

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

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

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed those present at the meeting.

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

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Mr. Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC NEED REVIEW

The Board received an update from Augusta Health on COPN legislation.

Mary Mannix, President & Chief Executive Officer for Augusta Health, introduced the following members of the Augusta Health Board of Directors; Lori Landes is the Chairman of the Augusta Health Board of Directors, Homer Hite, John Bowers, Scott Jones is the Corporate Compliance Officer, Dr. Scott Just is the President of the Employed Physician Group-Augusta Medical Group, Mark Larosa is the Vice President of Business Development and Dr. Whitmore.

Ms. Mannix gave a background on Augusta Health and pointed out why it is imperative they have a positive operating margin. She stated that by definition, healthcare is not a free market. Healthcare is a regulated market or a coordinated market in Virginia which is an idealized system where the Government or other organizations oversee the market, control the forces of supply and demand, and to some extent regulate the market actions. This can include tasks such as determining who is allowed to enter the

November 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC NEED REVIEW (CONT'D)

market and/or what prices may be charged. Approximately 70% of the work done in caring for the community is reimbursed below cost or not at all. Reimbursement for Medicare and medicaid is determined by government. The contracts with commercial insurance are the only area that can aide in controlling pricing and is critical to financial viability as a community health system. Reimbursement is favorable for services such as surgery and imaging that tend to be the types of services that are reviewable by Certificate of Public Need. Augusta Health must manage a balanced service mix with comprehensive services, including essential services that operate at a loss. Revenues from higher paying services help hospitals afford to continue providing less profitable but essential services. The profitable services are regulated through Certificate of Public Need. Deregulating the profitable services and siphoning away commercially insured patients would make it harder for hospitals to continue providing less profitable services that the community needs. Certificate of Public Need exists in approximately 35 of the 50 United States. There are three objectives of a COPN; assure service is needed, assure service will be provided in a high-quality way and assure provider takes all comers regardless of ability to pay (Charity Care Condition).

COPN review applies to the introduction of a new service or the expansion, relocation, or conversion of certain existing services: Inpatient Beds, selected services and imaging. COPN assures that a health system does not come into a community to provide profitable services only, which destabilizes existing hospitals that provide both profitable and unprofitable services needed by the community. Healthcare is not a free market economy. Regulation is a critical success factor that makes the largest employer in Augusta County viable.

Dr. Seaton asked if the Board of Supervisors agreed to changing the language from what is proposed to modernize COPN to improve patient safety, accreditation, quality, patient access and charity care, would that be something agreed upon for legislation?

Ms. Mannix stated that those are things that Augusta Health is aligned with.

Ms. Carter stated that she does not agree with Certificate of Public Need.

Mr. Wells stated that he responsible for bringing this discussion back to the Board and he is ready to make a motion if the Board agrees.

Dr. Seaton asked Mr. Wells is he agreed to changing the wording?

Mr. Wells would like it to be the original wording.

After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to discuss further at the November Staff Briefing on November 21, 2022.

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DMV ANIMAL FRIENDLY LICENSE PLATE

The Board considered allocation of funds from DMV (\$2,205.00) to support sterilization programs for dogs and cats. This proposal will carry over to the Department of Taxation contribution 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. This is not something that requires Board action and he suggests that going forward Administration execute the documentation.

November 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

DMV ANIMAL FRIENDLY LICENSE PLATE (CONT'D)

Mr. Shull suggests bringing the information to the Board under Matters from Staff to make citizens aware of what is being done.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve allocation of funds (\$2,205.00) from the DMV.

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

Motion carried

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FIRE-RESCUE FUND GRANT REVIEW

The Board considered committee's recommendation for funding.

Minday Craun, Volunteer Coordinator, stated that the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee reviewed the requests. The Committee reviewed two applications totaling \$26,402.05 and recommends approving \$1,402.05 of the two applications for Swoope Volunteer Fire Company. The request of \$25,000.00 for Wilson Volunteer Fire Company was not recommended to fund.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve committee's recommendation for funding.

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

Motion carried

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WAIVERS -NONE

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, September 14, 2022
- Staff Briefing, Monday, September 26, 2022

CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since October 1, 2022.

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

November 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, thanked everyone for their efforts in getting the courthouse to Verona.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Chairman Garber thanked everyone for voting.

Ms. Carter thanked citizens for voting. She also pointed out a discrepancy at the Middlebrook voting precinct.

Mr. Slaven stated that he has learned a lot about the Augusta County Courthouse. This courthouse process has been an eye-opening experience. Not every decision is an easy decision just because you're on the Board of Supervisors and sometimes not every decision has a right answer. As long as you do not come to a dead end, a lot of decisions will provide you with another decision in most cases. The legislative process is impressive. The legislators were not there to move the courthouse. They do not have the authority to make that decision. Only the citizens have that authority. The legislators gave the citizens a fair question.

Mr. Wells thanked everyone for voting. The courthouse is a critical move for Augusta County. He is proud to be a part of the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Seaton thanked the Chairman for his guidance through the courthouse process. He is thankful for Senator Hanger and Delegate Avoli, along with the Governor in their efforts to assist in the process.

Mr. Morelli thanked Mr. Fitzgerald, staff and citizens who had a hand in the courthouse process. He also thanked the veterans for their service. Mr. Morelli would like the Ordinance Committee to re-evaluate the grass cutting ordinance.

Mr. Shull thanked all veterans and those currently serving for their service. He thanked the citizens in Augusta County for voting.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the citizens for voting. He also thanked the following for their commitment to the courthouse project. Candy Hensley, the Courthouse Committee, Jennifer Whetzel, James Benkahla and Kathleen Keffer and Mia Kivlighan. The work begins now and there is a schedule to meet. The County's legislative liaison, Eldon James, worked diligently with the legislators to help with the process.
2. VACo Conference is November 13-15, 2022.

3. This is Animal Shelter Week. There will be a small reception in the kitchen to celebrate .

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