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# Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on County Executive's Recommended Budget and CIP, Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Date Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
Place Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, Virginia  
Length 0h 59m (video)

- Official meeting video (Granicus): [https://albemarle.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=1&clip\\_id=923](https://albemarle.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=923)
- Official agenda: [https://albemarle.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=1&clip\\_id=923](https://albemarle.granicus.com/AgendaViewer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=923)

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Speech-to-text: whisper.cpp, model large-v3-turbo. Produced 2026-10-16. Each paragraph starts with its time [HH:MM:SS] in the meeting video.

[00:00:00] Good evening. Welcome. I'm going to call to order this meeting of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors on the 28th of February at 6 p.m. in Lane Auditorium. I'd like to note that we have on the day us Supervisor Ann Malick of the Whitehall District, Supervisor Diantha McKeel of the Jack Jewett District, Supervisor Bela Pisto-Kirtley of the Ravenna District, and Supervisor Mike Prude of Scottsville District, and myself, Jim Andrews, representing the Samuel Miller District quorum is present. We're also joined at the meeting by a county executive, Mr. Jeff Richardson, and here Mr. Steve Rosenberg, our county attorney, as well

[00:00:39] as our clerk, Ms. Gladette Borgeson. Also, let me please welcome, and we will soon introduce our other distinguished staff who are presenting tonight, helping to present tonight. Also, let me welcome Albemarle County police officers present, Lieutenant Angela Jamerson, and senior Police Officer Ronnie Vanderveer. We thank you for your service today and for the work you do and your colleagues do every day for our safety and security throughout the county. Thank you.

[00:01:08] So our primary business tonight is simply a public hearing on the county executive's fiscal year 2025 recommended budget. And to start this off, we'll turn it over to our county executive, Mr. Jeff Richardson. Welcome. Chair Andrews and members of the board, thank you very much for the

opportunity for me to be here this evening. My name is Jeff Richardson, and this will be the second time in the last week that I have been before the board to talk about the county executive's

[00:01:47] recommended FY25 budget. And as you noted, sir, tonight is the public hearing. And so what I will do this evening is I will briefly go through the slides as an overview of a part of what we put in front of the board last Wednesday at our meeting, knowing that we've got a number of work sessions coming after tonight. And Mr. Jacob Sumner, who is to my right, along with Andy Bowman from the Finance and Budget Office, they will wrap us up this evening. They will talk about what happens after tonight. They will certainly

[00:02:23] be here this evening to answer any questions as well as myself on any questions that the board may have this evening. But Mr. Chair, as you noted, Tonight is the public hearing, and so I will try to be brief and run through several slides just to be able to tee up the FY25 recommended budget.

[00:02:44] Mr. Bowman, if you'll work with me to advance the slides. Thank you, sir. I'm just going to note the presence of Supervisor Ned Galloway of the Rio District has now joined the meetings. Yes, sir. So in the overview this evening that I'll be covering, I'll talk just a second about our budget development process that we have with our eye on the strategic plan. In doing so, we're going to spend most of our time this evening focused on the recommended FY25 budget,

[00:03:16] and then finally, we'll talk about next steps after tonight. Let me talk just for a second about our strategic budgeting approach. I want to talk about the board's five-year strategic plan.

[00:03:35] This board stepped away in fall of 2022 and worked diligently with staff to identify your six most important goals that we want to focus as much attention and resources as we can for the next five years.

[00:03:51] These six goals that you see in front of you represent the five-year strategic plan. Those six goals we worked diligently to align our resources with. Last year, we were at this time, we were aligning year one with the budget process to these six goals.

[00:04:09] And so at this point, we're approaching year two. And we will be working with the board over the coming weeks to look at the alignment into the six areas. We'll look at where our resources are and how that ties back to day-to-day operations in each of our departments.

[00:04:27] Board, this slide really is to represent, in addition to the five-year strategic plan and the work that went into that, that our budgeting process is almost a year-round process. This board realizes that. You realize that we work to look at our economic outlook. We look at our five-year financial planning. We tie all of that back to our five-year strategic plan. We're keeping an eye on our revenues as we work toward the start of the budget process. We look at existing

[00:05:05] commitments, and I'll talk a little bit more about that in a minute. And finally, all of that is underpinned with our financial policies, where we are a triple-triple-A bond rated local government. For a medium-sized local government, that's somewhat unusual, but we are proud of the fact that we work hard in our community to be fiscally conservative and to guard our triple-triple-A bond rating. Board, I'm proud to recommend a budget this year that is balanced on the current tax rates. You see in the slide above you what those current tax rates are, what those lines of revenue

[00:05:42] are that come in to inform our overall revenue picture each year. So now I want to take a couple of minutes and I'd like to talk to the board about our FY25 recommended budget and give me just one

[00:06:10] second to align my notes. The theme for this year is really to continue to build momentum with what we began in fiscal year 24. I reminded the board last week that we're entering year two of a five year strategic plan. FY 24 was the first year. We launched several new programs after a lot of planning work, onboarding work, and we're really beginning to see the fruit of our investment as we

[00:06:43] go into FY 25. Okay. I talked to the board last week about the pace of growth in our local economy and that it was not matching what we had seen a year ago or two years ago, but we still have strong, strong revenue growth in our community.

