been "put on the back burner." Her home is protected by the Western Albemarle Fire/Rescue department; she does not know what help the County gives them. Few new people volunteer for this job; locals do the job with little appreciation. What about power? Will blackouts be the norm? Roads, sidewalks and traffic, neighborhood safety, schools are all poorly managed. There should be a moratorium on all residential development until 100 percent of the infrastructure that was "promised" and that is needed is taken care of. She thinks the Supervisors need to do something now for the young, for the seniors and for the people in Albemarle, especially those that are land rich and cash poor. She asked that the Supervisors consider: capping taxes for low to moderate income families; capping property assessment increases on all primary residences, or allow seniors to defer a portion of their taxes, like a homestead act; all new development must pay for 100 percent of infrastructure costs to take the burden off of the taxpayer; tax increases should be based on inflation. She said the small farm family is dying in Virginia. If they farm the land full-time they should be exempt from taxes until the property is sold to a un-farmer. The \$3.5 million is not a windfall, it is tax dollars and she feels it should be given back to the taxpayers. The Supervisors are responsible for managing the citizen's money and they are expected to run the County as a business. They should be putting the people first, not the developers. Stop development and take care of business. Make it reasonable to live in Albemarle County. Keep the young people and the seniors here and keep the tax rate low. The Supervisors can be replaced too.

Ms. Lisa Bowen said she is a special education teaching assistant at Murray Elementary School, and is vice-president of its PTO. She said the teachers and staff she works with are talented, hardworking and devoted to preparing children to compete in the global marketplace. She is grateful to the School Board for requesting fair compensation for the teachers and for their funding proposal for the upcoming school year. She then explained the different situations with many of the students in her first grade class. It would be difficult for the teacher she works with to meet the needs of all of these students. That is where the literacy specialist, English as a Second Language teacher, and the gifted resource teacher are needed. They are critical to helping the classroom teacher make sure all students exceed. Additional funding is needed for these positions so all the children can have their educational needs met. Funding for emergency staff is also needed to keep class sizes small. Math specialists are needed to help students in critical thinking and problem-solving skills. She thinks a reduction in property taxes is appealing to a fiscal conservative like herself, but she hopes the Supervisors will keep the education system as a priority by fully funding the School Board's budget request. When determining where revenues should be spent, and money saved, she hopes the Supervisors will consider a broad-based approach to cost cutting. Funding for education should not be the first place to cut. Albemarle is one of the best communities in which to live. The quality of the School System contributes to Albemarle's appeal as a place to live, work, start a business and raise a family.

Mr. Bernie Greer said he came to Albemarle in 1968 to go to the University. He thinks the County has "gotten off on the wrong foot" by making the tax rate the focus of the discussion. The rate is nothing more than a way of arriving at the revenue figure for the County. It is an intermediate step and by itself means nothing because nothing is done with the budget using pennies of rate. He does know that a penny of the tax rate at 74 cents now is about \$4.5 million. He pointed out to the education proponents that the School budget only represents about \$135.0 million of the \$315.0 million proposed. If things need to be cut, there is room elsewhere in the budget to do so. In the last budget cycle there was a two-cent rate reduction. That came at a time when his assessment jumped 47 percent. That two-cent reduction, a three percent reduction in taxes, did not mean much to him. Mr. Greer showed a slide depicting a \$200,000 house, a family income of \$50,000, an annual assessment increase of 20 percent, a tax rate of 74 cents per \$100 of assessed value, and an annual increase in household income of four percent. He said that in 26 years the taxes would be more than the value of the house. (Note: Copy of Mr. Greer's presentation with charts is on file in the Clerk's Office with the permanent records of the Board of Supervisors.)

Mr. Matt Haas said he is principal of Albemarle High School, a parent and a taxpayer. He is present to speak about the School Board's budget request on behalf of the School Building Administrators. He asks that the Supervisors reconsider the changes they are contemplating regarding the property tax rate. The School Board put forth a request for \$150.0 million based on projected tax revenues for the coming fiscal year. This request is based on the Albemarle County Schools Mission Statement to establish a community of learners and learning through rigor, relevance and relationships one student at a time. Rolling back the property tax rate will be like rolling back the clock in terms of moving the School System's funding from the 21st Century back to the 20th Century. Yet, 21st Century success and beyond is still expected with the students. He said the No Child Left Behind Act clearly mandates that 100 percent of the children be highly literate and highly skilled in mathematics by 2012. Albemarle County Schools have embraced this challenge and the philosophy behind it. They are succeeding, but the bar for success is raised annually. This challenge places a higher premium on recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff. Albemarle County has positioned itself to compete with other progressive school systems in terms of compensation. Without sufficient funding this competitive edge

will be lost. Achieving success for all students often takes extra expert concentrated staffing for intervention during elementary and middle school years with mathematics and literacy instructional programs. Without full funding, specialized math and literacy intervention will suffer. He asked that the Supervisors consider keeping Albemarle County Public Schools in the 21st Century and reconsider cutting personal property taxes to the extent that the School System will go back in time. Demonstrate to current County residents, and to those who would consider moving here, that Albemarle will continue to be a forward-thinking, and forward-moving community.

(At this time, Mr. Boyd said this meeting had been going on for over two hours, so he would call for a recess of about ten minutes so everyone would have a chance to take a stretch break.)

Ms. Carmen Garcia said she is secretary of the Murray Elementary PTO. She asks that the Supervisors fully fund the School Board's proposed budget by maintaining the real estate tax rate. She read and researched the subject to understand what is at stake. After reading the Strategic Plans for 2007 to 2010, she realized with relief the Supervisors already knew what was needed to achieve the goals which had been set for the community. After all of that she did not know if she needed to persuade the Supervisors to do anything, but she has a speech anyway. She assumes the Supervisors want to accomplish the goals they set for the people they represent. Therefore, these decisions will truly reflect that commitment and desire to collaborate with all members of the community. She knows the Schools are doing their part to achieve these goals. Most teachers at Murray Elementary and Henley Middle Schools where her children are currently enrolled are dedicated and caring docents who provide their students with ample opportunities to expand their education beyond the requirements of the SOLs. They have been recognized at the local level and nationwide for their contributions as they attempt to turn the schools into professional communities of learning. However, there is always room to improve. She knows parents do their fair share. She knows the School Division makes its contribution by setting higher goals and funding the many initiatives that are required to bring the School System to a superior level. She knows the Supervisors have said "the County's educational system will be world class and the County's quality of life will be exceptional." To not provide the means to achieve these goals would appear contradictory and deceitful. On behalf of the youngest members of the community, she asks that the Supervisors set an example by fully supporting the School Board's recommended budget.

Ms. Becky Dameron said she is a taxpayer and parent and utilizes most all of the County's services. She urged the Supervisors to use the current revenue surplus to fund improvements in the County's infrastructure. Albemarle's popularity as a wonderful place to live has driven growth without corresponding improvements in supporting infrastructure. Relative to other locations, tax rates are not excessive. How many people in this County have car payments which approach their County taxes? Where are our priorities? She asked that the County's essential needs be funded in order to improve the community. Also, support the School Board's funding request. Investment in the youth will benefit the community as well as the nation as a whole for years to come.

Ms. Charlotte Hogue, a lifelong resident of the County, spoke next. She feels there should be a reduction in the tax rate. Their reassessment constantly causes their taxes to be way above inflation. She does not believe the County needs to spend more and more each year. Many citizens cannot afford these higher taxes. They do not get automatic raises in their salary or retirement, and some are on a fixed income with no other chance to get an increase. She said people who move to the County for its rural atmosphere should not demand city-type amenities. Also, the County does not need to provide so many parks and recreational facilities unless user fees pay for them. School buses should be used only to transport students to and from classes, not for extracurricular activities after school hours. Supervisors need to curb budget requests from the different boards and authorities in the County. If higher personnel costs create the need for more taxes, consider cutting instead of adding more employees. It has been said that people demand services, so it is time for them to learn they can't have everything they want. It is time for the Supervisors to say "no." It is the Supervisors job and responsibility to spend the taxpayer's money wisely. She thinks there should be a significant reduction on the tax rate now.

