

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Jeffrey Slaven, Chairman
 Pam Carter, Vice-Chair
 Michael Shull
 Butch Wells
 Gerald Garber
 Carolyn Bragg
 Scott Seaton
 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, August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 249th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Slaven welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following students from Fort Defiance High School FFA led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Hunter Wampler is a sophomore and plans to pursue a career as a fire fighter/paramedic.

Hailey Keagy is a senior and serves as the President. She plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Janie Davis is a sophomore and serves as the Jr. President. She plants to study Agribusiness and Animal Sciences at Oklahoma State University.

Avery Brown is a junior and serves as the Treasurer. She plans to pursue a career as a Corporate Ag Lawyer.

Lily Davis is a senior and serves as the Student Advisor. She plans to study Agribusiness and Animal Sciences at Oklahoma State University.

Sarah Tinsley is a freshman and serves as the Jr. Reporter. Sher plans to pursue a career as an Equine Vet.

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Scott Seaton, Wayne District, delivered the invocation.

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August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

COUNTY CODE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-ARTICLE2, CHAPTER 2

This being the date and time advertised to consider ordinance amendments to Article II, Chapter 2 of the County Code.

Greg Schacht, Augusta County Fire Chief, stated that as discussed on Monday during the Staff Briefing, there have been minor changes made to the ordinance amendment. At the request of the Board of Supervisors a revision was made to 2-13B to state who the Chief reports to. In section 2-13E, The Shenandoah Valley Airport was added.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

Tracy Martin, Craigsville Volunteer Fire Chief and President of the Volunteer Association spoke in favor of the ordinance amendment. The County will stay the same if no changes are made.

Carson Holloway, 929 Patterson Mill Road, Grottoes, supports the ordinance amendment. The Chief needs to be given the authority to be able to do his job.

Kevin Wilkes, Swoope Volunteer Fire Department, asked that the Board take more time to review the ordinance.

Derek Almarode, 2549 Old Greenville Road, serves as the President of the Board of Directors for Riverheads Volunteer Fire Department. He spoke in opposition of the ordinance amendment. Mr. Almarode is not sure why this is necessary.

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

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the amendments as presented.

Mr. Shull moved that the Board approve moving this item to the October 23, 2024 regular meeting.

Mr. Shull would like more time to review comments from the volunteer association. The volunteers are great value to the County.

Ms. Carter asked for feedback from the Volunteer Association meeting.

Chief Schacht gave an overview of the Volunteer's Association meeting.

Dr. Seaton would like to have more time to review the ordinance and speak with volunteers.

Mr. Wells stated if this was a complex policy that required a lot of research and a lot of thought on the numbers of all of the organizations, he would be the first to say to give it more time. We have had two fire chiefs and several studies and nothing has been done. This ordinance simply lays the framework on how the County gets started with working policies.

The Board voted on the motion to delay this item to October 23, 2024.

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

Motion failed.

August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

COUNTY CODE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT-ARTICLE 2, CHAPTER 2

The Board voted on the first motion made by Mr. Wells to approve as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST

The Board considered an infrastructure funding request from Wilson Volunteer Fire Department for rain suits in the amount of \$2,001.89.

Funding Source:	South River Infrastructure	709105-480161	\$1,000.95
	Wayne Infrastructure	709105-480171	\$1,000.95

Ms. Bragg stated that Wilson Volunteer Fire Department is requesting rain gear for their members. Wilson's first due includes the Sherando/Lyndhurst area, which is prone to flooding. This often requires their members to work in wet conditions.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve the funding request as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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CONSENT AGENDA

The Board considered a resolution establishing the rate of tax relief of qualifying vehicles for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act.

Dr. Seaton suggested that when there is only one item on the consent agenda to list it on the agenda as an item.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Stephen Grepps, 63 Eastgate Drive, Verona, was diagnosed with an enlarged heart. The normal physicals that are given to the fire fighters would not catch that, but the cancer and medical screening would have caught it. He encouraged the Board to strongly consider the screenings for fire/rescue personnel.

Barry Lotts thanked the Board for moving forward with the fire-rescue ordinance.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

The following was discussed:

- 1) The property at Long Meadow Road is in compliance at this time with garbage removal.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton would like for items such as the garbage on Long Meadow be brought to the Board's attention prior to it coming before the Board for consideration. He also stated that the family that owns land behind Preston Yancey Fire Department recently applied for a small solar project behind the fire house and under the high voltage power lines. This is an area that is unlikely to be built upon in the next thirty years due to its location. The Planning Commission denied the request and there was no opposition from the neighboring properties. The BZA reviewed the project and it failed in a tie vote. This family has been generous to the County and he would like to apology to the family that the family denied their reasonable request to use their property as they see fit. The Planning Commission ignored their property rights, ignored the Comprehensive Plan's desire to preserve farm land and open space.

Mr. Wells stated that there are career personnel that are cross trained to be fire fighters and deliver medical services to citizens. They are stationed in a fire department that denies them the right to drive the fire trucks. This is a situation that needs to be handled. The County owns the fire station so the Board needs to step in and do something.

Mr. Garber stated that there will be a drill on September 21, 2024 at the airport.

Ms. Bragg reminded everyone that it takes four votes to get a request passed for the County.

Mr. Shull asked for clarification on how calls are handled for a structure fire and how many units go out. He asked if there have been meetings regarding the situation Mr. Wells mentioned.

Chief Schacht explained the process and requirements and stated that he needs direction from the Board in writing before he can do anything about the problem.

August 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Seaton, seconded by Ms. Bragg, moved that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried.


Chairman
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County Administrator