[00:07:03] The work of the board that you did last year, you've worked to increase our budget stabilization reserve. You directed a portion of the ongoing revenues last year into one-time transfer of capital fund. You positioned the county to soften the impact if our revenues did slow this year, and they have.

[00:07:21] But because of that, because of the work that we did last year, we enter FY25 in a strong position to continue to advance the strategic plan priorities because we're shifting from shoring up the foundation to building momentum as we go through FY25. Board, this is one of my favorite slides, and it is a reminder to me that while we're doing a one-year budget process for fiscal year 25, we can easily reach back into 24 and look at the commitments that we made that have multi-year effect.

[00:07:57] We look into 25, and we try to examine 24 with 25, and then we're also looking into FY26. We budget annually, but the decisions that we make from one year to the next has an impact on what we do down the road.

[00:08:13] And frankly, board, that's why we want to do multi-year strategic planning, because we're not going to be able to address every opportunity and every problem in the community. And it's the staff's goal to be able to align our resources where we have our biggest opportunities or our biggest problems.

[00:08:29] and the board has done a really good job of working that strategically and helping us with our annual budget process. Okay, I'll take one second just to remind the board that the federal relief revenues have been a significant part of the county budgets since fiscal year 22. Funding through the America Rescue Plan Act, ARPA, were designed to support people and communities during very challenging times brought on by COVID-19. You can see here the amount of funding from FY22

[00:09:05] and FY23, and just a margin of funding left for FY24. We have spent the federal money that we pulled down during the pandemic, and we've put it in places that we hope have made the greatest impact for the community during those very difficult times. We're now back to local funding.

[00:09:24] Those programs were funded with one-time money, and those programs have been managed accordingly. And you'll see in FY24 just a small amount of money that is left in the federal funding as we go forward. I won't talk in detail about this.

[00:09:45] We did last week. But you really see examples of how our past decisions drive future budgets. We can see that in three areas. One is pilot programs, where we talked last week about commitments that the county has made to trying new things, looking at how we do service delivery, new ideas, cross-

departmental and cross-agency collaboration that we have used, that we in some cases have moved pilot programs into our ongoing budget, as well as new facilities.

[00:10:15] You'll see in FY25 that we've committed to new facilities that once finished, They've got to be opened and they've got to be operated, and you see that funding. And then finally to the right, you see grant funds, and we've got good examples in our budget of how we've pulled down non-local dollars for things that we needed to expand, start up, examine on a pilot level, and we're in the process of doing that.

[00:10:42] We know that when we use this non-local money, most of the time it's federal and state grants, that most of these grants have deadlines, and they have sunset provisions, and we plan for that accordingly. And we've done that as we go into this year's budget. Okay. Board, the total budget for fiscal year 25 is \$629 million. That's an increase from fiscal year 24 of \$74.3 million.

[00:11:11] dollars. As I said last week, that's due to increase in local revenue. But in addition to that, there's annual fluctuations in our capital program needs. And based on the capital outlay, the timing of capital outlay for project, as well as debt issuance in any one given year, it can make your total budget go up or go down. We always spend a tremendous amount of time with our general fund revenues and our general fund budget. That's where the tax revenue is received.

[00:11:45] It's the primary funding source for schools, capital debt, local government, and it's where this board has the maximum amount of policy discretion as you begin to prepare for your upcoming budget work sessions. This general fund revenues in the fiscal year recommended budget is \$432.2 million.

[00:12:06] I'll take a second just to talk briefly, and I did last week as well, about the allocation of new shared revenues. So there is a shared revenues formula that we exercise. This is board-directed, where we have a formula between local government, our public schools, county public school system, as well as our joint debt and capital.

[00:12:30] And as you can see, board, 10% comes off the top for the joint debt and capital to pay for both schools and local government capital. 54% is earmarked for public school operations, and the remaining 36% is for local government operations.

[00:12:50] And just as I mentioned, the general fund revenues, the general fund expenditures also are balanced at \$432.2 million. And this is a little bit of a different type of funding than what we looked at on the prior page.

[00:13:07] but you can see that with everything mixed that we're still transferring almost 50 percent of all the general fund expenditures are going to our public school system. So they are a key partner for us. Board, this is really a nitty-gritty slide of where is the increase in capacity? Where is it going into next year? And it's tight and concise. We can see that going into FY25 recommended is an additional \$10.1 million for public schools.

[00:13:41] On the top right is an additional \$9.3 million for local government that's earmarked for customer service enhancements, as well as compensation, money for health care, and other related personnel commitments.

[00:13:57] In the middle part of the slide, you see an additional \$2.2 million for partner agencies that, frankly, without these relationships, these partnerships, and these agreements, we could not provide the services to our community without our valued partner agencies. To the far right in the middle is our

quality of life, where we see an additional \$2.1 million for public transit. And then on the bottom left, we have obligations. These are multi-year obligations that are driven by contracts, agreements, and we see an additional \$2.8 million that we are obligating going into next year.

[00:14:36] And then finally, bottom right is additional 1.1 in the area of safety and well-being. Before we advance the slide board, I would just say this does not capture all of the revenue and all of the commitments in next year. This is just a really high-level overview.