Mr. H. J. Medica who had signed to speak, was not present at this time.

Mr. Lynwood Bell said he is a taxpayer also. He has lived in Albemarle for five years but this process amazes him. Each year the Supervisors seem to think the citizens are math-challenged. Some are not, and understand the budget process, and feel things are not "according to Hoyle in Charlottesville." He said a 30 percent increase in assessment on 37 percent of a \$315,000,000 budget brings in an additional \$35.0 million. Cap "X" down by 16.6 percent on 20 percent of the budget reduces spending by \$10.0 million. Growth also adds to the coffers. If those numbers are netted, we are \$45.0 million to the good. There is a surplus. Subtract from that a reasonable increase in the budget, not 5.6 percent but something that is prudent, maybe four percent, and that leaves about \$30.0 million that can be given back to the taxpayers in a rate reduction. He said that each year the Supervisors profess good things, and last year it was two cents, which was a joke. He asked that the taxpayers be given something that means something. He thinks the numbers indicate the rate should be somewhere between 55 and 60 cents. He said the Supervisors played games with the citizens and raise the rates. He has heard people tonight say "world-class" and "fully fund the schools." Those schools account for \$145.0 million of a \$315.0 million budget. There is some waste there. It doesn't need to be fully funded. They don't need everything they have to be world class. As a citizen, he will ask the Supervisors to support those who pay the taxes. If they don't, he will urge all the citizens who do pay taxes not to vote for those who raise taxes.

Mr. Claude Monger said he lives at the foot of Foxes Mountain in the White Hall District. He is not affiliated with any group that wants anything tonight. He will not ask for any money. He came as a concerned citizen and a taxpayer. His assessment before this last one went up 54 percent. This time he was lucky, it only went up 33.4 percent. If you add the two together for the past four years, that is an 87

percent increase. Divided by four it is 20 percent a year. He has been working for a company for about 41 years and he asked his boss "how about giving me a 20 percent increase, I need to pay my taxes." His boss looked at him as if were getting old and senile. He said "don't nobody ask for that kind of increase." He told his boss his assessment for the past four years has been better than 20 percent. He read in the paper the other day that it is only going to cost Albemarle taxpayers another \$600+ a year. That person must have thought money grows on trees. He looked outside and did not see a single dollar bill hanging on a tree. He read another article that said Albemarle County is one of the best places in the whole United States to live. Since he has been living here all these years he must have helped that just a little. There are some things he does not like, such as: giving tax benefits to special groups. The person next to him has his property in land use and he can't; when he goes to see the Assessor and is told his land is worth \$65K for both of his acres of land, but his neighbor has his in land use or conservation and does not have to pay a fraction of that amount, don't think it is fair and maybe he is subsidizing the people who are a little more well off than he is. When people ask for money each year, does the County ever go back to the first year and ask them to justify their expenses. Where he works, they are always looking at costs, but his company is one that everybody looks up to. It is known as the best manufacturing company in the whole world and the best run. He suggested that Albemarle County look at some of their practices, and then it could be said that not only do we live in the best county in the whole United States but we also have the best run county government in the United State. (Time expired) He has lived here all his life and is going to retire shortly. The only problem is that he will have to take the first three months of his Social Security tax just to pay his taxes to Albemarle County.

Ms. Martha Fox said she came to represent the Henley Middle School PTA. They ask that the Supervisors fully support the proposed budget and stand behind the community, the schools, the children and families.

Ms. Lee Waibel who had signed to speak was not present at this time.

Ms. Tina Hogue said she lives on Dick Woods Road in the County. Physicians have a creed: "First, do no harm." She suggested the Supervisors would do well to remember this philosophy as they consider the proposed budget. She said her husband was raised on a farm in the County. He still lives on a piece of it, but it cost him over \$5,000 this year in property taxes. If this tax continues to rise, they will have to move like so many of Albemarle's farmers. Where in this region can they earn enough to stay in Albemarle? If they are forced out, the County will get new residents who will require many more services. She said that throwing money at a problem does not necessarily fix the problem and often creates a worse problem. She quoted an excerpt from the *Crozet Gazette* concerning the retirement of a member of the Crozet Volunteer Fire Department, who said "we buy a lot of expensive sophisticated equipment, and we could get by with less of it."

Ms. Martha Harris said she addressed the Supervisors two years ago about the budget. After rereading her presentation she said she only needed to change the numbers because the tax is virtually the same. Nothing has changed. The budget continues to grow disproportionately to actual growth or economic growth. It is driven primarily by personnel costs. She thinks that 80 percent of the budget is for personnel costs, wages and benefits. Annual wage increases of four percent to six percent, not including generous benefits, will continue to propel budget increases unnecessarily high which in turn drives up tax bills. She said no successful corporation would use a salary survey index selected by its employees to adjust their salaries annually. Total compensation, wage and benefits, should be included in comparisons to corporations, not just governments in Northern Virginia. She said the Supervisors only need to review the County employee retention report to see that employee turnover is not a problem. However, rising tax bills are a problem for the citizens.

Mr. David Tyree said when they moved to Keswick 11 years ago they were paying \$500 a year in property taxes. The new assessment they got this year included one small improvement they made, and it was \$77,400 more. This year alone their taxes will go up \$575 more. That makes their real estate taxes more than \$2,500, not counting personal property taxes. The increase of \$77,400 is equal to a 34.6 percent increase in value over the last assessment. He said he works for the State of Virginia, and they gave their employees a little raise this year but the County will take all of that and more. He says he is probably lucky because a lot of people present tonight live on fixed incomes. He looked to see what the County does for him in his rural area of the County. He does not have county water or sewerage service. He only sees a police officer in his neighborhood once a year. He and his wife have no children. He can't see where his money goes or what the County does with it. If the tax rate of 74 cents is kept, he will do everything in his power to get the Supervisors voted out of office.

Mr. Lowell Thompson said he also lives in the Keswick area. A lot of what he wanted to say has already been said tonight. He will repeat what the Republic force said earlier. Be honest in your numbers because a lot of the citizens live on fixed incomes. There can be talk about "global this" and "global that" but in reality, it takes money and the County is "gonna kill us."

Mr. Dale Varga thanked the Supervisors for being public servants and serving the people of the County. He spent 30 years in the Army, and was in the Finance Corps. He went through a lot of budget processes just like this, and knows all of them are tough. He would like to point out that he was CFO for U.S. Forces in Korea when they received a 15 percent budget reduction. Their commander asked if that could possibly be done. They started benchmarking cost savings and smart processes throughout the government and through private industry. They ended up saving \$150.0 million and were able to accomplish all of the main missions they were there to perform. He hopes that is being done in the County. He said that now he is a professor of finance and investments. He teaches at Wex University and Coca College, in the MBA and Bachelors Program, and if there is any assistance the County needs, he would offer his services for free.

Mr. Bob Niehaus said he has lived in the County since 1982. He lives in the Rio District in Earlysville on Panorama Road. In 1982, they had the four youngest of their 12 kids; one was a senior in high school, one a freshman, one in the seventh grade and one in the fifth grade. They all graduated. They did not have a world-class teaching system. They had good parents and worked hard. He was an engineer and contractor for many years and they worked continually to get costs down. He is told that the County is building a \$5.0 million firehouse in the UVA Real Estate Park in northern Albemarle. He said the Earlysville Fire Department added a huge addition to their firehouse and it cost them \$800,000 which they are funding themselves. One-half is already paid, and the other half is a loan on which they are paying. He said if the County has \$2.0 million it does not know what to do with, it should be used to cut the tax rate for everybody. He thinks the Supervisors need to pare away at things just as he had to do when he was in construction.

