Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

Role Call

Gerald Garber, Chair
Butch Wells, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Slaven
Pam Carter
Michael Shull
Scott Seaton
Timothy K. Fitzgerald County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

Absent: Carolyn Bragg

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 249th year of the Commonwealth...

Chairman Garber welcomed those present at the meeting.

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Craft delivered the invocation.

Mr. Garber stated that in a speech he heard years ago, the speaker said “bigger is not better, smaller is not better, better is always better”. When looking at projects for the coming year, no matter what the plans are, incrementally, better is always better.

1. **Committees & Commissions for 2025 Appointed by the Board**

    a. 1. Elect representative to Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC).
    Current: Fire Chief and Chair of the Board.
    Proposed: Emergency Management Coordinator and Chair of the Board
    2. Elect representative to Agriculture and Forestal District Committee.
    Current: Richard Williams, Wes Marshall, W. Douglas Riley, B. Randolph Roller, Ashlie Howell, George Price (Commissioner of the Revenue), Gerald Garber (Board of Supervisors)

3. Emergency Management Director. Current: Chair of the Board
4. Emergency Management Co-Director. Current: County Administrator
5. Emergency Management Coordinator. Current: Patrick Lam
6. Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. Current: Amanda Irvine
7. Audit Committee. Current: Chair and Vice Chair

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that the Fire Chief and the Board Chair serve on the Local Emergency Planning Commission. It is recommended that Patrick Lam, Emergency Management Coordinator, replace the Fire Chief on that committee. The Agriculture and Forestal District shows Mr. Garber as the Board representative. Mr. Garber suggests replacing his seat with Mr. Slaven.

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

a. Patrick Lam (Emergency Management Coordinator) and Mr. Garber (Chairman of the Board) to the Local Emergency Planning Commission.
b. Richard Williams, W. Douglas Riley, B. Randolph Roller, Ashlie Howell and George Price (Commissioner of the Revenue), Jeff Slaven (Board of Supervisor) to the Agriculture and Forestal District Committee.

c. Gerald Garber (Chairman of the Board) as Emergency Management Director
d. Timothy Fitzgerald as Emergency Management Co-Director
e. Patrick Lam as Emergency Management Coordinator
f. Amanda Irvine as Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
g. Gerald Garber (Chairman of the Board) and Butch Wells (Vice Chair of the Board) to the Audit Committee

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

Motion carried.

2. **Board Meeting Schedule for 2025**

a. Consider approval of the 2025 Board meeting schedule.

The Board considered approval of the 2025 Board meeting schedule and resolution.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the potential to move three of the meetings was discussed at the Organizational Meeting. Two schedules were provided; one with the new potential dates and the original schedule.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the schedule with adjustments to meeting dates.

Mr. Slaven is not in favor of moving the dates.
Mr. Shull is not in favor of moving the dates.
Ms. Carter likes having extra time between the staff briefings and the regular meeting.

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

Motion failed.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the original schedule as presented.

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

Motion carried.

	Regular Meetings Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Staff Briefings Monday 1:30 p.m.
JANUARY (ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING)	2ND	5:00 p.m.	
JANUARY	8th	22nd	21st **(Tues)**
FEBRUARY	12th	26th	24th
MARCH	12th	26th	24th
APRIL	9th	23rd	21st
MAY	14th	28th	27th **(Tues)**
JUNE	11th	25th	23rd
JULY	9th	23rd	21st
AUGUST	13th	27th	25th
SEPTEMBER	10th	24th	22nd
OCTOBER	8th	22nd	20th
NOVEMBER	12th	25th (**Tues**)	24th
DECEMBER	10th		

Special Meetings:

Budget Hearing	April 9, 2025 (or April 16 -- Special Meeting)
Budget Adoption	April 23, 2025 (or April 30th – Special Meeting)
Organizational Meeting	January 7, 2026, **5:00 p.m.**

· **March 31st –Budget Briefing**
· **November 9-11 – VACO Annual Conference**
· **July 9th (previously cancelled –7/9/14; 7/8/15; 7/13/16; 7/12/17; 7/11/18; 7/10/19,7/8/20,7/14/21,7/13/22,7/10/24)**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, § 15.2-1416 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires that the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County, Virginia, at its organizational meeting, prescribe by resolution the days on which it will hold future meetings during the ensuing months.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors now desires to establish its schedule for regular meetings during calendar year 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

1. The Board of Supervisors shall hold regular meetings during calendar year 2024, in the Board Meeting Room at the Augusta County Government Center, on the dates and at the times set forth on the schedule attached to this Resolution.

2. In the event the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, if the Chairman is unable to act, finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members of the Board of Supervisors to attend a regular meeting, such regular meeting shall be continued to the next business day. Such finding and declaration shall be communicated to the members of the Board of Supervisors and the press as promptly as possible. All hearings and other matters previously advertised shall be conducted at the continued meeting and no further advertisement is required.