[00:14:51] And as we go into the budget work sessions over the next weeks, you'll be diving into more of the details about what this means in the departments, for service delivery, and for the community that we serve. Just a quick snapshot as I wrap up. As we look at the capital improvement plan for schools, the recommendation for the school's capital improvement plan for next year is \$206.8 million. This covers over the next five years, and you see the green check marks that are aligned in the budget years for recommended increases for projects that are in the school system.

[00:15:29] Okay. You see also the same capital improvement plan for local government. And this is just our summary. It's \$128.9 million over the next five years. And you get a feel for what those commitments are, not just in 25, but as we work all the way out through year five. So board, that is a high level overview. I appreciate the opportunity to be back before the board tonight.

[00:15:59] Our staff is here to answer any questions. I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Sumner and let him talk just for a few minutes about next steps and some specifics about the work sessions. But certainly, we're here to answer any questions. And thank you. Thank you, Mr. Richardson. Good evening, Board. Jacob Sumner, Chief Financial Officer for the county. The slide in front of you is the budget calendar for the remainder of the budget season. As you see, as we transition into March, we have at least five work sessions planned. And in just a minute, I'll go over some more details on the work sessions as far as topics that we'll cover, particularly in the first three

[00:16:36] work sessions. In April, we'll move towards our public hearings on the tax rate and on the budget itself. And finally, we'll look to May 1st for appropriation and adoption of the budget and setting of the tax rate. So I did want to take just a moment on this slide to talk about the first work session, which is going to be on Wednesday, March 6th. This will start with the general fund. We'll focus particularly on general fund revenues and then we'll move into the general fund expenditures starting with administration, judicial, public safety, and our goal is to get

[00:17:08] through public works as well. These are functional areas and categories that we report out on for the budget. So these aren't department-specific, as you see on the screen, but there are departments embedded within each of these functional areas.

[00:17:27] The second work session on March 11th will be a joint work session between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. And this is when the public schools will provide their recommendation or their request, excuse me, to the board. At the end of that conversation, we'll then wrap up the items that we had planned to finish for the general fund.

[00:17:51] These will be in the functional areas you see above whether it's health and welfare parks recreation and cultural community development and then we'll conclude with our non-departmental section of the general fund the last uh section that that I'll go over for tonight is on work session three we'll be focusing on our capital improvement program and our debt service we also have some time reserved

should we not make it through some of the general fund items from the previous nights that we'll wrap those up hopefully on March 13th. We'll be happy to answer any questions, whether it's on the schedule or on

[00:18:30] the budget, and I'll turn this over to you, Chair Andrews. Thank you. So before opening the public hearing, I want to make sure that I remind the public that there's a sign-up sheet under the window to my left, first window, but before turning to that, I'd like to check with our supervisors to see if anyone has anything they'd like to ask beforehand. All right, then we will open the public hearing. And I believe we have several people signed up. I guess while she's getting

[00:19:07] that, the only thing I would ask is that I understand that these presentation materials will be online. The budget is available online. Yes, sir. The recommended budget is available online on our website. And then we'll be adding the presentations that we present to the board as well. Thank you. Very helpful. As well as I assume that even a question and answers as they come in and things like that. Yes, sir. There's plenty of opportunity for people to weigh in.

[00:19:37] Thank you. Supervisor McKeel will read the rules for speakers of the public hearing. Sure. These rules are also included on the published agenda for the meeting, which can be found online and on the sign-up table to the audience's right. During public hearings, the board will acknowledge speakers addressing the item listed for public hearing. Speakers are limited to one appearance of three minutes per public hearing. Timekeeping is conducted through the timer and light system at the podium. The green light will go on when you begin speaking, which begins your allotted time.

[00:20:13] The yellow light indicates you have one minute to finish speaking. The red light indicates your time has expired and you will be asked to end your comments. To give all speakers equal treatment and courtesy, the board requests that speakers adhere to the following guidelines. When addressing the board, state your name and, if you live in Albemarle County, your magisterial district.

[00:20:34] Address comments directly to the board as a whole. Any written statements or other supporting materials may be given to the clerk. If representing a group or organization, you may ask others present to raise their hands in recognition. Speakers may not share any unused time with another speaker.

[00:20:51] Back-and-forth debate is not permitted. Do not speak from your seat or out of turn. And all comments are live-streamed, recorded, and published on the Almar County website. And with that, we have six speakers that have signed up tonight, and we have no one online.

[00:21:12] So our first speaker tonight is Heidi Farr. Welcome, Ms. Farr. Please adjust the microphone so that it works for you. Thank you. Do you want the papers to the clerk to begin with or at the end?

[00:21:30] If you have papers prepared for us, please hand them over to the clerk. It's fine. thank you please adjust the microphone as you can thank you is that appropriate for you that's good okay oh you can't hear me okay is that better all right i want to make sure you hear me uh good evening my name is heidi far i reside in earliesville in the whitehall district this

[00:22:06] evening i will be sharing with you my experiences as a parent and a volunteer in 4-h hopefully to demonstrate with you why I am thanking you for the current funding and to ask you to fully fund the Virginia Cooperative Extension's Office 4-H budget for the fiscal year 2025. With 4-H participation at its

highest level in the 20 years, it is evident that our community is looking for what 4-H has to offer. However, sustaining and expanding these invaluable programs that are free

[00:22:42] to anyone requires resources, and that's where your resources, your support becomes pivotal. By endorsing the budget request for 4-H, you are not merely allocating funds. You are investing in future leaders, innovators, and change makers in Albemarle County. I'd like to tell you about one of these future leaders. In 4-H, the kids are responsible for running the business meetings, With volunteers only assisting as needed.

