

**Planning Advisory Board  
Meeting Summary  
September 11, 2019**

**Attendance:**

Board Members:

Geoffrey Close (Chair)  
James Thornton  
Diane Sengstacke  
Aaron Penman

P&Z Staff:

Brad Killian  
Jennifer Freeman

Also in Attendance:

Sharon Worthington, Volunteer Fire and EMS  
John Bender, Volunteer Fire and EMS  
Missy Valentino, HCPS  
Chris Morton, HCPS  
Cornell Brown, HCPS  
Kathy Burley, Parks and Recreation  
Paul Magness, Parks and Recreation  
Christen Sullivan, Budget  
Kim Spence, Budget  
Rob Sandlass, Treasury  
Rusty Eyre, Volunteer Fire and EMS  
Ron Sallad, Volunteer Fire and EMS  
Charles Packard, Volunteer Fire and EMS

1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) **Minutes/Summary**

The PAB members approved the summary of the July 2019 PAB meeting.

3) **Budget Overview**

Kim Spence presented a flow chart of the timeline of budget. In late August they start getting expense estimates from the Budget Office and revenue estimates from Treasury. They meet with spending Affordability. For Capital projects they start adjusting the budget book. In October and November the Departments and Agencies work on developing their Capital Budget. In December, they ask the Department to submit their capital budgets to the budget office. They take all the information and make sure the funding matched the request. And they go through the projects one by one to make sure

they are still in line with the CIP. They ask about priorities. They try to keep the bonds at \$40 or \$50 million. Everything gets sent to the County Council and each Departments presents their budget.

4) **Fiscal Year 20 Budget- Volunteer Fire Companies**

Sharon Worthington presented a plan. The fire department can't be funded like other departments in the county. They can't be funded by bond. In the past, the County would give some money toward a project and the fire company would pay the rest. They still want to build Riverside Substation. They are also asking for the following: Susquehanna Hose Co. House 1, and Aberdeen Main Station. The Aberdeen Main Station got \$1 last year of the \$1.5 million they asked for. Ms. Worthington said the longer we don't build these projects the more we have stacked up. We are always playing catch up.

Ms. Sengstacke asked about the \$1 million they got last year. Will they need \$7.9 million to finish the project? Mr. Bender said no. They need \$500,000 from the County. They have a loan also. Mr. Thornton asked if they could develop a strategy to get funding for the Fire Companies. Mr. Sandlass said there are other areas to get funding. Also, they have to go into debt and it just depends on who they are paying back. Mr. Close talked again about Riverside. Mr. Thornton said there should be a creative way to get the funds for this project. Mr. Close asked about the committee they were getting together to help with funding. Mr. Eyre said they were trying to help them find loans, not funds. They can't afford to pay the loan back. Mr. Penman asked about response times. Ms. Worthington said when they first presented the plan they had that information. But it may have changed a bit. Mr. Thornton said he doesn't think it is a problem about if Riverside is needed. It is an issue of the funding.

5) **Fiscal Year 20 Budget- Parks and Recreation**

Kathy Burley and Paul Magness presented for Parks and Recreation. They are currently working of the Ma and Pa Trail connection, Emily Bayless Graham Park construction, tuft fields at Patterson Mill High School and Edgewood High School. They are mid-process. They have \$39 million in total requests.

Mr. Thornton said asked about big ticket items in Aberdeen and Joppatowne. Are they prioritized and do they provide what they recommend? Ms. Burley said yes. They use the Land Preservation Parks and Rec Plan as a guide among other resources. Mr. Thornton asked about Cedar Lane. Ms. Burley said they have a management agreement with Cedar Lane. Mr. Close asked if that agreement gets renewed. Ms. Burley said yes. Mr. Penman asked if there is a list of projects they want to see funded first. Mr. Magness said do go through the projects first. Then it goes through the budget process. Ms. Sengstacke asked to you fine tune some of the requests. Mr. Magness said yes. Parks and Rec. helps the councils come up with all the expenses. Ms. Sengstacke asked about

big ticket items. Ms. Burley said buildings cost a lot. And they don't just hand them the money. They have a say in what it built.

6) **Fiscal Year 20 Budget- Board of Education**

Cornell Brown, Chris Morton and Missy Valentino presented for Board of Education. They had several categories for their requests. Their total local request is \$58,651,000 and total state request is \$13,942,000. These are pending numbers. They have not been approved by the Board of Education yet. They went over some of the local only needs. They also went over state and local funding needs, which include Hickory Elementary School Roof Replacement, Joppatowne High School Limited Renovation, and Bel Air Middle School Roof Replacement. They also went over the process that they go through for the budget.

Mr. Close asked about the State funding formula. Mr. Morton said they change it every few years usually 2 years. Mr. Thornton asked about the money the governor said he set aside for infrastructure. Mr. Morton said there was a reduction in capital program. He thinks the first bit of money was for educational projects and the next bit will be for facilities. That is what he has heard. Mr. Brown pointed out that individual items in the budget are in the back of the presentation.

7) **Other Business**

The Board members decided to meet at 5:30 October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Penman asked about the AGR data for police. They will discuss Zoning Enforcement issues in January. Mr. Penman asked historically what the amount was put aside for Capital Projects in the budget.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.