

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

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

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 246th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed those present for the meeting.

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The following students from Beverley Manor Middle School FFA and FCCLA led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ashley Tutwiler is in the 8th grade and serves as the FFA President.
 Bradley Craun is in 7th grade and serves as the FFA Assistant President.
 Hunter Wampler is in 7th grade and serves as the FFA Assistant Vice President.
 Hailey Craig is in 8th grade and serves as the FFA Reporter.
 Lou Long is an officer for FCCLA.
 Kaylee Nowwhite is an officer for FCCLA.

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Mr. Shull, Supervisor for the Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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COUNTY ORDINANCE

This being the day and time advertised to consider an ordinance to provide a bonus to all full time employees, part time employees included in the County's pay and classification plan, part time public safety employees that meet hours worked requirements, and Constitutional Officers and their employees.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the Board has reviewed potential projects and staffing considerations utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. One of the items is consideration of a bonus for employees. The Code of Virginia requires a public hearing and ordinance to enact a bonus. This public hearing is separate from the fact that the Compensation Board has allocated funding for sworn officers and that payment will be made in November. All non-sworn public safety staff are eligible for a \$3,000.00 bonus. Part time public safety employees will receive half the payment of their counterparts. A \$2,000.00 bonus will be considered for all other full time County staff. Part time positions that are budgeted annually as part of the pay and classification

plan and meet the criteria outlined are recommended at half of their full time counterparts. Funding will be coming from two sources; one being the American Rescue Plan with the largest part and then the Compensation Board would reimburse the County for any funds related to any sworn officers.

Sheriff, Donald Smith spoke in favor of the employee bonus.

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

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

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The Board considered the 2022 Legislative Package.

Ms. Carter questions how the COPN made back into the packet for this year.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that it is being brought up for consideration at the request of Augusta Health.

Dr. Seaton stated that a lot of money has been spent on Life Core Drive and the County needs businesses, including healthcare business, to locate there. The COPN is anti-competition.

Mr. Slaven stated that in the last year or so there have been several items of business pertaining to Augusta Health. Augusta Health is our local hospital and if we can help them in any way then we should. They are our healthcare center for the citizens.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board not include the COPN for Augusta Health in the Legislative package.

November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board approve the 2022 Legislative Package.

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

Motion carried.

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DMV ANIMAL FRIENDLY LICENSE PLATES

The Board considered allocation of funds from DMV (\$2,160.00) to support sterilization programs for dogs and cats. This proposal will carry over to the Department of Taxation contributions of tax refunds.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is an annual request and traditionally the allotted amount is given to the Animal Shelter to support their sterilization program for cats and dogs.

Mr. Morelli moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the allocation of funds.

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

Motion carried.

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WAIVERS -- NONE

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since October 1, 2021.

November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA (CONT'D)

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, August 25, 2021
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, September 8, 2021

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

Motion carried.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Danny Link, 270 Leaport Road, Mt. Sidney, spoke in favor of the Animal Service Center in Lyndhurst. The Director's pay, along with other employees at the animal shelter need to be evaluated and increased. He requests that the animal shelter remain under the control of one of the localities. If this is not an option, Mr. Link strongly suggests that the following be added to any contract for future vendors; a save rate must be held of over 90% of all animals within the shelter, no reduction in medical care to the animals received and protection and respect for current staff and there should be local oversight to ensure these concerns are adhered to.

Jason Clarke, 507 College Circle, Staunton, spoke against the RFP that has been put out for the animal shelter. Whatever happens next with the shelter, respect and compensates the workers for what they do. He understands that this is a business decision, but this decision should not cost the lives or have the potential to cost the lives of thousands of animals.

Lindsey Huffman, 2151 Stagebridge Road, Lovingson, is a former Director of the shelter. Her preference would be for the localities to remain in control of the shelter. Ms. Huffman is not opposed to a third party taking over the shelter, but feels there should be expectations relayed to this third party. She requests that an amendment be included in the contract to ensure the County will remain a safe place for the animals.

Jean Fraser, 1850 Howardsville Turnpike, Staunton, a volunteer for the shelter. She spoke about what makes the shelter special.

Linda Farrar, 1603 Dam Town Road, Fort Defiance, has volunteers with the shelter for the last five years. Decisions regarding the animal shelter need to be given a lot of thought and consideration.

Becci Harmon, 3892 Morris Mill Road, Swoope, is concerned about the future of the shelter. She would like to see the bidding stop and the County has the ability to do that.

Patricia Katz, PO Box 823, Stuarts Draft, is a volunteer for the shelter and is concerned about the future of the shelter.

Casey Eldridge, 2325 Monroe Street, Waynesboro, is a volunteer for the shelter and is concerned about the future of the shelter and the animals of the County.

Amy Hammer, 180 Pitty Pat Lane, McDowell, is the President of Augusta Dog Adoptions and helps the shelter any way possible. She was an Animal Control Officer

November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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

for the City of Staunton when the shelter was first established. The County needs to step up and take over the shelter.

Kim Brown, 71 Princess Ann Lane, Stuarts Draft, spoke in support of the animal shelter and is concerned about the future of the shelter.

Sally Williams is concerned about maintaining the save rate for the shelter.

Rachel Hamel, 401 Smith Street, Waynesboro, is a volunteer for the shelter. She appreciates the staff at the shelter and the amount of work they do for very little pay.

Renee Clark, 309 Sunnyside Street, Staunton, is on the Board of Directors for Cats Cradle. She is impressed by the save rate for the shelter. The problem with the shelter is staffing and has a lot of turnover.

Robert Spiegel of Mount Sidney has been a professional trapper for several years. Cats are big issue in the County.

Ashley Snyder of Stuarts Draft has been involved with the shelter for the past ten years and addressed the issued brought up by Mr. Spiegel.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter pointed out how important it is to communicate the correct information on redistricting.

Mr. Shull is concerned with the number of people that are unaware of what is going on with the redistricting process.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that Board approve sending letters to citizens that are affected by the redistricting.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton congratulated Ms. Carter, Mr. Wells and Mr. Garber on their election win.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve having a volunteer from Fire-Rescue sit in on the interviews for the Fire Chief position.

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

Motion failed.

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November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1) Mr. Fitzgerald made the following statement:

At our last meeting there was discussion concerning the purchase of a new ambulance for fire and rescue. During this discussion, a comparison of cost was made with an ambulance that was purchased by Staunton Augusta Rescue. This comparison was simply about the cost of the unit. In no way do I want anyone to think that Staunton Augusta's unit is in any way less than the ambulances that we purchase. Staunton Augusta's units have all of the same safety measures that our units have and are great ambulances that provide great service. Staunton Augusta is a great partner to Augusta County and provides a great service to the citizens of Augusta County on a daily basis.

2) The Fire Chief Survey results are in and the final report will be sent out to all of those who took the time to fill it out. There were approximately three hundred responses. The information received will be very helpful in drafting the position advertisement.

3) The VACo Conference starts on Sunday and committee meetings start at 1:00 p.m.

4) The Government Center will be closed on Thursday for Veteran's Day.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Wells, 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 and Commissions: Youth Commission, Ag & Forestal Dist., Ag Ind. Brd., Recycling, Library, Planning Commission

(2) **the real property exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)**

[discussion of the acquisition for a public purpose, or disposition, of real property]:

a) Augusta County Courthouse

(3) **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) Augusta County Courthouse

On motion of Mr. Shull, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board came out of Closed Session.

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

Motion carried.

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November 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion carried.

Andrew Green
Chairman


County Administrator

h:11-10min.2021