

Organizational Meeting, Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 5:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an organizational meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 246<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator, welcomed those present for the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Morelli, Supervisor for the South River District, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Seaton, Supervisor for the Wayne District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN -- 2023

Mr. Wells nominated Michael Shull Chairman for 2023, seconded by Dr. Seaton.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Carter, Garber, Wells, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Shull

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull appointed Chairman for 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*

January 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2023

Chairman Shull called for nominations for Vice-Chairman for 2023.

Mr. Morelli nominated Mr. Slaven for Vice-Chair for 2023, seconded by Mr. Wells.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Carter, Garber, Wells, Seaton and Morelli  
                                      Nays: None  
                                      Abstain: Slaven

Motion carried.

Mr. Slaven appointed Vice-Chairman for 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023

The Board considered the Board Meeting Schedule for 2023.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board adopt the schedule and resolution:

	Regular Meetings		Staff Briefings
	Wednesday		Monday
	7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
JANUARY	4 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	
(ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING)			
JANUARY	11 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
FEBRUARY	8 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> (Tues)
MARCH	8 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
APRIL	12 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
MAY	10 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
JUNE	14 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
JULY	12 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
AUGUST	9 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
SEPTEMBER	13 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
OCTOBER	11 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>
NOVEMBER	8 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> (Tues)	20 <sup>th</sup>
DECEMBER	13 <sup>th</sup>		

**Special Meetings:**

Budget Hearing                                   April 12, 2023 (or April 19 -- Special Meeting)  
Budget Adoption                                April 26, 2023 (or May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Special Meeting)  
Organizational Meeting                        January 3, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

- March 27<sup>th</sup> –Budget Briefing
- November 13-15 – VACO Annual Conference
- July 12<sup>th</sup> (previously cancelled –7/9/14; 7/8/15; 7/13/16; 7/12/17; 7/11/18; 7/10/19,7/8/20,7/14/21,7/13/22)







Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Morelli, South River District, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ms. Carter, Pastures District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS FOR 2023 APPOINTED BY THE BOARD**

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board appoint the following:

- a. Chief Greg Schacht and Mr. Shull (Chairman of the Board) to the Local Emergency Planning Commission.
- b. Richard Williams, W. Douglas Riley, B. Randolph Roller, Joseph Sapotoczny, Ashlie Howell and Jean Shrewsbury (Commissioner of the Revenue) to the Agriculture and Forestal District Committee.
- c. Michael Shull as Emergency Management Director
- d. Timothy Fitzgerald as Emergency Management Co-Director
- e. Patrick Lam as Emergency Management Coordinator
- f. Anthony Ramsey as Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
- g. Michael Shull and Jeff Slaven to the Audit Committee

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MIDDLE RIVER PARKS AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board considered funding for repairs of New Hope Community Center roof in the amount of \$11,955.00.

Funding Source: Middle River Parks & Rec Infrastructure 8022-55 \$11,955.00

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is for a roof at the New Hope Community Center. The roof has significant damage and considered was a safety hazard. Our Maintenance Department removed the canopy roof and made it safe. A contractor has repaired the roof.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board approve the funding request as presented.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

SOUTH RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST

The Board considered a funding request for Stuarts Draft fire hydrant from the South River Infrastructure Account.

Funding Source: South River Infrastructure 8016-105 \$6,000.00

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Big "O" Tree Service is constructing a new building on Flory Avenue in Stuarts Draft. In order to connect to public water, they are required to extend the public water line from the main line located on the Hershey Chocolate property approximately 175 feet and install a new fire hydrant. The Augusta County Service Authority has been contracted to do the installation. They would in the future connect to the hydrant and increase the size of their existing water line down Flory Avenue which would result in increased water pressure and fire flow to the existing 12 homes on Flory Avenue and also downtown Stuarts Draft. This infrastructure improvement will benefit the Stuarts Draft downtown community.

Mr. Morelli moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve the funding request as presented.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIRE RESCUE APPARATUS REQUEST

The Board considered the purchase of a heavy squad truck replacement in the amount of \$1,736,617.00. This amount includes a 5% contingency.

Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, stated that the purpose of this request is to purchase one heavy squad truck and to execute an agreement with Atlantic Emergency Solutions/Pierce Manufacturing. The apparatus committee chaired by Battalion chief Christian Ruleman, with oversight by Deputy Chief Jeff Hurst, held numerous meetings







January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter encouraged the Board to read the CAP-SAW Annual Report. When the Chicken Ordinance was voted on at the November 22, 2022 meeting, there was a misunderstanding of what was to be included in the ordinance. She requests having the ordinance re-advertised and brought to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Wells requested that Staff send an appreciation letter to all utility companies for their hard work and dedication during the holidays.

Dr. Seaton asked what the status was on the digital radio system. He extended congratulations to Delegate Ellen Campbell on the special election win.

Mr. Morelli thanked Mr. Garber and Mr. Wells for their work as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Shull thanked everyone for coming out. He recommends having Board participation in the Emergency Officers Association. Ms. Carter and Mr. Shull will serve on the committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) If there are questions or comments regarding the Board Rules of Order that will be on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda please let him know.
- 2) General Assembly is back in session. House Bill 1818 is being considered. This bill would allow the county to consider a fire tax on land qualifying for land use.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

- 1. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body
  - a) John Doe 5, John Doe 6, and John Doe 7, by and through their next friend, Nelson Delores Lopez, on behalf of themselves and all persons similarly situated v. Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center Commission (W.D. Va., Case No. 5:17-cv-00097-EKD-JCH)
- 2. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(19) discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure
  - a) Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center

\* \* \* \* \*





Staff Briefing Meeting, Monday, January 23, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development  
Alidia Vane, Planner II  
Elizabeth Goodloe, Planner I  
Misty Cook, Finance Director  
James Benkahla, County Attorney

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

VDOT ROADS

Don Komara, Residency Administrator, discussed the VDOT status report of January 23, 2023.