[00:23:14] Recently, one club needed to appoint a fundraising committee. About half a dozen kids were willing to be on the committee. However, no one wanted to be the chairperson. The president had the responsibility to appoint a chairperson and came up with a unique solution.

[00:23:33] She made everyone play rock, paper, scissors until only one person was left standing. The winner, or loser, was the new chairperson. Imagine what this kind of out-of-the-box and unique thinking can do as she and her peers participate in our community.

[00:23:50] The funding request is for \$117,335. With over 3,250 kids served last year, this investment will only be \$36.10 per child annually.

[00:24:09] But we don't plan on stopping there. We have a lot more to do. While I could continue to talk about many other things, I want to leave you with one other story. Each fall, our clubs have elections. And at this last election, things progressed normally.

[00:24:26] Until one particular young lady, who was exceptionally shy, stood up. With her hands and body trembling, she shared with her peers why she wanted to be club historian. Not a single kid moved or spoke while she was speaking.

[00:24:42] and when she finished they erupted in cheers and applause for her. Imagine what this can do when other kids have it. I invite you to visit a club or a 4-H event to see these stories in action.

[00:24:58] That is why I'm thanking you for the current funding and respectfully asking you to fully fund the Virginia Cooperative's fiscal year 2025 budget. Are there questions? Okay thank you. Dan Rosenzweig. I can get this tall enough. I'm not sure I can. If it worked for Jeff, it'll work for me, too. So good evening, Chair Andrews and members of the board. My name is Dan Rosenzweig. I'm President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville. I want to

[00:25:35] thank Mr. Richardson for putting together a thorough and really helpful budget explanation. And I want to thank you all for allowing me to speak tonight. I want to start with some good news about the partnership between Habitat and the county at the Southwood Mobile Home Park. This \$500 million national model redevelopment without displacement has a long way to go, but thus far exceeding our expectations as well as your own benchmarks.

[00:26:00] Nationally, in similar redevelopment projects, only 11% of residents return. At Southwood, the second group of families, or the first group that's after the early adopters, have made their choices in a staggering 85% of families are staying. And we expect that to actually increase.

[00:26:17] This group was the only group that wasn't able to design their own neighborhood because of COVID. So all future neighborhoods will have designed their own neighborhoods. So we really think we

can push that retention rate above 90%, which is unprecedented nationally. We also are pleased to report that we're outperforming our first performance agreement with the county by 60 affordable units.

[00:26:42] The first performance agreement required us to create 155 affordable units. In fact, we're delivering 215. So again, thank you so much for your support. As you consider this year's budget, please keep Southwood top of mind. As you'll recall, prior to the first rezoning of the property in 2018, we entered into a performance agreement providing the county clear deliverables in exchange for cash contributions and tax increments. Then three years ago, in the lead up to the second phase, it was determined that we should wait till after the rezoning to enter to performance agreement that was more than two that was about two years ago and the second phase

[00:27:21] of the development is represents about 80 of the park in anticipation of that given the severe health and safety issues resulting from failing septic systems habitat has spent more than three million dollars remediating and clearing the first section of phase two more than a 12 acre parcel is now clean that's the good news it's pristine as warranted by the deq but the tough part is that But for us as a nonprofit, this has created extreme cash flow challenges, really extreme cash flow challenges.

[00:27:50] Our forward expenditures of funds now threatens consequential delays in the project, which would imperil families by keeping them in unhealthy living conditions, potentially forcing some of them to move twice and creating costly inefficiencies in land development and new home construction. So my request to you tonight is support for phase two at Southwood in your upcoming budget And prayerfully, if the capacity exists, finding funds now from the remaining year's budget to help us continue moving forward in partnership with the families of Southwood.

[00:28:19] Thanks. Thank you. Gustavo Espinoza.

[00:28:34] Hello, board. Thank you for your time. My name is Gustavo Espinoza. I'm a tenant organizer with the Legal Aid Justice Center. I work with low-income Albemarle County renters. Before I was an organizer, I was a rent relief assister. So I was helping hundreds and hundreds of Albemarle County residents access the state's pandemic rent relief program that ended a long time ago. And so I want to thank the board and the Department of Social Services for launching ACERP, the Albemarle County's Emergency Relief Program. Now I finally have, there was a period between the rent relief program and ACERP where I was knocking on people's doors to let them know that they were, that they were being evicted, that they were being brought to court. But other than legal assistance, there wasn't a financial

[00:29:14] assistance that I could offer them. Finally, with ACERP, there is something, but \$260,000 is not enough. It wasn't enough this year. Already we're having to, we're seeing that there's less money that's being given. And just from how many evictions there are, there's 1,430, sorry, 1,330 cases filed last year. So that's four a day. And these evictions are across Albemarle County.