Mr. Robert Hogue said his tax assessment went up about 38 percent. He hopes everyone present will think about the amount of real estate tax they are paying. If they are \$5,000 this year, do they want to be paying \$10,000 five or six years from now? He said mortgage payments go up when real estate taxes increase. He called the Crozet Library and found there is no charge for a library card, but millions of tax dollars will be spent on new libraries. Why not raise part of that revenue through fees from people using the libraries? He goes hiking about once a year. There are parking fees at Crabtree Falls, White Oak Canyon, and others. Why doesn't the County charge to park at its parks? He got a letter from a real estate agent that said: "It's nice having that extra lot until tax time. Relieve yourself of that tax burden by selling your extra property." If that property is developed, look at the cost of services. Just two school children will cost over \$250,000 to educate. How about some tax relief for small parcels of land? Parents should be more responsive to the cost of educating their children. Please consider a fee for riding school buses. Driver education should not be subsidized. Schools should consider other fees also. Allen Greenspan thinks there could be a recession late this year. Also, if China were to call in our debt, there could be a depression. Right now, our personal savings rate is almost like it was right before the Great Depression. He said a lot of Albemarle citizens cannot afford everything this County wants to do. He thinks there should be fees for using the rescue squad, higher fees if it is a water rescue, search and rescue, or animal rescue. Cut back on how often the entrance corridors are mowed. Concerning mass transit, many buses have few riders. He gets little in services from Albemarle. He asked the Supervisors to cut the tax rate. Instead, go to user fees. Let the people who receive the services pay for them. That would be fair.

Mr. John Springett said he and his wife have lived in the County for about ten years. They came tonight to express their displeasure over the Supervisor's lack of candor about recent tax increases. He worked in D.C. where "spin is king" so he realizes the Supervisor's words about taxes have been confusing and disingenuous. He said State law automatically lowers and resets the tax rate when any county's reassessment results in increased tax revenue of more than one percent. The lowered tax rate when applied against the new assessments yields the same level of revenue as the old rate, and then the State's formula adds an additional one percent for growth. The 58 cents per hundred represents an increase of one percent over current County revenue. Any increase beyond the 58 cents per hundred is simply a flat out increase and should be described as such. Using the old 74-cent tax rate as a base for anything is irrelevant and intellectually dishonest. He said 58 cents per hundred is the new tax rate unless the Supervisors vote to raise it. He thinks all County programs should be zero-based with the aim of reducing unnecessary program costs. If the Supervisors cannot get three percent out of a \$315.0 million budget, they are not trying hard enough. He thinks the Supervisors should review and over time work to adjust the current City/County Revenue-Sharing Agreement and any other regional entities where costs can automatically escalate with little control. He thinks it will be tough, but if the County does not start, nothing will ever improve. This would make the Supervisors more accountable to the people of Albemarle, and there is no excuse for automatic escalation. He would ask that if the Supervisors are going to vote for a tax increase, they be open and direct enough to identify it as such and be accountable for their decisions.

Mr. David Oberg said he is the new Uniserv Director for the VEA for this area. He does not think the tax rate should be cut. He thinks the Supervisors should fully fund Dr. Moran's and the School Board's budget. He related a story where when his daughter was born the doctor wanted to save her cord blood saying it might save her life at some point in the future. When he inquired about the cost for doing that, he was told it would be \$1,500. He and his wife discussed this since they did not have a lot of money; he was unemployed at the time and that amount was a burden on them. However, he could not decide that \$1,500 was too much for his daughter's life. What the Supervisors are deciding now is the future of the County. They need to invest in the future to have a future. An earlier speaker referred to how corporations decide on salaries. Looking at corporations worldwide, the first thing they do is research and development, and investment in their employees. They know that what is successful today will not pay off tomorrow. You need to invest in the future. The way to do that is to invest in the children and that can be done by fully funding the School Board's budget and letting them do their jobs.

Mr. Wilson McIvor had signed to speak, but was not present at this time.

Mr. Ben Marchi said he lives in the Proffit area. It is easy to spend money. Making tough decisions about how to spend that money is responsibility. His ancestors came to Albemarle County before Thomas Jefferson was born. Sadly, his mother and father have decided to move to Montana where they can afford the taxes. They have done their part in this community from the American Revolution to the current war in Iraq. They have never asked for help and although they do not have the best well water in Proffit, they have not complained about not having public water. Just yards away, in recently added developments, newcomers enjoy that luxury. Public water and public transportation and other services provided by the County are not birthrights. He has to chuckle at some of the speakers who preceded him this evening, particularly those who have moved here in recent years and speak as though

they own the right to tax us. Those who have actually contributed to the betterment of the County through the generations and have made it the best place to live in the United States (working families), cannot afford this tax increase. Penalizing families who need their income in deference to greedy employees who feed at the government trough is not the answer. Taking from the needy to give to the greedy is never the answer. He urged the Supervisors to send Mr. Tucker back to the drawing board and cut wasteful spending and keep other families from being forced from the home of their ancestors.

Ms. Vivian Morris said she has lived in the County for 69 years. Her husband bought their first two acres from his father when he came out of the service. Since then they bought other sections of the land, and now have 16 acres left. Her property has been assessed so high that it is about to take all of her income to pay the taxes, and that will leave no money for health reasons or food on the table if things keep going like this for the next five years. For her property in 1981, right after her husband died, she paid \$693.53 in taxes. She has four sections, all bought at different times from her father-in-law, and neither she nor her husband had any intention to sell anything or make a subdivision. They left it as a family property and that is what they have enjoyed since 1945. She worked at Comdial and her salary when she retired in 1998 was \$10.45 an hour. Her income now is very low including Social Security and retirement. In 1997 her six-acre property was assessed at \$45,900, in 2006 it was \$128,700, and this year it increased to \$254,200, an increase of \$125,000. On her 4.78 acres, it started 10 years ago at \$43,700, in 2006 it was \$124,900 and in 2007 it was raised to \$228,900, which is an increase of \$104,000. On her 2.39 acres, it has increased from \$81,800 to \$223,700 on the land along, with the house at \$66,000. She was told that her land assessment was increased because of the subdivisions going in around her. She bought her property when there were farms all along Dick Woods Road, and now she will have to sell or do without something to eat, or take care of health concerns. (Time Expired) The last ten years she paid Albemarle County \$36,493.36 in taxes. She thinks she has done her share. For relief, she thinks the County should judge a people's income because a lot of the people have been in Albemarle County a long time and have paid their taxes.

Mr. Bill Sterrett said he is the principal of Woodbrook Elementary School. He is a homeowner and resident of Albemarle County. He will speak about the critical need to maintain the School Division's funding goals, specifically as they relate to the salary scales of the experienced teachers and the proposed Math Specialist positions. He has a number of teachers who could retire this year. They are talented professionals who have put in their time but the School benefits every day from their continued service. He thinks the school would benefit from a full-time or shared math specialist. The School has a diverse group of math students, and they desire that all are challenged, since they are the next generation of doctors, engineers, accountants and teachers. The math specialists will enhance their ability to link innovative strategies, best practices and the best of their collaborative approach as a division. As a homeowner his assessment went up, but he sees this as an investment. His calculations show that for every penny off of the tax rate, a good number of taxpayers would save about \$50 a year. As a School Division, its priorities of paying teachers who have served it the longest and emphasizing the best of good math instruction means much more and can also have profound effects on the school community. The needs of the schools are growing. Enrollment is growing and the school's population is growing more diverse. The Schools' needs increase while at the same time State and Federal expectations are increasing. Staffing has remained relatively constant, although math experts along with returning veteran teachers would enable them to continue striving for excellence at Woodbrook School and throughout the Division.

Ms. Mary Ann Doucette said two years ago she and her husband decided to retire and move to Albemarle County. They thought the taxes here would be lower than what they paid in Connecticut. She has been a taxpayer in Albemarle for 30 years so is not a total newcomer. A year ago they started building a home which is not yet finished and they are already concerned they may have made a mistake and the taxes here will be higher. They ask that the Board roll back the tax rate and then go to zero-based budgeting. There should be only a minimal increase in the rate each year unless an urgent need can be shown to increase taxes. Once people are living on fixed incomes, they cannot afford these rates of increase. She asked that the cost of new growth not be passed onto existing taxpayers, but that the Supervisors find new sources of revenue. She spoke to the Board about a month ago and has continued to promote and educate people about the process and adoption of impact fees so new growth can pay for itself. She asked that the Supervisors consider all sides that have been presented tonight. Keeping older people in the community is important because in times of recession and depression people on fixed incomes will be the best source of revenue.