The Board accepted the report as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIRE AND RESCUE

a. Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, discussed the Fire and Rescue year-end report.

The Board accepted the monthly report as information.

b. Previously Postponed-Chief Schacht discussed the purchase of heavy squad truck replacement in the amount of \$1,736,617.00.

The Board authorized placing on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

REVENUE RECOVERY UPDATE

a. Misty Cook, Director of Finance, discussed a Revenue Recovery rate increase.

The Board authorized placing on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

b. Ms. Cook discussed the CMS Data Collection numbers.

The Board accepted as information.



January 23, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cook, Director of Finance, presented the Board with the Quarterly Financial Report.

The Board accepted the report as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD RULES OF ORDER

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, discussed the Board Rules of Order.

The Board authorized placing on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed a funding request of \$16,175.93 from Mount Solon Volunteer Fire Department.

Funding Source: North River Infrastructure 8013-71

The Board authorized placing on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, discussed the following:

- a. Board of Supervisors Strategic Plan
- b. School Funding
- c. Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan

The Board authorized placing on the January 26, 2022 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLANNING COMMISSION/PUBLIC HEARING

Previously Postponed-

Elizabeth Goodloe, Planner I, discussed a request to rezone from Single-Family Residential to Attached Residential approximately 3 acres of a 4.5-acre parcel owned by 127 Investments, LLC located on 1357 Jefferson Highway in Fishersville in the Beverley Manor District.

The Board authorized placing on the January 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

January 23, 202, at 1:30 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton requested the unemployment rates and total employment for the County.

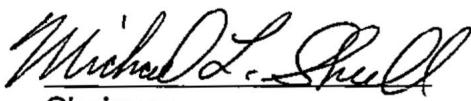
\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

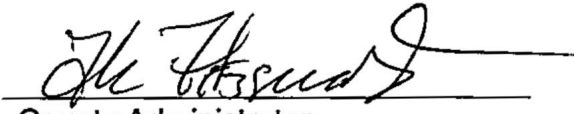
Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Flow ownership change.
- 2) General Assembly session.

\* \* \* \* \*



Chairman



County Administrator

H1-23sadmin.2023



Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Seaton, Wayne District, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

**127 INVESTMENTS, LLC 9JEFFERSON HIGHWAY) - REZONING WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT**

Previously Postponed-Consider a request to rezone from Single-Family Residential to Attached Residential approximately 3 acres of a 4.5 acres parcel owned by 127 Investments, LLC located on 1357 Jefferson Highway in Fishersville in the Beverley Manor District.

\* \* \* \* \*

**REVENUE RECOVERY RATE**

The Board considered a Revenue Recovery Rate increase.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that in 2020 the Board requested that rates be reviewed yearly and provide a recommendation on the ambulance billing rates compared to Medicare allowable rates. Medicare releases the upcoming calendar year rates in November/December and this year they issued an amended fee schedule on January 9, 2023. For 2023, there was an increase over the rates for the prior year, approximately 8%. Revenue Recovery rates are set at 125% of the Medicare allowable rate.



January 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE RESCUE APPARATUS REQUEST (CONT'D)

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Carter and Seaton  
Nays: Slaven, Wells, Garber and Morelli

Motion fails.

Chief Schacht received email confirmation that the proposal date is valid through February 3, 2023.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board approve proceeding with the purchase as presented with an expiration date of February 3, 2023 based on the email received during the meeting.

Mr. Wells stated that this bid went out to hundreds of vendors and we only received one.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton  
and Morelli  
Nays: Shull

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARD RULES OF ORDER

The Board considered the Board Rules of Order.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the original Rules of Order that were adopted last year were sent to the Board. There were no changes made to the document.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board adopt the original Rules of Order.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton  
and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST

The Board considered a funding request of \$16,175.93 from Mount Solon Volunteer Fire Department.

Funding Source: North River Infrastructure 8013-71 \$16,175.93

Mr. Slaven stated that Mount Solon Volunteer Fire/Rescue has requested funding for vehicle stabilization equipment.





January 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

The Chairman asked if there is any Board member who cannot so certify.

Hearing none, the Chairman called upon the County Administrator/ Clerk of the Board to call the roll noting members of the Board who approve the certification shall answer AYE and those who cannot shall answer NAY.

Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton  
and Morelli

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Chairman authorized the County Administrator/Clerk of the Board to record this certification in the minutes.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Garber, that the Board appoint Alidia Vane to serve an unexpired term on the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission. Effective immediately and to expire June 30, 2023.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton  
and Morelli

Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*


ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Seaton, moved that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton  
and Morelli

Nays: None

Motion carried.

  
Chairman

  
County Administrator



Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development  
Alidia Vane, Planner I  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following students from Fort Defiance High School Future Farmers of America led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Lee Kent is a junior and is the FFA Sentinel. He plans to become a Diesel Mechanic.

Claire McNeal is the FFA Junior President and plans to work with animals.

Chloe Phillips is a senior and the FFA Chapter President.

