Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

4:00 p.m. -- Board of Supervisors Budget Briefing

Special Budget Briefing Meeting, Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Gerald Garber, Chairman
Butch Wells, Vice-Chair
Pam Carter
Michael Shull
Scott Seaton
Carolyn Bragg
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
Misty Cook, Finance Director

ABSENT: Jeffrey Slaven

VIRGINIA: At a Special Budget Briefing Meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 249th year of the Commonwealth....

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FY2024-25 BUDGET
Misty Cook, Finance Director, presented to the Board preliminary big budget items.

She discussed the following:

- Projected Revenue Growth
- Revenue Opportunities
- Benefits and Disadvantages of a Fire Tax
- Current obligations that must be met in FY26
- The departments with no significant requests
- The departments with specific requests and the effect each request would have on the budget.
- School request
- The Composite Index impact on schools next budget year
- Community Contribution Requests
- Budget Obligations

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if the Board had any questions concerning the budget of if they would like to see specific items included in the final budget to please let him know..

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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
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Jeffrey Slaven
Jennifer Whetzel

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 26, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Public participation is optional; those who wish to join the Board of Supervisors in prayer are asked to remain standing after the Pledge.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **Rezoning Request-Boyington Properties, LLC/William C. or Sandra E.**

McMeans

a. Consider 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.

This being the day and time advertised to consider 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.

Julia Hensley, Planner II, stated that the two parcels are located within an Urban Service Overlay District, a Floodplain Overlay District, and an Airport Overlay District. The two parcels are located in an Urban Service Area of the Comprehensive Plan and are planned for Business. The applicant is interested in rezoning from Limited Business to General Business with proffers in order to allow for a larger variety of business uses. The Chair opened the public hearing.

There being no speakers, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the rezoning from limited business to general business with the proffers on approximately 2.692 acres.

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

Motion carried.

3. **Rezoning Request-Bridge Christian Church**

a. Consider 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.

This being the day and time advertised to consider 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.

Ms. Hensley stated that this property is located within the Conical Zone of the Airport Overlay District (APO) for the Waynesboro Eagles Nest Airport. This property is located in a Community Development Area of the Comprehensive Plan and is planned for Low-Density Residential. The applicant seeks to add a Public Use Overlay to the parcel to establish a hybrid program for homeschool students in grades k-5 within the existing church building to accommodate up to seventy-two students.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

There being no speakers, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the request for a Public Use Overlay to the approximately 16.122 acres owned by Bridge Christian Church on Goose Creek Road.

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

Motion carried.

(END OF PUBLIC HEARINGS)

4. **Valley Career and Technical Center Foundation**

   a. Update from Chris Earhart.

Chris Earhart represents the Valley Career and Technical Center Foundation. Nick Collins, John Glover, Tommy Shields and Kim Woods are also a part of the foundation. Mr. Earhart gave an overview of the foundation and their purpose and goals.

5. **Stroke Smart Proclamation**

   a. Consider proclamation.

The Board considered the following proclamation:

Greg Schacht, Augusta County Fire Rescue, introduced Daniel Linkins, the Regional Director of Department of Health Office of EMS.

PROCLAMATION

STROKE SMART AUGUSTA

WHEREAS, one in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime, affecting 80% of families; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability, placing a tremendous financial burden on society, individuals, and families; and

WHEREAS, life-saving treatments must be administered within 3–4 hours from the onset of stroke symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the stroke onset-to-911 time has not significantly improved in the past 25 years, with the majority of people unaware of how to spot a stroke or the importance of calling 911 immediately; and

WHEREAS, businesses, civic organizations, senior communities, faith-based organizations, and residents are encouraged to contribute to the "Stroke Smart: Spot-a-Stroke, Stop-a-Stroke, Save-a-Life" campaign through active community efforts; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to educate everyone in Augusta County about recognizing strokes and the critical importance of dialing 911 immediately, thereby reducing the stroke onset-to-911 interval to be measured by EMS and local hospital systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, The Augusta County Board of Supervisors proclaims Augusta County as a STROKE SMART County, and calls this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adopt the proclamation.

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

Motion carried.

6. **<u>Fire-Rescue Fund Grant</u>**

a. Consider the committee's recommendation of a revolving loan for Verona Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of $500,000.00.

The Board considered the Committee's recommendation of a revolving loan for Verona Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of $500,000.00.

Chief Schacht stated that this is a request from Verona Volunteer Fire Company to utilize the revolving loan for $500,000.00 with 60% repay. This request is to allow a purchase of a new engine-Pierce Enforce Pumper. The new apparatus will replace the current 2003 American LaFrance Eagle E63. Currently, Verona Volunteer Fire Company has approximately $300,000.00 saved and the engine total is $1,205,235.00 for a difference of $401,235.00. Once ordered, it will take between 1560 days to 1640 calendar days for delivery. They will continue to fundraise and save money for this project because it will not be paid for until it arrives. Atlantic Union Bank has approved funding the project for the remaining cost.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the Committee's recommendation.

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

Motion carried.

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7. **Columbia Gas Easement-Augusta County Courthouse**

a. Consider an easement for Columbia Gas.

The Board considered an easement for Columbia Gas.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is an easement for Columbia Gas to run a line between the Government Center and the Juvenile Detention Center to provide gas for the new courthouse.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the easement for Columbia Gas and authorize the County Administrator to sign the easement.

