

HENRICO COUNTY'S BUDGET PROCESS

THE BUDGET CYCLE

August 2016

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September 2016

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October 2016

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August through September

Revenue Estimates

Henrico County's budget process begins with an estimate of revenues in order to develop a budget balanced within resources. Revenue estimates begin in August of the year prior to the fiscal year being adopted. This process includes the review of current County finances, local and regional economic conditions, and a re-examination of key local economic indicators. This includes such specifics as building permits, tax assessments, business license records, retail sales by category and type. The questions that are asked in this review are aimed at acquiring relevant financial information that will set the broad limits of budgetary possibilities. From a fiscal perspective, the basic question is whether current revenues support the necessary budgetary outlays.

October

Target Development

The next step in the budget process is to create a funding or target allocation for each department, which is calculated by the Office of Management and Budget in October. Debt service requirements are the top priority before targets are created for the individual departments. Payroll expenditures are the next "fixed" obligation. The target allocation provides the funding for all of the current positions in the County's personnel complement. The target allocation assigned to the individual department also provides funding for operating and capital outlay items, which are based on the prior year approved budget. It does not automatically include

an inflation factor for operating expenditures, nor does it fund any new services or positions. The target allocations do, where applicable, include the operating costs of new facilities approved in prior year budgets. This "link" between the operating and capital budgets is performed through an annual crosswalk that determines all such costs. The FY2017-18 Operating budget includes all operating costs arising from new facilities that are anticipated to become operational during the fiscal year. For additional information, please see "Capital Improvement Program – Implications on Operating Budget", found elsewhere in this document.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

November 2016

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together with supporting narrative information. When expenditure needs exceed the target allocation, departments must submit a request for additional funding. Certain County departments such as Education, Police, and Fire are considered priorities when allocating new funds among departments. Each request must be prioritized and prepared with detailed justification to support the need for additional funding.

November

Budget Call for Estimates

Each year all County departments receive the County Manager's "Call for Estimates" (i.e., budget call) in November, which contains the budget policy, special budget instructions, various revisions to the budget manual, a budget calendar, and the target allocation. The Call for Estimates is accompanied by information on using the County's Automated Budget System, which enables the departments to prepare their budget requests on their departmental personal computers and submit them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) electronically. The budget request consists of expenditure estimates in detail by line item, and in summary,

December 2016

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range considerations into the annual budget process. The County benefits by examining historical trends of financial and economic indicators prior to initiating the budget process. For more information regarding the Trends document, please see: <http://henrico.us/finance/divisions/office-of-management-and-budget/financial-trends/>

November through December

Financial Trend Monitoring System

An important step of the budget process involves the completion of the Financial Trend Monitoring System Trends Document, which represents an eleven-year evaluation of past financial and economic indicators. These indicators, over time, may reflect fluctuations, which when analyzed, prove to be extremely valuable as a management tool. The document allows staff to monitor changes in all aspects of the local economy and provides an insight into possible trends that may impact future decision making. This document, which analyzes historical trends, is utilized as a forecasting tool and provides a logical way of introducing long-

December

Budget Submissions

All County departments submit their budgets in the first week in December for initial review by the Office of Management and Budget. This includes both the target allocation as well as any supplemental requests for funding. The Budget Director and the OMB staff prepare the revenue estimates, and work closely with the County Manager and department administrators in reviewing expenditure estimates both in program and financial terms.

January 2017

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December through January

Review of Budget Submissions

The Office of Management and Budget reviews each department's budget submission and provides recommendations, as appropriate, to the County Manager. These recommendations include expenditure analyses and evaluations of budget submissions. As a result of this review, a narrative for each department is created.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

February 2017

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the time of these reviews and have the opportunity to make presentations and answer questions relative to their budget requests. The Budget Office finalizes recommendations based on the Executive Review Committee results.

January through February

Executive Budget Reviews

After the expenditure estimates are analyzed, department requests are presented to the Executive Budget Review Committee. This Committee holds hearings to discuss budget submissions with departments in the last week of January through the first week in February. The Executive Budget Review Committee consists of the County Manager, (four) Deputy County Managers, the Director of Finance, the Director of Human Resources, one department director on a rotating basis, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the supporting (six) budget analysts. The representatives from the departments are present at

March 2017

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intensive research and analysis. The purpose of the document is to present to the legislative body and the public a comprehensive picture of proposed operations for the budget year, expressed in both verbal and statistical terms. During the hearings, the Board of Supervisors examines all line items in each of the department’s budgets and all associated operational premises. These hearings are held during the course of one week, in the middle of March, approximately eight hours per day. Based on these hearings, the County Board of Supervisors may amend the County Manager’s Proposed Budget.

March

Legislative Budget Reviews

Based on information exchanged during the Executive Budget Reviews, a balanced budget is recommended by the County Manager to the County Board of Supervisors as the Proposed Budget in early March. (The Code of Virginia requires that the County Manager submit a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors). The Legislative Budget Review Committee is comprised of the County Board of Supervisors, which represents each of the County’s five magisterial districts. The budget document that is presented to the County Board of Supervisors during these hearings represents the culmination of long periods of

April 2017

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April (Second and Fourth Tuesdays)

Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget

Once the County Board of Supervisors has received the County Manager’s Proposed Budget, advertisements in the local newspaper are ordered and a date is set for the Budget Public Hearing in April. The FY2017-18 Public Hearing was held on April 11, 2017. The public hearing that sets the tax levies was held on April 25, 2017. The Code of Virginia requires that the County advertise a synopsis of the budget in the newspaper and that one or more public hearings be held before the Board adopts the budget. The Board of Supervisors adopts the Annual Fiscal Plan during this month and sets tax levies for the Calendar Year.

THE BUDGET CYCLE

May 2017

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May

Publish and Distribute Budget

During the month of May, the final Annual Fiscal Plan is compiled, published, and distributed.

June 2017

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June

Appropriation of Budget

In the final month of the current fiscal year (last Board meeting in June), the Board of Supervisors appropriates funding for the next Annual Fiscal Plan, which is required by the Code of Virginia.

During the Fiscal Year

Transfers

The County Manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any Fund; however, any revisions that alter the total budgeted amounts and/or appropriations of any Fund require an amendment to the budget. The Code of Virginia requires that the Board of Supervisors approve any amendment request. If the total amendment requested at any one time is over one percent of the current total appropriation, the request also must be advertised in the newspaper and a public hearing must be held before the Board can act.