Rylee Shiflett is a junior and the FFA Historian. He plans to be full time farmer.

Olivia Tarbell is a freshman and the Junior Vice President. She plans to be a livestock photographer.

Allison Rhodes is a junior and the FFA Secretary. She plans to study poultry science.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Seaton, Wayne District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-SECTION 25-123-DOMESTIC CHICKENS

This being the day and time advertised to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 25. Zoning. Division C. Single-Family Residential Districts. Article XII. Rural Residential Districts. Section 25-123. Uses permitted by Administrative Permit E. Domestic Chickens.

Alidia Vane, Senior Planner I, stated that Rural Residential Districts are intended to provide space for low density residential development of an exclusive nature interspersed with agricultural lands and uses. The minimum lot size for rural residential is two acres, but majority of rural residential lots within the County are over five acres. Amendment repeals current ordinance to be replaced by the following:

The keeping of chicken hens shall be permitted by Administrative Permit provided:

1. Lots containing two (2) acres but less than five (5) acres shall be allowed to have no more than 6 chicken hens per parcel and will be accessory to a single-family dwelling. Chickens shall not be permitted on any parcel of land that is within five hundred (500) feet of any poultry house. Chickens shall only be raised for domestic purposes. No commercial on-site use on the property such as selling eggs or selling chickens for meat shall be allowed.
2. Lots containing five (5) acres or more shall be allowed to have no more than 12 chicken hens per parcel and will be accessory to a single-family dwelling. Chickens shall not be permitted on any parcel of land that is within five hundred (500) feet of any poultry house. Chickens shall only be raised for domestic purposes. No commercial on-site use on the property such as selling eggs or selling chickens for meat shall be allowed.
3. This ordinance will not supersede restrictions by HOAs or deed restrictions.
4. No roosters, capons, or crowing hens shall be allowed.
5. If kept in a secure movable coop or pen, all coops and enclosed pens must be located behind the front building line of the principal structure and may not be erected, altered, located, reconstructed, or enlarged nearer than twenty-five (25') from any property lines or thirty-five feet (35') from any stream or any river and shall not be located in any storm water management area, flood plain, or Source Water Protection Area 1.
6. In the event of the Department of Community Development receiving and verifying three substantial and credible complaints of violation of any provision of this chapter and after notice given of such to the permit holder, the permit shall be revoked.
7. Upon revocation of the permit, chickens must be removed within 30 days or be subject to removal. Any person(s) so having a permit revoked shall not be allowed, at any time, to make application for another permit for two (2) years; and
8. Unexplained bird deaths will be reported to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
9. The permit applicant must be the owner of the property or must have and submit written consent of the owner of the property as part of the Keeping of Poultry Permit application to keep chickens on the property. Upon written notice of the property owner's withdrawal or cancellation or termination of such approval, the permit shall be revoked by the Director of Community Development.
10. In all cases, the permit to keep chickens is issued non-transferrable and does not run with the land.

The proposed text states that six hens are allowed for lots of two to five acres and twelve hens for lots of five plus acres. This is an increase from four hens. The proposed text adds that this will not supersede HOA's or deed restrictions. This is new language. The proposed text states that no roosters, capons, or crowing hens shall be allowed. This language remains the same. The proposed text states that keeping hens in a coop or pen is optional. If chickens are kept in coops or pens they must meet setbacks. The proposed text states that if three credible complaints of violation are received, the permit shall be revoked. This language remains the same. The proposed text states that if permit is revoked, the applicant must wait two years to reapply. This is reduced from five years. Proposed text states that unexplained bird deaths will be reported to VDACS. The work "all" was removed.

The following items were removed the current ordinance:

- No outside slaughter.
- Hens must be kept in coops and pens.
- Pens must be kept in a neat and sanitary condition.
- Feed shall be kept in a secure container or location.

February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-SECTION 25-123-DOMESTIC CHICKENS (CONT'D)

- Chicken litter and chicken waste shall be collected by a litter service or taken to the county landfill.
- Any dead bird shall be taken to the county landfill.
- Permit application must include a sketch of all enclosures, dimensions, and setbacks.
- Notification of adjoining property owners
- Site and enclosures to be inspected and approved by Community Development.
- Chickens must be tagged with an identification band.
- Pausing the issuance of permits during a threat of avian influenza or other poultry disease.

The Planning Commission recommends that the requirement for chickens to be kept in pens or coops including the current setbacks remains in the ordinance due to the fact that Augusta County is a fenced in county. The Planning Commission also recommends that three or more unexplained bird deaths within a 48-hour period be reported to VDACS and the issuance of permits be suspended if an outbreak of Avian Influenza or other poultry disease is reported should be kept in the ordinance.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open.

Jeremy Nance spoke in opposition of the ordinance as a whole. There should not be any restrictions.

Trent Byerly spoke against the part of the ordinance restricting the sale of eggs.

There being no other speakers, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve the ordinance amendment as advertised with an addition of 3 or more deaths to be reported.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the Avian Flu outbreak in the surrounding areas.