[00:29:40] I looked at the list of the top 20 evictors and they are across y'all's districts. In Diantha McKeel's district, Park Charlottesville is the biggest evictor, Barracks West, Park Sedge, and Ned Galloway's district, Cobalt Ridge, formerly known as Edmonton Crossing, Mallside and Rio Hill, also among the top 20 evictors, and B. Lepisto-Kirtley's district, Wilton Farm Apartments, and Mike Pruitt's district, Cavalier Crossing in Timberland, and Jim Andrews' district, Brookdale, and that I couldn't find in Ann Malick's district, but there's lots of LLCs here that just have mysterious names that I'm not sure what apartment complex or manufacturer home community they might refer to. I'm sure there's a lot of evictions happening in

[00:30:20] your district as well. But that's all to say, ACERP needs to be funded at a much higher level. \$260,000 is about \$5,000 a week. And we're seeing that people are being brought to court for a month's rent, several months' rent. And ACERP, in order to meaningfully help the families that live in Albemarle County, it needs to be better funded. Because I'm constantly hearing, especially once acer started giving less money that there is no resource in the city or the county that will pay for a balance that is more than a month or two's worth of rent and when people lose their jobs when they lose a family member and they have to pay for the funeral when a kid is

[00:31:00] hospitalized when all these crises come it's more than just a thousand dollars that people need to pay in order to stay in their homes and it ends up saving the county money it's the right thing to do, but it also saves the county money because there's fewer services that are needed when you're able to keep people in their homes, keep kids in their schools.

[00:31:20] Yeah, so these are always hard choices with the budget. You're going to have to move money around. Last year was the first time the county put its own money into emergency rental assistance. I'm glad that it looks like it's going to continue, but it needs to be at a higher level. \$260,000 is really not enough.

[00:31:36] Thank you. Thank you. Roger Torres.

[00:31:52] Hello everybody. I would like to ask you about a commission, and I would like to ask respectfully to all of you if I could commission for him. Yes. And it's going to be less than two. Oh, okay. Okay.

[00:32:08] Thank you. Buenas noches a todos. Mi nombre es Roger Torres, y vivo en la comunidad de Southwood desde hace más de dos décadas, donde mi esposa y yo criamos una familia, y donde ahora nosotros tenemos nietos, y que viven y llaman Southwood.

[00:32:25] Su hogar creó en Dios, en mi familia y en el trabajo duro. Estos son valores que compartimos en Southwest. En diciembre, durante la época navideña, Habitat nos entregó las llaves de nuestra nueva casa. Pasamos una Navidad sin frío porque las paredes no tienen hoyos, el techo está fuerte, no tiene goteras y un sistema sanitario de aguas negras en perfecto estado.

[00:32:55] And there are no bad smells in our house. As for my family, there are more than 200 families in the park that are working to get a decent house to create their children.

[00:33:11] A house where the children are healthy and happy and can go to school and educate themselves and be men and women of good for this country. Fui y soy parte de este proyecto de Habitat de convertir Southwood de un parque de trailer a un lindo vecindario con casas dignas para todos, sin distinción de raza, color, política o religión.

[00:33:35] En esta noche vengo donde ustedes una vez más para pedirles que sigan apoyando a Habitat, que sigan apoyando a cientos de familias, a cientos de niños y niñas que son el futuro de Charlottesville, el futuro de Virginia. Gracias a todos. Que Dios los bendiga.

[00:33:54] Hello, everyone. I'm Roger Torres, a resident of Southwood for over 20 years. My wife and I raised our family here, and our grandchildren call Southwood home. I believe in God, my family, and hard work. Those are values we share at Southwood.

[00:34:13] Last December, during the Christmas season, Habitat gave us the keys to our new home. This made our Christmas warm and comfortable, as our house has no holes in the walls, no leaks in the roof, and a perfect sewage system, ensuring no unpleasant odors.

[00:34:31] Like my family, there are over 200 families in the trailer park working to have a decent home for their children, a place where kids can be healthy, happy, and attend school to become educated individuals, contributing positively to our country.

[00:34:50] I have been involved in the Habitat Project to transform Southwood from a trailer park to a welcoming neighborhood with decent homes for everyone, regardless of race, political beliefs, or religion. Tonight I come to you once again to ask you to continue to support Habitat, to continue to support hundreds of families, hundreds of children who are the future of Charlottesville, the future of Virginia.

[00:35:19] Thank you, and God bless your homes. Thank you. Teresa Timenez, Timenez, I'm probably mispronouncing that and I apologize, but I think it's Timenez. Jimenez. Timenez, Timenez, got it. Thank you.

[00:35:35] Hi everybody. Buenas noches, mi nombre es María Teresa Jimenez, vivo en Salgo desde hace 20 años. Soy la orgullosa madre de dos hijas y un varón. Mi ocupación es de limpieza de casas, pero además he emprendido un negocio de planificación de fiestas de cumpleaños.

[00:35:59] Mi familia y yo estamos sintiendo los efectos de vivir en un trailer por tantos años. Económicamente nos cuesta mucho dinero mantener una trailer caliente en el invierno. Yo pago casi 400 dólares mensualmente, lo que equivale a que debo de limpiar cuatro casas para tener ese dinero.

