

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2018

At a worksession of the Orange County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Gordon Building, 112 West Main Street, Orange, Virginia. Present: James K. White, Chairman; James P. Crozier, Vice Chairman; R. Mark Johnson; S. Teel Goodwin; and Lee H. Frame. Also present: R. Bryan David, County Administrator; Thomas E. Lacheney, County Attorney; and Alyson A. Simpson, Chief Deputy Clerk.

RE: DESIGN OF THE CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY MEETING SPACE

Kurt Hildebrand, Assistant County Administrator for Operations, explained that staff at Wiley|Wilson had been working on developing a layout of the meeting space in the Consolidated Public Safety Facility and identifying the needed components for this multipurpose room. He then introduced Randy Vaughan, representative of Wiley|Wilson, who presented a conceptual design of the meeting space, which served as the starting point for this interactive design worksession.

Discussion ensued among the Board regarding: the need to solicit input from the Board prior to developing a meeting space design; ceiling height and audio/video accommodations; adequate space to still operate as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); the need to have useable and serviceable space; the fact that the space would serve multiple purposes; adjusting the location of storage areas; ensuring flexibility of the meeting space; the need to maintain secure access to certain areas of the facility; the location of the kitchen and the need to easily bring in catering, etc.; emergency ingress and egress; and desired changes to the general layout.

By consensus, the Board agreed upon the general layout and components of the Consolidated Public Safety Facility meeting space, with the changes as requested.

RE: DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMS STAFFING

R. Bryan David, County Administrator, explained that the Board had previously received information on the County's SAFER grant application, which, if awarded, would have funded a portion of the salary and benefits for three (3) additional firefighter/medic positions. Since the grant had not been awarded, he indicated that a financial projection had been prepared showing the amount necessary for a supplemental appropriation of local dollars in order fund the three (3) additional positions for this fiscal year. Mr. David stated that, based on the information provided, staff was seeking consideration from the Board to authorize the three (3) additional firefighter/medic positions, which would be funded locally.

Discussion ensued among the Board regarding: the idea that staff stress was an effect of the understaffing and position vacancies; the need to examine the cause of vacancies vs. the need for additional staff; prioritization of staffing needs; duties of the Fire Marshal; whether or not both the vacant positions and new positions could be recruited; the reality that the pool of applicants was shrinking; the difficulty in finding candidates with both firefighter and medic experience; the fact that these positions would not staff a "fifth medic unit," but would just improve the Department's staffing factor; the use of contingency vs. operating budget savings; the need to examine the overall structure of the Department; recruitment issues to solve; and future budget implications.

On the motion of Mr. Frame, seconded by Mr. Crozier, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Board authorized the hiring of an additional three (3) Firefighter/Medics in the Department of Fire and EMS, to be funded 1) through staff savings identified in the Department's operating budget and 2) through the FY18 Contingency Fund (if needed), for a final appropriation amount to be determined based on the hire date of the new positions. Additionally, the motion included a request to examine the overall staff structure of the Department of Fire and EMS.

Ayes: Johnson, White, Goodwin, Crozier, Frame. Nays: None.

RE: ADJOURN

The Board concluded its Worksession and continued to its Regular Meeting at 5:06 p.m.

James K. White, Chairman

R. Bryan David, County Administrator