Dr. Seaton stated that there is already a Domestic Chicken Ordinance in place and he is unclear how waiting on this amendment would affect the Avian Flu outbreak.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Slaven, Garber, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
                                      Nays: Shull and Wells

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

SMARTSCALE SUPPORT LETTER

The Board considered the Smartscale application support letter.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the City of Waynesboro is applying for a RAISE Grant. This falls under an approval that done in June 2022 related to a Smartscale project. The application would be for constructing approximately 1.3 miles of a shared use path from 1800 east Market Street in Waynesboro to the western trail of the Blue Ridge Tunnel. This will be part of a continuous path that will go from East Main Street in Waynesboro to Route 6 in Afton and it would get non-vehicular traffic off of the roadway onto a shared use path. The Board has supported a previous BUILD grant application for the same segment that the City of Waynesboro applied for in 2018. The RAISE grant is the new BUILD grant.



February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD (CONT'D)

Ms. Whetzel stated that BARC is doing a project in the southern part of the County. The County is not involved in a grant application with BARC. This is a project that has been going on for a couple of years. BARC is evaluating the project in regards to cost and will take it back to their Board to make a decision on the next steps.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) House Bill 1818 passed the House and is headed to the Senate.
- 2) Meeting with School Board members regarding a Joint Board of Supervisors and School Board meeting. Per direction from the Board of Supervisors, the meeting should take place prior to the Budget Worksession.
- 3) Presented John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development, with a seal for his years of service with the County.

Mr. Wilkinson thanked the Board. He has enjoyed his twenty-three years with the County.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

(1) the legal counsel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2 3711(A)(7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

- a. Turley, et al. v. Holmes, et al. (GV22000714-00)
- b. Regulation of short-term rentals on property with agritourism activities.

(2) the legal counsel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.23711(A)(8) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

- a. Turley, et al. v. Holmes, et al. (GV22000714-00)
- b. Regulation of short-term rentals on property with agritourism activities.

\* \* \* \* \*





Staff Briefing Meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development  
Alidia Vane, Planner II  
Elizabeth Goodloe, Planner I  
Misty Cook, Finance Director  
James Benkahla, County Attorney

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

VDOT ROADS

1. Don Komara, Residency Administrator, discussed the VDOT status report of February 21, 2023.

The Board accepted the report as information.

2. Street Addition-Bridgeport Phase 2, Section 2
3. Street Addition-Spring Lakes Phase 2, Section 7

The Board authorized placing on the February 22, 2023 Consent Agenda.

4. Adam Campbell gave a STARS Study Update.

The Board accepted as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIRE AND RESCUE

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, discussed the Fire and Rescue year-end report.

The Board accepted the monthly report as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

REGIONAL RADIO PROJECT

Cheryl Giggetts, Principle Consultant for CTA Consultants, gave a presentation on the radio project.

The Board accepted as information.

February 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

OVERLOOK RIDGE MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The Board discussed a revitalization resolution.

Alidia Vane, Planner II, stated that the County has received a request from Overlook Ridge VA, LLC for the Board of Supervisors to consider passing a resolution designating TMP 075-45, on the west side of White Hill Road approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of White Hill Road and Stuarts Draft Highway in Stuarts Draft, in the Riverheads District, as a revitalization area to improve the grant scoring process for VHDA low income tax credits.

The Board authorized placing on the February 22, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

ARTS GRANT

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, discussed the FY2024 Arts Grant.

The Board requested placing on the March 20, 2023 Staff Briefing agenda for further discussion.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*


MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. Economic Development Report
2. Board of Zoning Appeals Annual Report
3. Building Inspection Annual Report
4. Planning Commission Annual Report
5. VPSA Bond sale application for the middle school projects will go in at the end of the month.
6. Joint School Board meeting is on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
7. Ending of the public health emergency.
8. Sheriff Donald Smith gave a body and dash camera update.
9. Fire-Rescue study update.
10. HB1818 regarding the fire tax passed Senate.

The Board accepted as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

  
Chairman

  
County Administrator



Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton (Via Electronic)  
Steven Morelli  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following students from Stuarts Draft High School led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Dean Altis is a senior. He plays three sports and plans to get his real estate license after graduation.

McKenzie Tillman is a three-star athlete. She plans to attend Mary Baldwin University to play softball and become a Physical Education Teacher.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board allow Dr. Seaton to join the meeting electronically.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Wells, Carter and Morelli  
Nays: None  
Absent: Garber and Seaton

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION PRESENTATION

Todd Clingenpeel, DCJS Accreditation Program Manager Division of Law Enforcement, presented Sheriff Donald Smith and the Augusta County Sheriff's Department with their accreditation certificate.

Sheriff Donald Smith thanked Mr. Clingenpeel for all of his help in achieving this accreditation. He also thanked his Deputies for their hard work and effort in protecting the community. Sheriff Smith thanked the Board of Supervisors, the Administration Office and the community for their support.

Mr. Shull thanked Sheriff Smith and all of his officers for their dedication to the County and their community.

Mr. Wells is proud of the Sheriff's Department's accomplishments.

Ms. Carter thanked Sheriff Smith and his department for all that they do.

Mr. Slaven thanked Sheriff Smith and his department for what they do every day.

Dr. Seaton congratulated the Sheriff and his Deputies.

Mr. Morelli congratulated the Sheriff, his deputies and his administrative office.

Mr. Garber congratulated the Sheriff and his Deputies.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Board took a five-minute break.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMERICAN RED CROSS PROCLAMATION

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board adopt the following proclamation:

**AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH, 2023  
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, During American Red Cross Month in March, we celebrate the humanitarian spirit of Augusta County and reaffirm our commitment to help ensure no one faces a crisis alone.