[00:36:17] Además, tengo que hacer constantes reparaciones en la estructura de la trailer y así evitar que se deteriore más. También emocionalmente me pongo triste porque todavía el sueño de tener una casa se me ve como algo casi imposible de lograr. Pero aún así, con esas limitaciones, mis hijas siguen estudiando y yo sigo trabajando para ser miembros útiles de esta comunidad.

[00:36:40] Sin el programa Hábitat, mi familia no tendría la oportunidad de adquirir una vivienda exequible y segura. Es un sueño por el que sigo luchando cada día de mi vida. Creo que lo lograré con fe en Dios, en Habitat y también en ustedes como autoridades porque puedan ayudarnos a continuar con este proyecto.

[00:36:59] Necesitamos recursos para seguir construyendo a Salkor y garantizar que cientos de familias puedan hacer realidad su sueño. Por favor tomen la decisión correcta, continúen apoyando a nuestro proyecto y así darle a muchas generaciones por venir un techo digno sobre sus cabezas.

[00:37:16] Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga.

[00:37:51] frame add to the challenges. Emotionally is disheartening as the dream of owning a house feels almost impossible. Despite these difficulties, my daughters are dedicated to their studies and I continue working to be a valuable member of this community. Without the Habitat program, my family wouldn't have the opportunity to acquire an affordable and safe home. It's a dream that I continue to fight for every day of my life. I believe that I will achieve it with faith

[00:38:24] in God, in Habitat and also in you as authorities who can help us to continue this project. We need resources to continue building Southwood and ensure that hundreds of families can make their dream come true. Please make the right decision and continue backing our project.

[00:38:43] Your support ensures that many generations ahead have a decent roof over their heads. you very much and may God bless you. Thank you. Carlos Marino. Good evening. I'm from the White Hall District. I'm here to, I know that you're at the beginning of your budget process and I am here to, I am hopeful that you will include robust funding for Habitat's efforts at non-displacement.

[00:39:20] To give you a little bit of background about myself, I was, I'm a Colombian immigrant. I came this country in the 60s and for many many years about 30 years of my life I was a renter in New York City as a renter I had no concept of home ownership it wasn't until many many years later when I was in my 30s when I purchased my first home and then I purchased my second home by way of background I was a state prosecutor for five years in New York City and then I was a federal prosecutor for 15 years and now at the moment I am a criminal defense attorney

[00:39:57] in the area. About two years ago, wanting to give back to the community, I was looking around at what organization I wanted to spend my time being involved with and that opportunity presented itself with Habitat. So about two years ago, I would volunteer every other Saturday morning to help build the homes at Southwood and also I acted as an interpreter for those members who were volunteering also or working 100 hours of workforce that they had to do. I would interpret for them. At another time,

[00:40:35] the opportunity arose where I actually became a member of the Habitat board, so I now sit on the board. I will tell you growing up in New York City, you know, in that neighborhood, you hear a gunshot, you learn how to duck. I tell you as I walk around Southwood and I see the children who are now playing in the homes that we have finished. You have clean streets, you have a safe environment, you have a learning environment. What Habitat is also doing is Habitat is truly helping these individuals live and experience the American dream, which is what we all want.

[00:41:10] Your support of Habitat will further that American dream of these individuals. As Dan mentioned earlier, Habitat has done so much to assist in non-displacement, which is so important. There are so many families that have chosen to stay based upon what Habitat has done to allow them to stay. Over 80 families have not been displaced due to the efforts of Habitat and due to your own efforts. I implore you and encourage you to please continue supporting Habitat in this endeavor. Thank you. Thank you. And that's all our speakers. Unless we have anybody. One more.

[00:41:59] All right. Just trying to read the handwriting and I have, it looks like I have two names. Is this Bruce? Okay, you want to come on up? Oh, and I see he's, I thought it was two names together. I'm sorry. Well, we hope you're healing nicely. We got some stitches out today,

[00:42:36] So thank you. So if you'll introduce yourself. Yeah, Bruce Eads. I'm in the Whitehall and Malik's district and been there 77 years except for when I was lived on Cherry Avenue when I grew up and graduated from Lane High School. We were all drafted at that time into the Marine Corps or Army and sent to Vietnam. Well, I came back from Vietnam. I wasn't a happy camper, so to speak. I

[00:43:10] didn't want to talk about Vietnam and I didn't talk about Vietnam for 25 years 27 years actually and a gentleman named Jim Schistler got me to speak at the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial which was the first Vietnam Memorial in the country so it was one and we call it the hill at hills because it brought me out I had to face my demons and I had a lot of demons so anyway I guess I'll get to the point uh you know we we veterans are still healing and uh i think a good way that there's

[00:43:47] 7 000 veterans in outlaw county so it's a lot of veterans and uh they're all healing from different different wars there's 25 suicides a day of veterans uh as you well know but uh we we are still healing so we think a way we can bring our community together is we can raise money for pedestrian bridge and parking lot over here at the memorial and uh it's going to take three million dollars we've got uh six million dollars uh six hundred thousand dollars at the city put in a cip uh sam sanders just got it in a cip so it's in the in the plan and they're gonna hopefully match

[00:44:26] it and uh we're we're coming to uh i talked to ann and she told me i need to apply in in september maybe for but i thought i'd get it in this year's budget uh because we're very optimistic and we'd like to get it done before a lifetime ends and uh so uh we're coming guys and uh we hope you'll help us out uh there's eight people from albemore county memorialized on that hill uh that went

[00:44:56] to albemore high school that we knew thank you thank you lord uh that those are all our speakers but I want to now give the board a chance to add any comments while we still have the public hearing open.

