OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

DESCRIPTION

Non-pension benefits provided to employees after employment ends are referred to as Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) defines OPEB as health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, and term care coverage for retirees and their families. Other post-employment benefits are part of the compensation package employees earn each year, even though the benefits are not received until employment has ended. For Henrico County, these benefits are confined to retiree health insurance for those retirees opting to remain with the county's health care provider.

The rating agencies consider OPEB funding status in their evaluations of government financial condition. It is possible that bond ratings may suffer for governments with large liabilities and no defined way to pay for these future costs. Under the guidelines, OPEB financial information will be produced using actuarial valuations performed in accordance with GASB standards. The actuarial valuations should be performed at least every two years for plans that administer OPEB for 200 or more plan members (active and retired) or every three years for plans with fewer than 200 members. Henrico County's update was completed as of June 30, 2020.

As a result of the financial reporting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), this fiduciary fund was created in FY2007-08. This fund allows the county to budget for the annual cost of public employee non-pension benefits and all outstanding obligations and commitments related to OPEB in the same manner as reporting financial information for pensions. It is the intent of the County of Henrico to fully meet the GASB 45 funding requirement that began in FY2007-08.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The OPEB budget for FY2021-22 is \$2,750,000, representing an increase of \$2,675,000 from the prior fiscal year which had been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Budgeted funds address costs associated with this accounting standard. It should be noted that \$2,675,000 will come from the General Fund and \$75,000 will cover the Water and Sewer portion of this requirement. The budget continues to meet anticipated funding requirements. Future contributions will continue to be based on independent actuarial analysis.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

		FY20		FY21		FY22	Change
Description	Actual		Original		Approved		21 to 22
OPEB Contribution	\$	800,000	\$	75,000	\$	2,750,000	3,566.7%
Total OPEB	\$	800,000	\$	75,000	\$	2,750,000	3,566.7%