WHEREAS, Caring for one another is at the heart of our community and exemplified by the people of Augusta County, whose simple acts of kindness through the Red Cross provide help and hope in people's most difficult moments — continuing the lifesaving legacy of Clara Barton, who founded the organization more than 140 years ago to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

WHEREAS, Every day, these ordinary individuals lend a helping hand to make an extraordinary difference for neighbors in need — whether it's providing emergency shelter, food and comfort for families displaced by home fires and other disasters; donating lifesaving blood for cancer patients, accident victims, and people with sickle cell disease and other life-threatening conditions; supporting military members and veterans, along with their families and caregivers, through the unique challenges of service; using vital skills like first aid and CPR to help others survive medical emergencies; or delivering international humanitarian aid and reconnecting loved ones separated by crises around the world.



March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/ABANDONMENTS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROUTES RESOLUTION (CONT'D)

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the resolution as presented.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

OPIOID RESOLUTION

The Board considered resolution for inclusion in opioid settlement.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that new national opioid settlements have been reached with Teca, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. Virginia has elected to participate in one or more of the five national opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. The County may participate in each settlement for which Virginia has elected to participate. The County participated in the national opioid settlements with Johnson Johnson/Janssen or the three Distributors. Your subdivision or special district must "opt" in to participate in the new settlements by adopting a resolution for inclusion.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board approve the opioid resolution for inclusion in the opioid settlement.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Presentation by Staff.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the County launched a Community Survey in March 2022 as a way to holistically understand the residents concerns and learn more about community priorities. The survey measures how satisfied residents are with their community and government services. It also compares the County and time to similar or cohort counties that are also involved in the survey. Statistically, the report covers responses that are digitally recruited, so it is over social media, mobile apps, local websites and survey panels. This was between the period of July to December 2022. Ms. Whetzel reviewed the results of the survey.

Mr. Shull encourages citizens to participate in surveys because that is how information is gained pertaining to the County.

\* \* \* \* \*





March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD (CONT'D)

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull asked for clarification on the VATI Grant.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the VATI 2021 Grant is with MGW and the VATI 2022 Grant is with All Points.

Mr. Shull is concerned about All Points coverage and what other companies will cover.

Dr. Seaton stated that is very sorry for the owner's loss of their dog.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Reminder of the joint School Board and Board of Supervisors meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) A question has been raised on who receives funding the Arts Grant traditionally. It is suggested to offer it to the Oak Grove Theater, Stonewall Brigades Band and the Wayne Theater. Direction is needed from the Board on moving forward with the existing recipients or the new ones that have been suggested.

Mr. Slaven, moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, to divide the funding as follows and direct Staff to approach the new associations to get their willingness to participate in the funding:

- Wayne Theater 30%
- Stonewall Brigades Band 30%
- Oak Grove Theater 40%

Ms. Carter is concerned that the new possible recipients have not been notified and it is unknown if they are interested.

Dr. Seaton questions if an amendment can be made to the motion to say if it cannot be worked out with the proposed recipients for this year, the funding goes to the default recipients from previous years.

James Benkahla, County Attorney, stated that it would be cleaner to have it as two separate motions.

Mr. Slaven withdrew his previous motion.

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that Board approve for staff to approach the two new entities to see if they are interested in participating in the grant funding.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Garber, Carter, Seaton and Morelli  
Nays: Shull Wells

Motion carried.



March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF (CONT'D)

- 3) The budget for the County is complete and balanced. It is anticipated to be delivered to the Board before the next Board of Supervisors meeting. The budget worksession is on March 27th•
- 4) An RFP for the Comprehensive Plan went out on March 1<sup>st</sup>. With previous Comp Plan projects, the Board appointed a steering committee that worked hand in hand with staff and the consultant to work through the comprehensive plan. It consisted of individuals from each magisterial district and the Planning Commission. This is something for the Board to think about for the near future.
- 5) Mr. Fitzgerald addressed statements made regarding the Animal Shelter and euthanasia of dogs. He pointed out that the shelter staff works hard every day to take care of the animals and they do a great job for the County. An enormous amount of work has been done at the shelter since the County took over as the fiscal agent. Staffing has been reworked and staffing has been increased. The budget has been significantly increased and veterinary services has been brought in. Policy issues are being worked through and future plans at the Verona Elementary School is in the works. There is no social media policy for the shelter. A policy is currently in review by the owners, but a policy has not been adopted. There has been discussion with the director and his staff about being encouraging on social media and to show a positive light on what is going on at the shelter. The three dogs that were euthanized that have a bite history. In talking to shelter staff, the decision was a group decision. There were space issues and input was given from each employee who worked with the dogs to get their thoughts on the situation. Several staff agreed that they were not comfortable working around those dogs. The shelter body, City of Staunton, City of Waynesboro and Augusta County, does not want behavioral type dogs put back into the community. With any situation there are lessons learned and things that can be considered going forward. Mr. Fitzgerald is sorry for the case of Ms. Evans dog. When an animal gets brought to the shelter as a stray, it gets put on a stray hold to allow for the owner to retrieve the animal. This dog was not a stray. When Ms. Evans decided that she would surrender the dog and filled out a document to say that she was going to surrender the dog to the shelter and then put notes on the document to denote that the dog was not co habitable with cats or any farm animals, had to eat alone, had a food aggression, but did do well with other dogs and gave its name as Annabelle. Animal Control did not share with Mr. Fitzgerald that a conversation was had about surrendering the dog and then adopting later. If that discussion was had at the Treasurer's Office or where she filled out the form, there may have been a misunderstanding that this was a stray. It is unfortunate that the dog was euthanized in the short time it was at the shelter. It is clearly written on the surrender form that when an animal is surrendered you are giving up all rights of the animal and there is a potential that the animal could be euthanized at that point.