[00:45:14] Supervisor Galloway. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank everyone who came out this evening. As always, take diligent notes while you're speaking to the efforts and the things you're asking for support for, and we'll definitely be keeping those notes and your words in mind as we work through the budget.

[00:45:33] Are we going to be speaking again on the budget particularly, or do you want all our comments here? I think all our comments at this point. I think I just, so thank you to those who are here and hopefully for those who are listening online as well. I also want to acknowledge Mr. Richardson, the day after he presented the budget to us, I forgot the date.

[00:45:53] It was a week ago, Wednesday, but he did the employee town hall was the following day. I don't know if others were able to join in, but I appreciated the fact that you were walking through that budget for all of our staff and employees. I believe it was very well intended. You may have spoke to this when I came in late.

[00:46:09] But I especially appreciated the questions they asked and took note of those as well. I just want to acknowledge here that those questions and notes will also be kept at forefront as we work through the budget this year. So thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Supervisor Malek.

[00:46:26] Also echo thanks to all who came and spoke and listened in and encourage all of you to continue to weigh in by email or letter or further attendance at public hearings. Because lots of information will be coming forward on all chapters of the budget, lots of questions that we receive from our constituents.

[00:46:46] We're able to take those to the budget work sessions and get even more information to be able to do the very best job we can for all of us. So continue to fight on here. Thank you very much. Thank you. Supervisor Pruitt? I would just like to thank everyone who came out today for their input.

[00:47:03] I especially want to express my appreciation for everyone who came to speak on behalf of Southwood. I told a constituent just earlier today, you know, I have such tremendous pride. That is utterly unearned, because I did nothing about it, that I get to claim Southwood as being in my district.

[00:47:19] This is a truly generational investment that we're all putting into this community. It's, I think, an important national model for community-led development. And I'm excited to continue the county support of it this year moving forward.

[00:47:36] So thank you again for coming out. Supervisor Lupisto-Kurtley. And I echo the fact that what my fellow supervisors said regarding everyone coming out today, 4-H, Southwood, these are very important issues. I also, in the Vietnam Memorial, I also encourage you to come and attend or listen to each budget workshop that we have.

[00:48:00] We have a number of them coming up that you've heard. Listen to what we have to do, what we have to look at, what is being proposed. And so I encourage you to continue to be involved, and I thank you again for coming out. Supervisor McKeel?

[00:48:17] As the other supervisors have said, thank you for coming out. I would just add, on a rainy night, we very much appreciate it. Dan, the information, the data is very outstanding that you're sharing with us, and we really appreciate that.

[00:48:32] It's a great, great project. And I'm always happy to see students here. It's great to get young people into this building to speak to us. And thank you very much for coming out from the 4-H clubs. That's great. Jeff, great presentation. We appreciate staff being here.

[00:48:49] We're at the beginning of the process. And all of the information and the documents and everything, we have recordings. You can go online and listen to our meetings or listen to them as they're happening. So we encourage you to participate. And thank you very much.

[00:49:04] Okay. And I, of course, want to add my welcome and appreciation for your being here tonight to talk to us, to be present and part of the process. We welcome community engagement. This is the first public hearing. There are several more, but don't wait till the end. We need to hear from people soon, and the sooner the better. So there are ways to reach us through BOS at albomarl.org, through the county's website process with the budget office there's a online budget materials and of course we'll have regular meetings throughout this process when the public can come

[00:49:40] in make comments in addition to other methods so thank you again for being part of this process there's nothing else i will close the public hearing and if there's anything else from mr richardson or staff okay thank you well board we do have on our agenda of matters not listed on the agenda from the board so if anyone has anything we'll go through our order supervisor gallowin just as it just happened this afternoon we got updated last week on the fontaine avenue intersection and the board directed us which direction to go that did pass by unanimous vote

[00:50:17] at the mpo today well one abstention of course mr nelson from vdot abstained but the um the four electives did vote to proceed with what was presented to us last week and all questions and concerns that were brought up here were brought up this afternoon don't need to get into all of those but um i just wanted to update the board that that that has occurred thank you supervisor mount thank you very much uh i would also encourage residents to contribute your thoughts on three chapters of the their drafts um that have recently come out on the ac44

[00:50:52] comprehensive plan growth area land use and transportation is one rural area land use and Transportation is the second, and Community Facilities is the third. You may also listen to the Planning Commission discussion from last night. I think that recording will be up in a day or so, and that would be a

helpful starting place for your own comments and being able to look at the materials that are available on the website, or we can get them printed for you if you need.

[00:51:20] Also needed are elements, as we talked about on the budget, and also the solar ordinance draft, which is being discussed, and the wireless facilities. So many, many things on which to do homework and to share your own personal thoughts as we go forward.