Ms. Stacy Walker had signed to speak but was not present at this time.

Mr. Wayne Barnes said he represents his family and the people he comes in contact with at his work. There is a lot of underlying anger among the people who probably did not come to this meeting. They have had enough of large year-after-year increased taxes. He thinks they want to support the police and the firefighters, and he sees the need for public education, but does not think more money means excellence. He does not think any department is ever satisfied with what they have, always wanting more. He said the two-cents the rate was reduced in the past was not anything compared to the increases in assessment. Few of the people he works with live in Albemarle. He works in Charlottesville and most of them commute from a different county. The people who do live in the County bought houses a long time back before property costs rose so much; they were able to buy land or houses relatively cheap. The assessment is now threatening their being able to stay in the County. He has heard a lot of things people who answered the Citizens Survey said they would like to have, but he wondered if the County had considered asking what people would really like to pay for and if they are happy with the rate of taxes they are paying. He thinks that would get a lot of negative responses.

Mr. Ken Boldt, Executive Director of the Northwestern Virginia Health Systems Agency, spoke next. He came to advocate for part of the service industry that this population is taxed in part to receive. He said NVHSA is a 503(c) organization comprised of 93 volunteers and a staff of three serving the health planning needs of the population of 24 counties and eight cities throughout the northwestern part of Virginia. They contract with the Virginia Department of Health to provide certificate of public need reviews for numerous applications for health care facilities and equipment. They review the rationale for efficient and effective allocation of scarce resources. Their analysis includes review of special needs and circumstances as well as immediate and long-term financial feasibility. Last year they reviewed 23 projects totaling \$543.0 million in capital costs, generating \$345,000 to the State Health Department. One of those projects was the University of Virginia's HealthSouth Long-term Acute Care Facility. Yesterday they reviewed two linear accelerator applications, one of which is for the University of Virginia Medical Center, and the other for Augusta Medical Center. They were recommended for approval to the Commissioner of Health. At a public hearing on March 15 to be conducted by the Jefferson Health Council, they will be reviewing the Martha Jefferson Hospital application to relocate to Peter Jefferson Place at Pantops. He said NVHSA has goals for strategic long-term master planning and investing in the future of Albemarle County. Their services are on the macro-economic level of health care. In November they requested funding at eight-cents per capita totaling \$7,500 based on a projected population of 94,000 in the year 2008. They hope the Supervisors will consider that they merit reconsideration and would appreciate a future opportunity to further detail their role in services.

Mr. Brian Scuby said he is a full-time farmer in the western part of the County. He came tonight because his livelihood is at stake. The assessment on his land was raised by 85+ percent, and the land use value by more than 33 percent. For him to pay the same tax this year that he paid last year (and that amount was already a tremendous burden), the rate would need to be set at 54 cents. He suggests that the Supervisors set the rate at no more than 58 cents, which would still be a 7.4 percent increase for him. That would be painful but he probably could manage that and not have to sell his farm to the developers. He would like to have the privilege of continuing to operate his farm. The citizens of Albemarle would continue to benefit from the open space, scenic views, wildlife and endangered species habitat, and watershed preservation that this farm presently provides in addition to the food that is raised on this land. He said Albemarle's real estate taxes are the number one threat to the survival of agriculture in the County. He does not want to give up farming. He considers it his responsibility to do everything he possibly can to turn over this land to the next generation to continue using it for the purpose of agriculture. If taxes are raised another 20 or 30 percent on top of the burdensome taxes already being paid, it will be impossible for him to continue. He asked that the tax rate be set at no more than 58 cents. When the real estate tax is increased the Supervisors ask many citizens, especially senior citizens and those of lower income, to take substantial cuts in their families' budgets. Some Supervisors said they tried to persuade the State government to reform taxation in Virginia so it is less dependent, or not dependent at all, on real estate taxation. He applauds those efforts and hopes the Supervisors will intensify pressure on State government to address this problem.

Mr. Phil Beard said there is no need for *eminent domain* in Albemarle; it has property tax increases to accomplish that. He read comments in the Daily Progress by some Supervisors saying why the tax rate cannot be reduced. One said the proposed budget is only increased by six percent, which is a relatively modest increase. Two supervisors said real estate taxes only make up 37 percent of revenue. That sounds reasonable, but say real estate taxes have to go up 30 percent to allow a six-percent budget increase. Even if the citizens agreed that real estate taxes should be used to fund the entire budget increase, it would still only be a 16 percent increase, not 30 percent. Why should the full brunt of the budget increase be carried solely by property owners? Why are other taxes not increasing proportionately to the budget increase; sales taxes, use taxes and impact taxes? He does not agree with the statement that six percent is a modest increase; he does not know why that would be acceptable. Just because 80 percent of the budget is for personnel costs does not mean the County is making the most efficient use of the taxpayer's money. He thinks the high priority needs of the County can be funded (police, fire, schools), while still controlling the level of expenses. Lower priority programs should be reduced or eliminated to maintain a reasonable level of government expense. The County just cannot afford to fund everything for everybody. Basically, it needs to change the way it approaches spending money and raising revenues. That change needs to start with the Supervisors and the professional administrators hired to administer the County government. If both groups keep insisting year after year that nothing can be done, the taxpayers should consider the future of both groups.

Mr. Doug Coleman was present with his father Jerry. He said his father is 86 and is still farming; he is standing with him because he is hard of hearing and is afraid he will miss something. His father would want him to comment on the increase in the assessment of his property. His grandchildren and Doug's children went to Western Albemarle schools and he salutes the Supervisors for those good schools and the children's good education. He personally salutes the Supervisors for their support of conservation easements. His father has farmed for four generations. Jerry remembers driving cattle down Water Street in Charlottesville when it was dirt. The assessment on his property in Crozet was increased by about 100 percent this year. About 20 percent of that land is unusable because of railroads and power lines, yet the assessment doubled. Land use helps, but even with that, the appraisal values are real. Doug said he did not know he was going to speak tonight so did not do any math. One thing referenced by almost all who spoke tonight is what a great place this is to live. Perhaps the greatest reason Albemarle County is such a great place to live is the agrarian lifestyle that has persisted over the years. Many individuals who send their children to County schools also live here because of their viewshed and the lifestyles that have been preserved by the farming community. Farming needs to be respected and the County needs to be careful going forward less the very thing that has brought all together here is destroyed.

M. Harold Rothstein had signed to speak, but was not present at this time.

Mr. Hufnagel spoke about the economy of China and said that makes it important that Chinese be taught in the schools alongside Japanese. He said the United States will remain a prominent presence in the Middle East in the years to come so knowledge of Arabic is and will continue to be of vital importance. He said in the School Board's funding request for 2008 it opted to maintain existing staffing for non-European languages among its unfunded initiatives. He had a petition signed by 93 students at Western Albemarle High School who also think non-European languages should still be taught in high school. He then asked those in the audience who agreed with his sentiments to stand in support for the continuing survival of the teaching of Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Japanese in County high schools.

Ms. Diane Taylor had signed to speak, but was not present at this time.

Ms. Audrey Welborn had signed to speak, but was not present at this time.

Mr. Robert Butler suggested that the Supervisors vote themselves a four-fold raise. First, they need to say "no" and reduce the budget by about 30 percent. He has never been to a public hearing before, but there are a lot of empty chairs representing people who came and said they wanted something and they are not present now, so that is very strange. He brought "this" publication down because he is offended by being referenced as a "customer." He does not think Albemarle is a business and should not be thought of as a business. He lives in northwest Albemarle, in the sticks, near Mr. Wyant. He is not thrilled to be here at this hour, but would like to push back the County that is trying to push people like him, through their taxes, over Skyline Drive into Augusta County. It is great that the teachers can just get their raises like clockwork on his back when he has to get his in the private sector hoping that his employer has done well. He does mind the schools trying to get all they want, but he does not think it is up to single people, retirees, older residents, and childless couples to have to pay for it. He does not mind putting money toward schools but on Route 29 when a bus stops to let kids off there are three more buses stopped behind it. Where is the efficiency? He goes into establishments and kids have a vacancy in their eyes, a lack of focus, they can't do math, so he feels like he is getting reamed and he thinks all should feel like that. Everybody says it is great, but he does not see it.