The Lyndhurst shelter location opened in 2011. There was an expansion of that location in 2015. The owners agreed in April 2022 to look at a feasibility study for the Verona Elementary School as a new location for the shelter. The current space of the shelter is 5,000 square feet. Verona Elementary will provide 39,000 square feet. This is a significant difference in size. Citizens are concerned that the size is not increasing. That is based on the number of runs. Currently there are forty-six runs and that is what will be at the new shelter in the beginning. There is space in the new facility to add more as needed. It is a convenient location for most of the county and the city residents. There are areas in the plan that provide for future growth. The design is currently in the works. Renovations will occur in 2024 and hopefully towards the end of 2024 with the new shelter.

\* \* \* \* \*





Staff Briefing Meeting, Monday, March 20, 2023, 1:30 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development  
Alidia Vane, Planner II  
Misty Cook, Finance Director  
James Benkahla, County Attorney

ABSENT: Steven Morelli

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

VDOT ROADS

Don Komara, Residency Administrator, discussed the VDOT status report of March 21, 2023.

The Board accepted the report as information.

\* \* \* \* \*

FIRE AND RESCUE

1. Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, discussed the Fire and Rescue monthly report.

The Board accepted the monthly report as information.

2. Chief Schacht discussed the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan Update.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, March 22, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLANNING COMMISSION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Alidia Vane, Planner II, discussed a rezoning request for National Developers of Virginia, LLC. The applicant requests a sixty-day deferral be granted from the Board of Supervisors.

The Board authorized accepting the 60-day deferral request.

\* \* \* \* \*

March 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter proposed that the first item discussed at the budget worksession is capital.

Mr. Wells proposed moving worksessions to the afternoon before the regular Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. Slaven stated that the School Board-Board of Supervisors joint meeting went well.

Dr. Seaton asked for clarification on the order of business and requests that the Board continue livestreaming after closed session. Dr. Seaton requested to enter into closed session.

The Board agrees to go into closed session.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

- (1) the personnel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (1) [discussion, consideration or interviews of (a) prospective candidates for employment, or (b) assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific employees]:
  - a. Boards & Commissions: Youth Commission, Ag & Forestal Dist., Recycling, Broadband Committee, Economic Development Authority.
  - b. Board of Supervisors
  
- (2) the economic development exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (5) [discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of its interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the county]:
  - a. Proposed Office space, flex space, storage facilities, manufacturing facilities, utility and mixed use development.

\* \* \* \* \*

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board came out of Closed Session.

Vote was as follows:       Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                       Nays: None  
                                       Absent: Morelli

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chairman advised that each member is required to certify that to the best of their knowledge during the closed session only the following was discussed:

- 1. Public business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements, and

March 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

- 2. Only such public business matters identified in the motion to convene the executive session.

The Chairman asked if there is any Board member who cannot so certify.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

Hearing none, the Chairman called upon the County Administrator/ Clerk of the Board to call the roll noting members of the Board who approve the certification shall answer AYE and those who cannot shall answer NAY.

Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Morelli

Motion carried.

The Chairman authorized the County Administrator/Clerk of the Board to record this certification in the minutes.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD (CONT'D)

Mr. Fitzgerald made the following statement:

Steve Morelli, South River District Supervisor, submitted a notice of resignation this morning. Mr. Morelli cited personal reasons for early resignation in his email. The South River Districts Supervisor's current term would have expired on December 31, 2023. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I'd like to thank and express my sincere appreciation for Steve Morelli's service to Augusta County. Information on the process for filling the vacancy in the position will be forthcoming from County Administration.

Dr. Seaton verified that there are five open positions in ECC. He would like for the option to sign up to speak at a meeting be opened up sooner.

Mr. Garber would like to be forewarned if there is a computer training that needs to be completed.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1. Recycling Committee Annual Report was provided for information.
- 2. Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that included in the packet was information on the five organizations that have been considered. Three in the past and three moving forward. Oak Grove and Wayne Theater are willing to participate. A spreadsheet is included to show what is done currently, what the proposal is and what the difference is.

Dr. Seaton suggests talking to the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra for future opportunity.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, March 22, 2023 regular meeting agenda.

March 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF (CONT'D)

- 3. County-wide Projects Update was presented to the Board. This will be included for the Board periodically to keep them informed of progress for County projects.
- 4. Board challenge coins was passed by. No action was taken.
- 5. Economic Development Report
- 6. Reminder of the Budget Worksession on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30a.m.
- 7. Ms. Whetzel stated that the County was awarded a grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development for planning at Afton Mountain. It is \$31,600 and it would be for a compiled boundary survey, a topo survey and the protective species and historical screening work. They awarded approximately half of the tasks that were applied for. The first task deals with the land records research which is important due to the County line that is there. The total is \$7,800.00. Staff recommends to proceed with the grant and take the money from the Tourism operating funds which are already appropriated in the general fund budget.

The authorized staff to move forward with the project.

\* \* \* \* \*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chair  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development  
James Benkahla, County Attorney  
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following students from Wilson Memorial High School FFA led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Emily Kline is a senior and the FFA President. After high school she plans to attend a four-year university and study to be a large animal veterinarian.

Caleb Jones is a sophomore and is the FFA Vice-President. He plans to attend a four-year college and go into the military.