3. **<u>Consent Agenda</u>**

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

<u>MINUTES:</u>
Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 9, 2024

<u>STREET ADDITION:</u>
Consider Community Development's and VDOT's recommendations to adopt resolution

for acceptance of the following into the Secondary Road System in accordance with VDOT requests:

- Overlook Section 8

CLAIMS:
Consider claims paid since December 1, 2024.

Dr. Seaton requested that the Regular Meeting minutes for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

The Board voted on the Street Addition and the Claims paid.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull moved that the Board approve the October 9th meeting minutes.

Dr. Seaton stated that he will vote against these minutes. The minutes fail to reflect a part of the meeting regarding multiple meetings. He referenced the meeting dates.

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

Motion carried.

a. Would any member of the public or the Board of Supervisors wish to remove an item from the Consent Agenda?
MINUTES:
Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 9, 2023

b. STREET ADDITION:
Consider Community Development's and VDOT's recommendations to adopt resolution for acceptance of the following into the Secondary Road System in accordance with VDOT requests:

- Overlook Section 8

c. CLAIMS:
Claims paid since December 1, 2024

4. **Matters to Be Presented by the Public**

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, asks that the Board support him in requesting that legislators set May as Military Appreciation Month and be a part of the Code of Virginia.

5. **Matters to Be Presented by Staff**

Staff discussed the following:

1. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out some of the great projects and opportunities that were taking place in the County and this is a good time to be a part of the Board of Supervisors.
2. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there have been questions of insurance regarding hunting on the Buffalo Gap house county property. The rates will not be affected if hunting is allowed and a signed liability waiver would be required. It has been brought to attention that the cross-country team's track runs along the edge of the property. The Board originally agreed to allow hunting on the property when there was not a school activity taking place.

Mr. Wells questioned if this was restricted to archery. Conservation Officer Kester shared with him that there have been two incidents this involving a high-powered rifle. He wants the Board to be aware of how far a high-powered rifle will carry when used. Mr. Wells is concerned with this as well.

Ms. Carter has received several messages from citizens in her district voicing concerns about the decision to approve hunting on this property.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve archery hunting from a tree stand on the Buffalo Gap property, along with the previous restrictions considered.

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

Motion Carried.

3. Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that the Department of Environmental Quality has a grant program called Pay for Outcomes. This program is for non-point source nutrient run off. Applicants can apply and are required to demonstrate that their project achieves nutrient reduction benefits in order to get the funding. Applications are due in February. A request for a Letter of support for a project has been received. The project is off of Broadhead School Road.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the letter of support.

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

Motion Carried.

6. **Matters to Be Presented by the Board**

Dr. Seaton asked when the Celebrity Lane hearing was scheduled for.

Mr. Wolfe stated that it was rescheduled for January 31st.

Dr. Seaton asked about the Long Meadow Road complaint status.

Mr. Wolfe stated that complaints continue to be received and continue to monitor and assess the issue.

Ms. Carter was approached by the Diamond Club in Churchville about the possibility of funding to install two additional ball fields. It has been determined that one of the fields would be located in a flood plain and has been removed from the request.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve a funding request from the Diamond Club for one ball field.
Funding Source: Pastures Infrastructure $16,000.00

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

Motion carried.

Ms. Carter stated that the general contractor for the Verizon tower in West Augusta has not been identified, but they are in the process of submitting the site plans to Community Development. There is a targeted start date of March.

Ms. Carter moved, Mr. Shull, that the Board appoint Carl Kiracofe to serve a term on the Ag Industry Board.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull requests that a recommendation be sent to the Game and Inland Fisheries and VACo regarding the deer population in the County. He directs staff to create the document and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Ms. Carter suggests reaching out to the Game and Inland Fisheries to get their position on the issue.

Mr. Shull requested that Staff contact DEQ to see if exemptions could be available to increase the amount of poultry that can be taken to the landfill when a disease outbreak occurs.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the DEQ requires a Special Waste Form be filled out and submitted to the landfill. The Landfill Manager states on the form what the plan is to handle the number of birds and then submitted to the DEQ.

Mr. Shull stated that he has received several questions regarding the jury box that voted on at a previous meeting. Several citizens are concerned about the extra money being spent for this change.

Mr. Slaven has been informed that all hook ups for All Points Broadband have been postponed due to VDOT height restrictions crossing Route 42 to get to the customer. All Points is currently in a permitting process with VDOT.

7. **Closed Session -- WITHDRAWN**

a. Closed Session

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there was not a need for closed session. The appointment to the Ag Industry Board was taken care of.

8. **Adjournment**

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

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

Motion carried .

Minutes approved by the Board on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

Chairman

County Administrator