[00:51:36] Thank you all very much. Thank you. Supervisor Proulx. I think I have nothing to add. There's an exciting announcement, but I think I'll reserve that announcement for Vice Chair McKeel in her privilege as the head of the RTP. Oh.

[00:51:53] Okay. Supervisor Lupisto currently? I'm happy to do that. Yes. I also wanted to let the audience know that we will be having, through our CACs, community advisory councils. Those are open to the public, and we will be having budget meetings or town halls to let the public know about our budget process and what it is, what it looks like.

[00:52:19] So I encourage you, wherever you live, to look up community advisory councils and attend one of the meetings in your community or outside of your community. in any district. And also I am respectfully asking the board because I would like to say that we have our parks foundation that is up and running, non-profit, that is raising money for amenities for our parks. So there are 501c3 raising private monies for our parks. And I would now like

[00:52:54] to also, with the board's permission, can start a fire rescue foundation, which would do the same thing, 501c3, raising monies for amenities for our fire departments, for our fire department. So that should be, that is already in formation, and I want to make sure that I get the approval of the board uh for that to do that yeah i don't know if that's a matter that's brought before the board i don't think it's formal is it i mean if it's an organization that's working on it they're doing

[00:53:34] it they're doing it it's not a it's a private right it's a private foundation you don't need our permission to do that no not your permission but i'll make you all aware and i appreciate that i know did mr richardson did you want to mention anything yeah the only thing that i would say members of the board would be that when any board member would ask to make you aware of something and ask for the support if there's staff involvement in the working on that or supporting that it's helpful to know that the that that the full board is aware of it and that the board

[00:54:08] endorses it so that if there is staff time and staff resources to support that endeavor that We're free and clear to prioritize that accordingly. And what we're lucky about is that we already have the Articles of Incorporation.

[00:54:24] We already have the template for that. And also the bylaws, not the bylaws, Articles of Incorporation and MOA from the Parks Foundation. So we can basically use that same format, which is what we did to start the Parks Foundation.

[00:54:41] We use the Articles Incorporation from the Police Foundation. So this is like continuing and we don't have a lot of, there would not be a lot of staff. I would feel more comfortable if I knew what was expected of staff before we go further with this involving staff time.

[00:54:59] So we can have that discussion at some point. I appreciate it. Perhaps our attorney could address that. Supervisor McKeel? I think the idea would be to let staff come back to us at a later time with

the impact. Thank you.

[00:55:15] Yes, the Regional Transit Partnership met last week. And as you all know, we have been talking about moving towards an authority, a transit authority. That was the purpose of the Regional Transit Partnership to begin with, was to slowly move us towards an authority.

[00:55:34] And we're at that point. So last week, the Regional Transit Partnership agreed to support the staff of the city and the county working together over the next 90 to 100, it's probably going to be more like 120 days, but 90 days to just begin to thrash out the basics of what would be needed to come back to the city council and the Board of Supervisors with the concept of an authority.

[00:56:08] And Ann was at the table with us, as well as someone from the city. And so it's really exciting getting through budget cycle and then having the staff look at and bring back to us the basics of what we would need.

[00:56:25] It is interesting to note, and the reason we needed to do it this way, Our enabling authority that's in the Code of Virginia says that a local authority has to begin with the city and the county. So we have to make the first step.

[00:56:42] So we'll be looking at that this summer as we go forward. Great. Yep. Looking forward to that. Yep. Board, I only want to just briefly mention that these things are piggybacking. So Supervisor Pruitt and I just had an outlaw broadband authority meeting just prior to this meeting where we heard about the VADI 2021 and VADI 22 projects which are proceeding and should still be on time for 2025 essentially connecting all the areas in the county but one of the things that struck me at the meeting is we talked briefly about the phase out unfortunately of the affordable

[00:57:17] connectivity program which has not gotten additional federal funding at this point but the transition of the people who are in that program into the regional digital equity coalition We learned we had 2,568 enrollees in that program, so it was very significant.

[00:57:35] And now this staff who are working with them are working with them to assist them with digital skills and to find transition ways to continue to be able to access the Internet and digital resources. So it was an interesting topic.

[00:57:53] If there is nothing further, Supervisor Malik. Could you say a little more about the regional digital equity? Is that something that is local, or is that an ongoing state program? You just mentioned something that I hadn't heard before, so I'm just trying to learn more about it. Well, steering committee so far, I think we have BRHD, Java, the library, others are involved.

[00:58:17] So it's a regional group for, again, helping transition from the Affordable Connectivity Program to serve this coalition as a resource for the public who otherwise would have trouble accessing the Internet.

[00:58:35] Skill development as opposed to money. Okay. And transitions to finding financial resources. Thank you. On the same level, what kind of a staff involvement would that be? This is something that part of the ABBA will already. Java always does a really great job when we're talking about working with the public, so I'm glad to see Java's name on there.

[00:58:57] If there's anything else for it, then we will adjourn to March 6th, 2024, 1 p.m. in Lane Auditorium. Opportunities for the public to access and participate in this meeting are posted on the

Albemarle County website on the Board of Supervisors homepage and on the Albemarle County calendar.

[00:59:21] Participation will include the opportunity to comment on those matters for which comments from the public will be received. Good night.



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