Bell is a senior and the FFA Secretary. Her favorite CD is hip hop. After high school she plans to attend Kansas State for livestock nutrition.

Noah Wine is a sophomore and the FFA Treasurer. He plans to be a farmer after high school.

Alyssa Logan is a junior and the FFA Reporter. She plans to attend a four-year university and study environmental science.

Delaney Morris is a senior and the FFA Historian. After high school, she plans to attend Oklahoma State University to study agriculture education.

Brianna Dean is a sophomore and the FFA Sentinel. She plans to attend college and become a veterinarian.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Seaton, Wayne District, delivered the invocation.

\* \* \* \* \*

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adopt the following proclamation:

**NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, The President of the United States traditionally designates the first full week of April as National Public Health Week; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Public Health Week is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and the theme is "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health"; and,

**WHEREAS**, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Central Shenandoah Health District's mission is to protect and promote the health and well-being of residents in the Central Shenandoah Valley; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Central Shenandoah Health District serves the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro, with an estimated combined population of 308,875 citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Central Shenandoah Health District's public health professionals help out communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Central Shenandoah Health District's public health professionals have, and continue to display, an unprecedented commitment to serve our communities in response to an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during the 12-month period, the highest level ever recorded during a 12-month period, and this was an increase of 28.5 percent from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, call upon all citizens of Augusta County, to observe the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as National Public Health Week, during which our residents may join in celebrating the dedication of our public health professionals, past and present, and their families whose support allows them to serve our communities.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

NATIONAL DEVELOPERS OF VIRGINIA, LLC - REZONING

**“THIS PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE DEFERRED TO THE MAY 24, 2023 REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING\*\***

Consider a request to rezone from Single Family Residential with proffers to General Agriculture with proffers approximately 14.276 acres owned by National Developers of Virginia, LLC and to amend the existing proffers associated with the Shannon Lea Subdivision on the north side of Route 610 in Stuarts Draft in the South River District.

\* \* \* \* \*



March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

#### FIRE-RESCUE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board considered the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan request.

Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, stated that the Board requested to obtain additional proposals for the Fire-Rescue strategic plan. Chief Schacht reached out to members of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association to obtain firms that conduct this type of service. Three names of firms were provided; Emergency Service Consulting International, Center for Public Safety Excellence, and North Carolina Chief Consulting. The County's scope of work was sent to each of them as well as the Berkley Group. One proposal was received from the Berkley Group, one group stated it was outside of their ability, and another had questions and felt the County was trying to develop a master plan and did not provide pricing. Berkley Group's proposal meets the County's scope of work, they are projecting it taking sixteen months to complete the plan for a total cost of \$92,730.75. Center for Public Safety Management, LLC proposal meets the scope of work. They are projecting 210 days for completion for a total cost of \$93,550.00. Chief Schacht recommends moving forward with utilizing the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC to complete the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan. They have conducted more than 425 similar studies in 46 states and utilize members that have experience and knowledge of fire-rescue systems.

Mr. Shull asked how many days will be scheduled to meet with the volunteers.

Chief Schacht stated that they have scheduled to meet with the stakeholders so they will be available as many days as it takes.

Mr. Wells asked how long the price quotes are good for?

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC sent an email extending the date to May 10, 2023.

Ms. Carter stated that due to the significant expenses coming up for the County and the fact that past strategic planning done through Fire-Rescue produced very little change or no action, her recommendation would be to not get an outside consultant for the strategic plan.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve using no consultant and doing the plan internally.

Dr. Seaton is concerned that the money will be spent and not implement anything from the strategic plan.

Mr. Shull is not in favor of using a consultant. He would like to see volunteers involved in the process. He suggests forming a committee that consists of various people within the County. The school system established a ten-year plan with no outside help and their next ten-year plan is going to be done the same way. The County is capable of doing the same thing. The request has been made of past Chief's to create a strategic plan, but things weren't implemented well. He is concerned if the wrongs things are implemented the ISO rating will be affected. Mr. Shull states that it is fiscally responsible for the County to create the plan in house utilizing volunteers and career staff.

Chief Schacht appreciates Mr. Shull's comments and agrees with his concerns. The question of whether this is worth \$91,000.00 depends on was in enacted on. If the plan that is created is enacted on it will be worth every penny.

Dr. Seaton is concerned with how it will be carried out. He is not ready to vote for it, but could easily vote for it in the future.



March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE-RESCUE STRATEGIC PLAN (CONT'D)

Mr. Wells was under the impression at the Board Retreat that the Board agreed a strategic plan was needed and needed to be completed by an outside source.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve tabling until the April 24, 2023 Staff Briefing meeting for further discussion.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

FY2024 ARTS GRANT

The Board considered the FY2024 Arts Grant.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that Staff reached out to the Wayne Theater and Oak Grove Theater regarding a potential partnership for the Virginia Commission of the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant. Both entities have expressed interest in partnering on the grant. At a prior Board of Supervisors meeting, the funding allocation was suggested as:

Stonewall Brigade Band	30%
Wayne Theater	30%
Oak Grove Theater	40%

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve FY2024 Arts Grant.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

\* \* \* \* \*

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Chanda McGuffin, 644 Edwardian Lane, Waynesboro, requests that the Board of Supervisors purchase body and dash cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

Nancy Sorrells, 3419 Cold Springs Road, Greenville, spoke in opposition of a proposed rezoning in Greenville.