Mr. Ron Mallory said two years ago his personal property went up 30 percent, and again this year it increased 30 percent. He does not get any services from Albemarle County. He lives on a dirt road and has no children in school. He has called the Police Department and they never responded. After the snow melts, they come down his road and plow it. Route 20 is a terrible road to travel to and from work on, period. Instead of the 58 cent tax rate some have mentioned, he suggests it be knocked down to 50 cents. He said the State Lottery system was supposed to pay for the schools; it was going to end all of our problems. Then there is the meals tax; that was going to solve all the tax problems. There was a Governor of Virginia who said he was going to cut the car tax out; the money that was supposed to replace that never happened. He thinks Albemarle County should demand that the State government change the law so Albemarle County can tax the wine industry here. Let the sin taxes stay in Albemarle County; wine, cigarettes, beer, ABC stores. He thinks there are other ways to get taxes rather than on a person's house. His house is modular and his taxes keep going up and up. He is having a hard time making ends meet, plus gas is now \$2.50 a gallon. He understands everyone wants a big raise, but there is probably enough waste in the School System to where they would not need a big increase. Has anyone ever checked on the waste in County schools? He said the tax on the average working man is too bad in Albemarle County and he is afraid he will not be able to retire in Albemarle.

Mr. Rodney Ball had signed to speak, but was not present at this time.

Mr. Bob Patterson noted that most of the media is gone, so they have missed some compelling stories. He is the parent of a Crozet Elementary student and is on the PTO, and the Crozet School Improvement Team. In 2000 a study found that only three out of every five tax dollars make it to the classroom. He asked if the taxpayers have enough knowledge to know which items in the budget proposal, or those items left out, support programs which actually make a difference for the child in the classroom. He asked that there be a closer look at programs that sound good, but may not be reaching the classroom. Recently, Crozet's PTO representative implored the parents to show their support for the School Board's funding request. It was described as a mere \$90+ per year. That assumes increased School Division funding automatically equates to quality education. However, several studies found no such relationship exists. Has there been any appreciable gains in academic achievement and quality assurance as a result of spending? He has not seen any information saying the children will suffer educationally without this funding. He sees that programs with "Great Society" sounding names will be cut, but he does not see how the proposed cuts harm student learning. Making a \$90+ investment should be considered in the broader context; as tax rates increase so do the price of goods, services and other governmental programs. In other words, the investment their PTO representatives asked the parents to make is not occurring in a vacuum. Life in Albemarle gets more expensive and it is coming from the citizen's wages and pocketbooks. Would it not make more sense for all parties to prioritize student learning and make a compromise plan?

Mr. Charles Battig had signed to speak but was not present at this time.

Mr. Donald Campbell had signed to speak but was not present at this time.

Ms. Sherry Buttrick had signed to speak but was not present at this time. Ms. Thomas said she is chairman of the ACE Committee and was going to thank the Supervisors for having the one-penny in the budget for that program.

Mr. Kevin Simontz said he is a student at the University of Virginia. He was present at a joint meeting between the Supervisors and the School Board on February 14. That meeting dealt with the

issue of a living wage for Albemarle County employees. He feels there is a disconnect between talking about a living wage there and the figure seen at the beginning of tonight's meeting where 99 percent of respondents to the County's survey put education as a priority. He asked what we are teaching our young people when the people who clean the schools and serve the food do not make enough money to afford to live in the County. What sort of education is that? He said the budget includes increased funding for Social Services which seems laudable, but paying more wages creates and perpetuates many of the problems that Social Services is designed to address. A living wage is fundamentally important if Albemarle is going to be a leader in any way. The ad hoc committee studying the issue of a living wage found that the wages proposed for workers in the lowest pay bands is the real failure of the budget proposed for the coming fiscal year. At that joint meeting, a member of the Supervisors said he believed the County had a moral obligation to the people it represents and declared that a living wage is irresponsible in terms of that obligation. He is struck by the vast number of definitions used for the word "moral." What is moral about paying poverty wages? He asked if some members of the Supervisors have something other than a decent standard of living for all Albemarle County residents in mind for the coming fiscal year. Poverty has a face in Albemarle County because the County pays less than a living wage. Some of those faces will clean this room after the conclusion of this meeting. He said the Supervisors must do better for everyone with the budget.

Mr. Boyd said that is the end of the list where people signed to speak. However, if there are others present who wish to speak, they may come forward at this time.

Mr. Steve Koleszar said he lives in Sherwood Manor. There has been a lot of talk about assessment increases like it is a bad thing. Over the last three or more years his house has gone up in value \$100,000. That means he will have to pay \$740 more in taxes each year. Since his house went up in value he has had a lot of people who want him to borrow money, to get a line of credit. He could pay 20 years of \$740 a year, but it will cost him about \$15,000. Adding interest on top of that could possibly amount to \$45,000 if interest rates go up. So he is \$55,000 ahead 20 years out. What happens if you don't invest in the future? What happens if the Southern Parkway does not get built? What happens when Biscuit Run comes on line and it takes him one-half an hour instead of ten minutes to get downtown? He will lose that \$100,000 because the quality of life has deteriorated. He said we need to invest in the future so all can benefit from rising property values and people wanting to live in Albemarle County. One of the roles of government is to take the long-term view to build for a better future. It is easy to say we don't want to spend that money now, but it will pay many dividends in the years to come.

Mr. William James said he, his wife and three sons live in Sugar Hollow. His sons will make six generations that have lived in Sugar Hollow since the end of the Civil War when the first James' came there. However, if the tax increases continue, they will have to leave. His three children were educated in the County. He has one son at Western Albemarle now, the other two have graduated. Their education was great, but they can't afford to live here. They have to leave. What is affordable housing? He has attended many meetings and heard the discussions about affordable housing. He said there is no affordable housing in Albemarle County. His kids can't afford to live here and he probably will not be able to live here much longer. He can probably afford to pay the taxes a few more years, but when he gets ready to retire, he will not be able to do that. He was told the assessment was set according to the land sold near him. He doesn't care about that; he does not want to sell. It's as if there is no bottom to the well; everybody is just going to keep spending. He believes the rate needs to be lowered and not just a measly two cents. That is less than \$100 for him. The Supervisors need to devise a plan to protect long-term residents.

Mr. Jeff Werner was present to speak for the Piedmont Environmental Council. He came to offer support for continued funding of the ACE Program. There has been tremendous success with conservation easements in the County, and part of that has come about through the ACE Program which has kept working farms working. That is the key objective and it has been successful. From everything he hears the candidate list for this year is outstanding. It is consistent with the Supervisors' policy and it is money well spent.

Mr. Lee Schultz said he moved to Albemarle in 1976, built a house on a two-acre lot, drilled a well, put in a septic tank, and looked forward to a long life on that property. He is now retired and the "switch and bait" of the shuffle with the figures is not appropriate to the citizens of the County. He appreciates the time and efforts of the Supervisors, but they need to look at this budget and consider this tremendous jump in the appraisal value compared to the tax rate. He has been living in an area which was urban and all of a sudden it started to be developed. Now, because of the values of the other properties and the new houses being built and sold, his assessment has gone up tremendously. He does not think it is fair and it is not equal. If he were to consider selling his home and had to find another residence, he would have to pay more than what his property is now valued at. Townhouses or apartments in the County are also expensive. There is an inequality in real estate values and he knows the Supervisors cannot control that, but they need to be aware of it and adjust the basic rates so people who have owned property for a long period of time can afford to pay their taxes. He said everybody enjoys services and he knows it is a problem to balance it all out. The Supervisors were elected and sworn in to serve the County, and he charges them with that duty.

With no one else from the public coming forward to speak, Mr. Boyd closed the public hearing.

