Staff Briefing Meeting, Monday, February 24, 2025, 1:30 PM Government Center Main Board Room

1. **ROLE CALL:**

Gerald Garber
Butch Wells
Pam Carter
Michael Shull
Carolyn Bragg
Scott Seaton
Timothy K. Fitzgerald County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development
Julia Hensley, Planner II
Misty Cook, Director of Finance

ABSENT: Jeffrey Slaven

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 1:30 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 249th year of the Commonwealth...

2. **VDOT**

a. Report by VDOT.

Don Komara, Residency Administrator, discussed the VDOT status report of February 24, 2025.

The Board accepted the report as information.

3. **Economic Development**

a. Strategic Plan update.

A presentation was presented to the Board in regards to the Strategic Plan.

The Board agreed to postpone to a later meeting and follow up with a work session to discuss further.

4. **Fire-Rescue**

a. Report by Staff.

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

The Board accepted the monthly report as information.

b. Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan Update.

Chief Schacht discussed an update for the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan.

The Board accepted the update as information.

c. Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Revolving Loan Request.

Chief Schacht discussed the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Revolving Loan Request.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, February 26, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

d. Stroke Smart Proclamation.

Daniel Linkins, Regional Director of Department of Health Office of EMS discussed the Stroke Smart Proclamation request.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, February 26, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

5. **<u>Broadband Update</u>**

a. All Points Presentation.

Tom Innes with All Points Broadband presented the Board with an update on the broadband project for Augusta County.

The Board accepted the update as information.

b. Shenandoah Valley Electric Presentation.

Scott Boyd with Shenandoah Valley Electric presented the Board with an update on the implementation of their fiber utility network.

The Board accepted the update as information.

c. BEAD Letters of Support

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, discussed the BEAD Letters of Support.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, February 26, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

6. **<u>Columbia Gas Easement-Augusta County Courthouse</u>**

   a. Discuss an easement for Columbia Gas.

Candy Hensley, Assistant County Administrator, discussed an easement with Columbia Gas that is needed for the new courthouse.

The Board authorized placing on the February 26, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

7. **<u>Planning Commission/Public Hearings</u>**

Julia Hensley, Planner II, discussed the following:

   a. A request to rezone from Limited Business to General Business with proffers approximately 2.692 acres owned by Boyington Properties, LLC/William C. or Sandra E. McMeans in the Wayne District. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

   b. A request to add a Public Use Overlay on approximately 16.122 acres owned by Bridge Christian Church located off Goose Creek Road at 14 Caldwell Lane in Fishersville in the Wayne District. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

The Board authorized placing on the February 26, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

8. **<u>Matters to Be Presented by Staff</u>**

The following was discussed:

1. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that annual reports for various departments within the County and the project list were included in the agenda package for the Board to review.
2. The General Assembly has adjourned. The LEO's benefit for Animal Control Officers and 911 Dispatchers were not approve. There was a lot of legislation revolving around data centers. The school construction referendum bill will go to the Governor again for consideration.
3. The SAW-MPO had an opportunity to make changes to the boundary. The County recommended moving forward with the boundary changes that will include the Greenville I81 Interchange.
4. Ms. Whetzel stated that the County went through an RFI process for the arts grant. As of the deadline, there were nine applications received.

9. Matters to Be Presented by the Board

Mr. Garber stated that DEQ has lifted the drought for the County.

10. Closed Session

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Shull, 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 prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body]:

1. Boards and Commissions: Youth Commission and Shenandoah Valley Partnership

(2) the real property exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3)
[discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body]:

a) Augusta County Courthouse

(3) 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]:

1. Proposed Office space, flex space, storage facilities, manufacturing facilities, utility and mixed use development.

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

Motion carried.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

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

Minutes approved by the Board on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

Chairman

County Administrator