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, asks that the Board not forget about the volunteers when it comes to the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton stated that signing up to speak online is very difficult. He would like to suspend the requirement to sign up by 7:30p.m. and online. This gives the perception that the Board does not want people speaking.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve discontinuing the 7:30p.m. sign-up requirement and discontinue the online sign-up process until the system can be made more user friendly.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Slaven, Garber, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: Shull and Wells

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton stated that he has promoted and supported the priorities of the Sheriff's Department over the years. He supports the Sheriff's request and will ask for body cameras in this year's budget to protect our deputies from false accusations and provide the public transparency into the tough work of law enforcement.

Dr. Seaton asked what would be required of the Board to appoint members to address the Comprehensive Plan advisory Group.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Board will consider community members that will be beneficial to completing the process. The steering committee will need to be created in May.

\* \* \* \* \*

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Reminder of the Budget Worksession on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in Smith West. Citizens will be able to view the meeting via a zoom link and it is also open to the public.
- 2) The Code of Virginia allows the Board forty-five days to appoint a new member to serve the South River District. Applications will be accepted though 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2023. The Board will then schedule an interview session to consider the applicants. Typically, in the past the interviews have been in closed session and not open to the public.

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve livestreaming the interview process for the South River District open seat.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Wells, Garber, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: Shull and Slaven

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

- (1) the personnel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (1) [discussion, consideration or interviews of (a) prospective candidates for employment, or (b) assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific employees]:

A) Board of Supervisors

\* \* \* \* \*

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board came out of Closed Session.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chairman advised that each member is required to certify that to the best of their knowledge during the closed session only the following was discussed:

- 1. Public business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements, and
- 2. Only such public business matters identified in the motion to convene the executive session.

The Chairman asked if there is any Board member who cannot so certify.

Hearing none, the Chairman called upon the County Administrator/ Clerk of the Board to call the roll noting members of the Board who approve the certification shall answer AYE and those who cannot shall answer NAY.

Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

The Chairman authorized the County Administrator/Clerk of the Board to record this certification in the minutes.

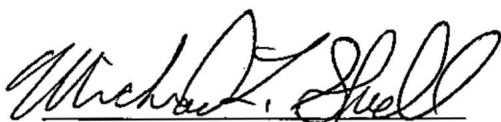
\* \* \* \* \*

ADJOURNMENT

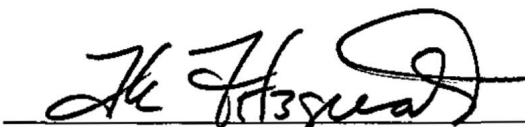
Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote was as follows:           Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
                                      Nays: None

Motion carried.



Chairman



County Administrator

h:3-22min.23

Budget Work Session Meeting, Monday, March 27, 2023, 8:30 a.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Michael Shull, Chairman  
Jeffrey Slaven, Vice-Chairman  
Butch Wells  
Gerald Garber  
Pam Carter  
Scott Seaton  
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Misty Cook, Finance Director

VIRGINIA: At Budget Work Session Meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

\* \* \* \* \*

**FY2023-24 BUDGET**

The County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator and Finance Director presented an overview of the FY2023-24 Budget. The Board reviewed projected revenues, capital allocations and expenditures by Departments. The following amendments are to be advertised:

**Recommended budget-General Fund** **\$118,980,727**  
Work session revisions:

**Expenditures**

FY24 Budget:

	Public Safety Camera Bundle with Personnel	\$836,884
031020-3320	less interview room in balanced budget	(12,646)
031020-3320	less tasers in balanced budget	(65,700)
	contingency	<u>31,462</u>
		<u>\$790,000</u>

**Revenues**

increase RE rate 1 cent	<u>\$790,000</u>
	<u>\$790,000</u>

**Total Advertised Budget-General Fund** **\$119,770,727**

**FY2023-24 SCHOOL BUDGET**

The Augusta County Board of Supervisors met with representatives of the Augusta County School Board including Dr. Eric Bond, School Superintendent; and Mark Lotts, Finance Director, who presented an overview of their FY2023-24 Budget. The School Board has a balanced budget to present and no additional requests were made.

\* \* \* \* \*

March 27, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Slaven moved to advertise the budget as presented.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve advertising the Real Estate tax rate at \$0.64 per \$100.00 to fund body cameras. The budget public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Slaven withdrew his motion.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton  
Nays: Shull and Slaven

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Ms. Carter, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

(1) the personnel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1) [discussion, consideration or interviews of (a) prospective candidates for employment, or (b) assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific employees]:

- A) County Administrator
- B) County Attorney

On motion of Mr. Slaven, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board came out of Closed Session.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter and Seaton  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chairman advised that each member is required to certify that to the best of their knowledge during the closed session only the following was discussed:

1. Public business matters lawfully exempted from statutory open meeting requirements, and
2. Only such public business matters identified in the motion to convene the executive session.

The Chairman asked if there is any Board member who cannot so certify.

Hearing none, the Chairman called upon the County Administrator/ Clerk of the Board to call the roll noting members of the Board who approve the certification shall answer AYE and those who cannot shall answer NAY.

March 27, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter and Seaton  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Chairman authorized the County Administrator/Clerk of the Board to record this certification in the minutes.

\* \* \* \* \*


ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, the Board adjourn subject to call of the Chairman.

Vote was as follows:       Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter and Seaton  
Nays: None

Motion carried.

\* \* \* \* \*

  
Chairman

  
County Administrator