Agenda Item No. 24. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Dorrier said he learned something new tonight. Assessments went up at least 25 percent for most people. He said the County Executive's proposed budget carries an increase of 5.76 percent. In order to do justice to people on fixed incomes, he thinks the Board needs to look at the possibility of reducing the budget by some amount. He thinks that reducing it between three and five percent across-the-board might be a way to do it. He thinks there are people who are suffering, and it will only get worse. He asked the reaction of the other Board members.

Ms. Thomas said she appreciates everyone who is still in the audience because she knows the Board members are tired at the end of this long day. She said the Board usually gets good ideas from public hearings. This is a caring community, and even though it seemed like people were talking against each other in some ways, there are a lot of communities that hold public hearings and nobody comes. She appreciates people being brief and sticking to their allotted speaking time. She was taken by the people who begged the Board to do something other than the real estate tax which is basically a lousy tax, but it is being forced on the Board more and more because other sources of revenue are either being taken away or the Board does not have the enabling power to do certain things. The Board has no authority to tax cigarettes; a city can, but a county cannot. She said a lot of the anger vented today should go to the state level where the state can say they are not raising taxes. They are putting on a squeeze play and leaving counties with only the real estate tax for revenue and that is a bad place for so many governmental services to rest. She wishes people would take those complaints to their state legislators.

Mr. Wyant said there were many comments received tonight about the tax rate, and a few comments about how the County goes about taxing. He does not like it when the Board says something will not work. There have always been changes and the Board needs to consider everything. He grew up in Albemarle County. His family has lived here and it is hitting them hard. When the time comes for discussion of the tax rate, he will be looking for a reduction.

Mr. Rooker agreed with a number of comments, particularly those made by Ms. Thomas. He said that several times tonight people mentioned that the cost of growth should be put on growth. He thinks most Board members agree with that. He thinks 99 percent of the citizens also agree. Unfortunately, the State Legislature does not agree. Year after year the Legislature fails to grant localities impact fee enablement. He urged those present in the audience to hold their Legislators accountable. He said 47 out of 50 states enable localities to assess impact fees against new development to pay for the cost of that development. Likewise, the State does not have "adequate public facilities" legislation which means the locality cannot turn down a development simply because public facilities are not in place to handle the impacts of that development. He thinks 47 out of 50 states have such legislation. He urges the citizens to hold their Legislators accountable. Counties do need other sources of revenue rather than real property taxes. The only significant revenue source localities have any control over is real estate taxes. An income tax is a fairer tax because it falls on people in proportion to their ability to pay, but localities do not share in income taxes. He urges the citizens to go to their Legislators and tell them there should be revenue sources other than property taxes. He thinks what Albemarle does needs to be put in context with what other counties around the state do. He thinks the rate should be lowered, and noted several counties which have a much higher rate, namely: Roanoke County has a rate of \$1.11, Chesterfield County has a rate of \$1.04, Fauquier County has a rate of 99 cents, Stafford County has a rate of 97 cents, Henrico County has a rate of 90 cents, and Loudoun County has a rate of 89 cents. Most of the counties surrounding Albemarle have tax rates which are as high or higher. In all of those counties, assessments have increased by comparable amounts. The squeeze Ms. Thomas mentioned about the state pushing down mandates on localities is being experienced by every locality around the state. Albemarle has started putting transportation expenses into its budget. In the State of Virginia, localities were to pay for schools and the state would pay for transportation. Albemarle is still paying for schools and the state has been walking away from transportation. This year Albemarle put \$2.0 million in its budget for transportation expenses. In real dollar terms there is 30 percent less in State Secondary Road funds than there was 10 years ago. He is sympathetic with the taxpayers, but he thinks this county is doing a good job as a county when compared to other counties around the state. Right now, at the \$0.74 tax rate, with the Revenue-Sharing money to the City, the effective tax rate is about \$0.64. He thinks the Board has a lot of things to weigh and consider as it holds budget work sessions. He said the Board goes through every department to determine whether or not the funds for that department are being spent wisely and whether the proposals should be funded based on the needs of the County, and based upon reasonable assessment of the revenues that should be available.

Mr. Slutzky said he was expecting the public hearing to go a little differently than it did. A common theme not supported by everyone was to keep the budget as proposed in order to have good schools. Some said they could not afford to pay their taxes. He did not hear a lot of people say they did not want to pay their taxes; rather, it is hard for them to afford to pay their property taxes. Some said tax reform is needed in Virginia. It is outrageous that the people in Richmond do not allow counties to have impact fees on the newcomers to the county. The cost of newcomers is being paid by the general population on their property taxes. It is a bad situation this Board does not control. He had hoped he would hear specific proposals about what should be cut and what priorities are not supported. He does not think the public is clamoring for a reduction in services. They recognize the reality that property taxes have gone up because the value of their property has gone up. There is a critical mass issue; on the one hand new people moving in and they demand services but the County cannot tax those newcomers. The County is spiraling into a crisis mode where it will start losing more and more of the folks who make Albemarle County what it is. A number of rural area farmers were articulate and eloquent speakers on behalf of a fragile, but critical element of the cultural fabric of Albemarle County. He is concerned about and sensitive to the need to protect the rural areas in the County and still be able to provide the infrastructure needed by

all the new people. A number of people asked why the Board does not raise other taxes and charge fees. There is a limit on what the Board is allowed to do by State law. It has not maxed out every single tax and fee it could be maxing out, and he thinks it might be worth looking at what is being "left on the table." He knows it is not much but would be interested in looking at every opportunity. Many spoke about the elderly and people on fixed incomes. He understands the County has not maxed out the Tax Relief Program; income levels could be raised and more than five acres of land could be protected. In light of this dramatic increase in assessments, he thinks the Tax Relief Program should be maxed out. Beyond that, he thinks the Board has to confront the challenge of deciding whether to cut the tax rate or raising it. He is weighing the problem of inadequate infrastructure against the near-term pain of paying more in taxes. He is worried about deferring the building of that infrastructure to a future board when the cost of construction would be even higher. He will painfully encourage this Board to raise the tax rate to the 74 cents proposed by Mr. Tucker, and perhaps above that to address that infrastructure deficiency. Then, he will plead with Albemarle County residents to take this to Richmond so the Board can get real tax relief.

Mr. Boyd said this Board is composed of a sincere group of people. He has been a member of the Board for almost four years and understands the County is not being dealt the best hand from Richmond in terms of its options. For these years he has watched the property assessments continue to go up, and he is concerned about the impact this last assessment will have on the population. He was impressed by the gentlemen who said he had been a finance person in the military and had been challenged with reducing his budget and actually met the needs of that environment and did reduce that budget. If the Board members are going to be leaders, they have to take a similar approach. They have to challenge staff and Mr. Tucker to cut this budget and provide some relief for the citizens. It is fine to say the Board is going to wait on Richmond, but the Board has been waiting for years. It is noted in the Board's budget book that the inflation rate last year was about 3.2 percent. If you look at the Weldon Cooper numbers, the growth rate was projected at about .7 percent, or less than one percent last year. He said it has averaged 1.2 percent since 2000, so that would bring it up to a 4.4 percent increase. He thinks more than that needs to be added so he multiplied that by 150 percent and that gave him a rate of 6.6 percent. He is even willing to go further than that because he thinks the Board needs to look at reducing expenditures (in the proposed budget they go up about 25.0 million) by cutting them five percent. That would be the equivalent of about \$11.2 million or seven cents of the tax rate. He is not sure the Board can do that because he believes, as many said, that vital services to the community should not be cut. He is not willing to stand back at this point and say the Board cannot look at reducing the amount of increase in the budget. As the Board goes through this budget process, the Board should challenge each department to present a budget that is five percent less. Also, he does not want the Board to simply wipe out all of the new initiatives. Doing so would be assuming all the old initiatives are still good and valid. The Board can't micro manage the staff and come up with those numbers, but it can challenge staff to find five percent that can be cut, not necessarily in new initiatives. He recognizes that every department might not be able to cut five percent; some could be cut a lesser amount. He has been talking about a plan like this for years, and he thinks this is the year to do it.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks that can be done. When talking about new initiatives, he would like to mention some of those things for the public. For example, it is more difficult for the County to get volunteer firefighters to work day shifts. Included in the new initiatives is the hiring of four firefighters for East Rivanna Fire Company because they can't staff it during the day. There is a goal in the Comprehensive Plan to have 1.5 police officers per 1,000 in population and the County is below that number. A couple of years ago, the Board asked staff to determine if that goal was realistic. The study came back to the Board showing that 1.5 is at the low end of what is seen around the country. If 2,000 people move to the County each year three police officers have to be hired just to keep up with that 2,000 people on the 1.5 ratio. There are things in the budget called initiatives which are goals adopted into the Comprehensive Plan, and those goals are not being reached. He does not disagree with Mr. Boyd but would like people to understand that one of the big items of increase in the budget is the amount paid to the City under the Revenue Sharing Agreement (the increase this year was \$3.0 million), the total this year is \$13.1 million. That Agreement was adopted by referendum in the City and County in 1983. The Board has no control over that budget item.

