
Introduction and Background

- **December 9th is the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the year**; this is the last meeting before the deadline the Board has set to decide whether to move forward with the independent library.
- The Board of Supervisors pointed to finances as the main reason why they wish to leave PRL; despite the fact that the library budget has remained just under 2% of the county's overall budget for over a decade.
- The breakdown in funding shows that King William County pays 12% of PRL's shared services budget, Goochland pays 16%, and Hanover pays 72%
- The library budget is broken down into two components: shared services and staffing for both Upper King William and West Point Branches. **KW pays \$232,177 toward shared services (collections, transit services, technical services, etc.) and the remaining \$370,729 for staffing two libraries, as well as building rent and maintenance.**

Library of Virginia

- Nan Carmack from the Library of Virginia (LVA) explained the reason why counties join regional library systems: it's a financially efficient way to provide library services.
 - KW would have to pay to hire a library director with a Master of Library Science (MLS), a librarian to catalog, an integrated library system to check books in and out, etc. All of this is already being provided through the shared services budget for PRL.
 - Virginia codes govern public library systems.
 - The 2 year requirement to leave is set by the state not PRL.
 - The state incentivizes regionalism; counties receive more state funds if they are part of a regional system (10 cents more per person).
 - Why does the state do this? Because it's effective. The state is committed to providing public library services for everyone.
 - KW leaving the regional system will leave state aid on the table for the county. That money will just go to another public library in the state, but why wouldn't King William want to take advantage of what's already available for them?

- New library systems MUST provide a 5 year plan and expenditures cannot fall under that of the previous year. **The county CANNOT just single out the library budget and cut that every year. If they do so, they can lose all state aid.**

Possible Solution

- There was a proposal sent to the Board of Supervisors that would reduce library costs by \$33,000; the proposal suggested moving the UKW Branch to a county-owned facility to reduce the \$33,000 cost in rent and maintenance and remain a part of PRL. The Board acknowledged receipt of this proposal but offered no further feedback.
- Collection costs must be maintained every single year. Libraries do not just buy one set of books and items as a one-time cost. PRL currently pays around \$765,000 for books every single year. Just for the books; this does not include equipment and or staffing. This means KW pays \$232,177 to access an existing collection already worth millions and one that costs \$765,000 to maintain every year.

Q&A Comments

- State aid cannot be used for things like staffing or building costs.
- Save the KW Library's messages focus only on the costs regarding library services because every single public statement by the Board of Supervisors has said this is their main focus.
- There have been members of the community that focus on "inappropriate books" being allowed in PRL libraries. However, there are concerns by residents about what could happen if the independent county library starts censoring books and the possible costs associated with lawsuits that could accrue due to these actions.
- A resident brought up the desire to own the items in the collection and why this is problematic. Library patrons want to read new books, not continue to read the same books the library can afford to "own." **Service** is the goal of public libraries...not ownership.
- KQ residents lost access to PRL resources for two years; PRL's Board of Trustees will reevaluate in 2025, so it is unknown whether King William would also be subject to this restriction.
- Per Nan Carmack, both Supervisors present in the meeting with the Library of Virginia (Mary Sue Bancroft and Lindsay Robinson) stated that her fiscal presentation was "eye-

opening.” Ms. Carmack was not aware of any change of opinion either Supervisor may have had since then.

- Per LVA, libraries are structured in 3 different ways (regional, county/city, and 501-C3s).
 - The majority of the localities in Virginia are county/city libraries.
 - There are 12 to 15 regional library systems in Virginia.
 - 94 library entities receive state funding from the Library of Virginia.
- LVA could only find one other county with King William’s demographics that was not a part of a regional library system. This is because small, rural counties cannot usually fund library services without banding together with other localities.
- PRL posts statistics on the library website that shows usage by branch.
- If KW votes to leave PRL, only a vote from the Boards of Supervisors in both Hanover and Goochland County would allow KW to return to PRL.
- The only leverage the community currently has is to make their voices heard directly to the Board of Supervisors.
- Per a resident at the meeting, signatures from 100 residents from each district can lead to a recall vote for a member of the Board of Supervisors.
- There are 2 members of the Board of Supervisors who were elected on a 2-year term (1st and 5th District - Mary Sue Bancroft and William Hodges).