Mr. Boyd said he appreciates what Mr. Rooker is saying, but there are other things in the budget to consider. He said a favorite project of his is the ACE Program. The Board decided a couple of years ago to tie that program to one cent on the tax rate which he thought would be a reasonable rate of growth, but it has grown 60 percent in two years. He is not sure 60 percent on that program is better spent than shifting that money to payment for police officers. He asked if this Board is willing to take on this challenge and show leadership and work through the possibility of reducing the budget.

Mr. Rooker said he is a business person and thinks the County needs to strive for efficiency wherever possible. When the Board goes through the department-by-department analysis he thinks it should do that.

Mr. Boyd said the Board has to ask staff what they would do to reduce their budget by five percent.

Mr. Slutzky said the Board can ask staff to do that, and it can also question certain expenditures to see if the County is getting the best use of its funds. This challenge is a healthy and productive exercise on behalf of the taxpayers. He said Mr. Boyd used the number of three percent for inflation, and he did not know on what that number was based. He said fuel costs did not go up by just three percent last year, and construction costs are "through the roof."

Mr. Boyd said he got that figure from the Board's budget book.

Mr. Slutzky said he is not sure the true rate of inflation for the items the County spends its money on is necessarily only three percent. He is eager to tackle the budget because there are always things you can afford to do without. At a time when County taxpayers are being put into a "tough spot" with the rate of increase, the Board owes it to them to look at opportunities to gain efficiencies with the budget. He cautions the Board to not forget that there are a lot of unfunded items and deferred obligations. One such has to do with the infrastructure needs which have come about due to growth in the County. He is wary of just cutting the budget and continuing to ignore those because they will have to be paid for eventually.

Mr. Boyd said he is not saying those things can be ignored. That is why he does not think growth issues and response times and police ratios are the only things that need to be cut. There are things the County has been doing for years that it might not need to continue doing. He thought he was being conservative when he said five percent because even if it is cut five percent there is still a 7.6 increase in spending.

Mr. Dorrier asked what percentage of the budget is used for personnel costs. Mr. Tucker said it is about 80 percent.

Mr. Dorrier said there has been a lot of talk about the education budget. He does not think the Board would want to do anything with that. Does that mean that 60 percent of the budget is off the table, or what?

Mr. Boyd said he thinks the School System should look at the same belt-tightening things as the County does. He thinks cuts should be made across-the-board.

Mr. Rooker said the Board needs to be mindful of capital improvements. When capital improvements are made, they result in increased operating costs. He thinks the Board needs to look at the projects in the CIP. If a new fire station is opened it must be staffed and equipped and that is then a perpetual expense. Also, in Northern Virginia, real estate assessments are falling, so to him that is an indication that real estate assessments will not continue to increase in Albemarle like they have for the past four years. The County Executive's budget contemplates that next year assessments will increase about five percent. He thinks there will be a natural moderating effect in assessments in the next few years.

Mr. Wyant said it is not uncommon for government to ask that expenditures be cut; it was done four times while he worked for the State. He said the CIP Oversight Committee questioned many things and deducted \$39.0 million from that program. He said the Board asking that staff study their budget requests is something the County's citizens have also requested.

Mr. Boyd asked if there were a consensus on this question.

Ms. Thomas said she thinks staff developed a budget based on the policy decisions made by this Board. There is nothing in this budget that should take any of the Board members by surprise. More than most years, the Board has been going through strategic planning sessions and realizing what the County's long-term financial situation will look like. If the Board wants to have fewer firemen then it will have to go back on its policy on response times. For the public, although the Board talks about firemen, all of the career firemen are also emergency medical trained personnel. As there is an aging population in the community, the EMT side is actually where the growth is. She said the Board can change its policy about what response time it would accept and cut a big piece out of the budget. That was done with the Police. The Board decided that although there is a goal, it will go at it so slowly that the goal will not be met for about 30 years. She does not want anybody to think there were surprises in this budget.

Mr. Boyd said there can be belt-tightening. That is the reason he mentioned the ACE Program; that is the result of a policy decision by the Board. He is willing to take a look at those things, along with everything else.

Mr. Rooker said he is willing to take a look at it also. He said the Board has a policy to increase land in conservation easements by 50 percent over a four-year period which started last year. The reason the Board dedicated a penny to the ACE Program was because the purchasing power of that money goes down as the price of the property goes up. There was an erosion of 30+ percent in purchasing power of what was initially allotted to ACE. A policy was adopted tying it to the value of real estate. He said the Board needs to be mindful of its goals. If changes are made in the Budget which in turn make changes in goals, fine. But, the Board needs to acknowledge that it is doing that.

Mr. Boyd said if the Board is willing to do that, he would like to challenge staff to look for a five percent cut in the spending side of their budgets.

Mr. Rooker said if the Board asks Mr. Tucker to reduce the budget by five percent, he does not know that it would be done pro rata over departments.

Mr. Boyd said he had said earlier it could be two percent of one department and seven percent of another. He was not suggesting that each department be cut five percent. The Board has to rely on the County Executive and his excellent staff to come back with proposals.

Mr. Slutzky said Mr. Tucker has given the Board what he thinks is the appropriate budget, so maybe the burden shifts to the Board to let him know where it wants him to cut.

Mr. Dorrier said that last year the County ended with a surplus of about \$9.0 million. Mr. Tucker said there are expenditure savings as well. He said that is one-time money; not recurring money. If the tax rate is reduced that will also affect the current fiscal year's budget. Each penny reduced will affect the current year's budget by \$750,000. The one-time money could be used to off-set that change. For next year, staff will have to decide where expenditures can be reduced. He said this budget is based on commitments and mandates. The Board set the policy and the direction. If the Board wants to change directions, he will bring back a budget that takes that into account. He said only 15 percent of expenditures are made up of all the departments outside of the Schools, Public Safety and Human Services. To get the kind of revenue the Board wants, he would have to go to bigger items in the budget. Operating budgets for each department were only increased by two percent. The remainder is in salaries and that is a four percent item. There are other areas he will probably recommend that are "large-ticket" items. He asked if that is the consensus of the Board members. He does not want to spend a lot of time cutting and then have a 3:3 vote. At the first work session next week it was his intent to bring to the Board a list what could be done with each penny.

Mr. Rooker said he did not think what Mr. Tucker is saying is any different. If the Board had in front of it what would be done if the rate were lowered by a penny, or two cents, or three cents, etc. it would have the information it needs in order to make a reasonable decision.

Mr. Boyd said he used to live in the corporate world; he ran a very large division of a major bank. He used to put forward budgets all the time, but was told that based on corporate objectives spending had to be reduced. That is his commitment here. He is interested in reducing the budget. He knows Mr. Tucker does an excellent job, and he can't micro—manage his job, nickel and dime it, and say what initiative to drop. He is just saying that he would like for him to cut the budget by five and one-half percent and then when the Board goes through the process, it might not agree and have other ideas. He is interested in cutting the amount of the increase in the budget. Mr. Tucker said he knows what Mr. Boyd is asking.

Ms. Thomas said the million dollars included for transportation could be cut because it is a new item. Transportation is actually a State responsibility. Although she argued against it, a million dollars was included for that purpose. If the Board wants to show the citizens what is going on, that would be her candidate to cut. She said the Board really needs to know what policies would be affected by certain cuts.

Mr. Dorrier said that maybe everything the Board wants to do can't be done next year; maybe some things would need to be delayed for a year.

Ms. Thomas said Mr. Dorrier sat through those Strategic Planning sessions and knows what the Board has facing it in the next couple of years. It will be harder and harder to find the funds.

Mr. Slutzky said it will be more expensive to fulfill those obligations; that is the other problem with delaying.

Mr. Rooker said the big increases in the budget in terms of individual items are: payment to the City with a \$3.0 million increase, but the Board can't cut that.

Mr. Dorrier interrupted to say that maybe the Board should talk about that item.

Mr. Rooker said it was approved by a referendum of the voters in 1983 and it put an end to annexation by the City, and the County agreed to enter into a Revenue-Sharing Agreement.

Mr. Dorrier asked if it were never to be looked at again. Mr. Tucker said he understands it would take another voter referendum from both localities to cancel the agreement. He asked the County Attorney to comment.

Mr. Dorrier said the City has gotten a lot stronger financially.

Mr. Rooker said the County's payment to them this year amounts to about 26 cents on their real estate tax rate.

Mr. Boyd said the Board needs to get through this so everybody can go home. He would like to know if there is any interest in going forward with his proposal.

Ms. Thomas said she would prefer to wait until the first work session before making any decision. She said staff is going to show what each penny cut would mean, so she will not make that decision tonight before seeing that information. Mr. Tucker said he had already planned on presenting that information at the first work session.

Mr. Wyant suggested looking at the "big ticket" items first. He said there are big expenditures in the budget other than revenue-sharing. Maybe the Board could change the way it goes about holding work sessions rather than going department-by-department.

Mr. Rooker said when talking about the General Government side of the budget the big items are new initiatives and Public Safety. The Board could decide not to hire firefighters at East Rivanna or not to fully staff the new Hollymead Fire Station because it will have a big operational expense, or it could even stop the building of that station.

Mr. Slutzky said the Board could also cut the new Crozet library it voted on early today.

Mr. Rooker said an issue came up this morning about the Hollymead Lake. Last year the Board decided to fund the Key West Dam which was a \$350,000+ item. When these issues come forward, the Board needs the discipline to say they will not be done because they are not a part of the budget regardless of whether a neighborhood thinks the Board should step in and do it.

Mr. Slutzky said about 80 percent of the budget is in salaries. The Board put in an across-the-board increase of approximately four percent on that item for this budget. How much of a reduction could result in the tax rate for each tenth of a cent reduction in that item? He said things like that are more global and more profound in their impact. That item has implications in terms of retention, but maybe that is a more dramatic way to look at it. Mr. Tucker said that is one of the things that will be presented to the Board on Monday.

Mr. Rooker said one issue in compensation was the Board adopted a plan of determination for salaries. There was a time when salary determinations were political and every year the auditorium was filled with people saying teacher salaries should be increased. After a long period of time, it was agreed to adopt an objective pay criteria and base that on a competitive market in which salaries and benefits would be compared. Someone mentioned the subject of a living wage tonight and that would have cost about \$900,000 in this budget, and the best reason for not doing it was that the Board would have abandoned its objective standards for determining compensation.

Mr. Boyd said that is where "you have to stop thinking inside that box" although he hates that terminology. He said that assumes every function takes the same number of people and the only way to reduce salaries is by cutting the amount of increase. He said the market strategy can be maintained, but does the County need all the people it currently has.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks the Board will have the information from Mr. Tucker on Monday. If the Board says it wants to cut seven cents off of the tax rate, he will tell the Board what has to be cut to achieve that seven cents.

Mr. Wyant said some expenses are mandated. Those fixed items have to be funded first. Mr. Tucker said the Revenue-Sharing with the City is a mandate and that is why those funds are taken off of the top of the revenues before they are divided between the Schools and Local Government. There are certain policies the Board has established, although they can be looked at again. One of those is the amount of the transfer to the Capital Improvement Program, which is two cents of the tax rate. He understands Mr. Boyd wants to look at whether all staff members are really needed; that will take a little more analysis than can be done in a week. He said that although Mr. Boyd has mentioned seven cents, he will show the Board what impact there would be from reducing the rate different increments.

Mr. Rooker said seven cents would be close to \$7.0 million off of the Schools budget. He does not think this can be done in isolation because 60 percent of that is Schools. This Board should not make a decision in isolation from the schools because they would share 60 percent of that pain.

Mr. Boyd said he was not suggesting that the Board do that. He said this is a challenge. He thinks it is an exercise the Board should go through as good stewards of tax dollars. They need to see if there are ways the County can operate more efficiently in order to have less of an impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Slutzky asked if Mr. Boyd was suggesting that the seven cents of the tax rate be found in the 40 percent of the budget that is not for schools.

Mr. Boyd said it would have to be across-the-board.

Ms. Thomas said she thinks the Board is tossing the challenge back to Mr. Boyd by saying if the budget is driven by policies, the Board will have to look at its policies.

Mr. Rooker said in the Vision Statement for the County one of the goals is to assist the School Board in making certain there is a world-class education system in the County. He thinks that was Mr. Dorrier's suggested wording and this Board adopted that at its Strategic Planning session. It became part of the Board's primary vision for the County. The Board needs to be certain that what it is doing is true to its goals.

Mr. Dorrier agreed. He said the School Board and Dr. Moran know more about the School System and what it needs than he does. He thinks the Board needs to probe to see if there is any room for movement. The Board and the School Board need to be honest with each other to see if there can be changes without costing anything. He said he worked for the Wilder administration in the early 90s in the criminal justice area. Every six months they would get a request to cut the budget by five or ten percent. Every department in criminal justice and public safety cut their budgets. People said they could not find ways to cut it, but they always did. He did that for four years.

Mr. Rooker said he thinks that can be done in any operation.

Mr. Slutzky said it might be comforting in the moment politically to appease people who have legitimate concerns about their near term tax bills, but to do so is to further burden future taxpayers in Albemarle County to pay for things in future years in inflated dollars. He does not think the Board wants to rob from those folks for near-term political goals. He said there is always fat in a budget. It is an appropriate exercise to look for opportunities to become more efficient, but there are plenty of things the Board has already chosen not to fund this year that were deferred to next year.

Mr. Rooker said whatever the Board decides to do it needs to keep in mind its Five-Year Business Plan. He thinks it was a wise decision to adopt a business plan so the Board looks at decisions in that context. Mr. Tucker said that will be part of what he will present.

Ms. Thomas said the Board has been sent on this exercise before and it has brought forth this budget.

Mr. Rooker said there was mention tonight of there being a surplus of about \$9.0 million. However, due to increases in construction costs over recent years, projects in the Capital Plan are now estimated at 25 to 30 percent below what it would actually cost to do them. It is good to have a surplus to transfer to capital because that will cover some of those massive increases in the out-year capital projects.

Mr. Dorrier said the Board does not want to drive people off of their property. If successful people are thinking about leaving Albemarle County because it is too expensive for them, that is a problem.

Mr. Boyd said Mr. Rooker has said before that the Board cannot keep building the budget and growth on the appraised values of property, and yet, that is what has been done for the last four years he has been a Board member. There has to be some methodology other than every time appraisals go up to spend that much more.

Mr. Rooker said he backed off from that this year because capital projects have increased so much that surplus is needed for capital. In the long-term he thinks it would be good to have some formula for how the budget moves that is not tied to real estate assessments.

Mr. Boyd said he thinks the Board has "beat this to death." He asked if Mr. Tucker knew what the Board was requesting. He then suggested that the Board adjourn since it had been here since nine o'clock this morning.

Agenda Item No. 25. Adjourn to March 12, 2007, at 1:00 p.m.

At 10:34 p.m., with no further business to come before the Board, **motion** was offered by Mr. Wyant, **seconded** by Ms. Thomas, to adjourn this meeting until March 12, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. Roll was called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Wyant, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Dorrier.
NAYS: None.

Chairman

Approved by the Board of County Supervisors

Date: 06/06/2007

Initials: EWC