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

Motion carried.

b. Consider a resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

The Board considered following resolution of the Board of Supervisors:

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this a resolution allowing the County Administrator to sign easements that do not require a public hearing. The Board would be notified when the easements are signed.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County, Virginia ("Board") from time to time grants easements for utility improvements; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 requires a public hearing prior to conveyance of any interest in real estate owned by a locality, except that "conveyance[s] [of] utility easements across public property, including, but not limited to, easements for ingress, egress, utilities, cable, telecommunications, storm water management, and other similar conveyances, that are consistent with the local capital

improvement program, involving
improvement of property owned by the locality" may be conveyed without the
requirement of
such public hearing; and

WHEREAS, it would be more efficient and advantageous to authorize the County Administrator to execute such instruments creating utility easements where no public hearing is required, or where a public hearing has been held pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 and the Board approves such conveyance on behalf of the County.

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

1. That the County Administrator is authorized, pursuant to the terms of this Resolution, to execute such instruments of conveyance on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Augusta, Virginia and to execute and deliver on behalf of the County such documents to affect the conveyance of such utility easements. The County Administrator shall notify the Board of Supervisors when such document is executed.

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the resolution with changes to the third paragraph removing the words "appears to the Board that", removing a comma after the code section and add County Administrator to notify under the Now Therefore section.

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

Motion carried.

8. **BEAD Letters of Support**

a. Consider BEAD Letters of Support.

The Board considered Bead Letters of Support.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is in regards to companies that have asked for the Board's consideration in a letter of support for BEAD funding for broadband services within the County. All Points Broadband, Shentel and MGW have asks for letters of support.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve BEAD Letter of

Support for MGW and Shentel.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approval BEAD Letters of Support for All Points Broadband.

Ms. Carter stated that she will be voting against this request. All Points has not fulfilled any of their obligations int heir current project in Augusta County.

Dr. Seaton is unsure what is causing the delay, but is still in favor of the letter of support for All Points.

Mr. Shull stated that there are no penalties for not getting the project finished on time. He is not in favor is providing a letter of support to a company that has not completed any part of the project they currently have.

Ms. Bragg does not disagree with their performance so far, but if there were other viable broadband options in the County, the question would be why is there not already broadband.

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

Motion carried.

Ms. Carter stated that she did not want her name on the letter of support.

9. **Consent Agenda**

a. Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- Staff Briefing, Monday, November 25, 2024
- Regular Meeting, Monday, November 25, 2024
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 11, 2024
- Organizational Meeting, Thursday, January 2, 2025

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

MINUTES:
Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- Staff Briefing, Monday, November 25, 2024
- Regular Meeting, Monday, November 25, 2024
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 11, 2024
- Organizational Meeting, Thursday, January 2, 2025

CLAIMS
Consider claims paid since January 1, 2025.

Dr. Seaton requested that the minutes from November 13, 2024 be removed.

The Board voted on the consent agenda removing the November 13, 2024 minutes.

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

Motion carried.

The Board voted on the November 13, 2024 minutes.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the November 13, 2024 minutes.
Dr. Seaton will vote against due to minutes not accurately reflecting what was discussed.

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

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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b. CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since January 1, 2025.

****(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)****

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

Randall Wolf stated that the Shenandoah Valley Fall Foliage Festival will not be held this year. Mr. Wolf asks what commitment the County will make to the schools if federal funding goes away.

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Hwy, Verona, updated the Board on the Augusta County Veterans Memorial project.

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

NONE

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

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board appoint Caroline Solomon to serve a term on the Youth Commission.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull has concerns with volunteers and Fire-Rescue. Volunteers need to be supported.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board stand in support of volunteer fire fighters with the following bullet points:

- Allow the Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association to meet and discuss policies and procedures with the Chief.
- Form a committee to work together in making the career and volunteer system better.
- The non-compliance policy should come after the policies and procedures are developed.
- All policies and procedures to be put in place should be reviewed and approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Consider ways to incentivize the volunteers to be able to recruit, retain and promote participation in the volunteer fire fighters.

Ms. Bragg stated that a lot of the motion pertains to the Chief’s Association and the Board are not members of the association.

Mr. Wells would like to have time to review the information that Mr. Shull presented.

Dr. Seaton stated that several months ago, the Board voted and approved allowing the Chief to be in charge. His concern regarding the motion is the reprimand on safety issues. There has to be some immediate ability to reprimand or council safety issues. Each location should have the ability to educate so that safety is preserved in each department.

Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, clarified how the policies work and what the process is with them. Training is a necessity for each volunteer and career staff. The system that is in place supports volunteers and continues to provide for the volunteers. Volunteers wanted the non-compliance policy and that has been provided to them.

Tracy Martin, President of the Association, stated that it is important to have rules. Chief Schacht is supportive and he appreciates what he does.

Chief Schacht stated that he does not agree that a policy should be created and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board does not understand the fire service. To review a policy to make sure that it is going to function operationally out in the field is Fire-Rescue's job.

Mr. Garber stated that it is important to remember that the volunteer association is their association. If there is interference from the Board, it is not from the Board collectively. The Board as a whole as not made any effort to interfere.

Mr. Shull withdrew his motion.

Mr. Shull would like committee reports to keep informed in what is happening.
Dr. Seaton questioned if Parks & Recreation was aware and attempting to do anything about the soccer fields at East Side Highway.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that discussions are in process.

Mr. Garber announced that he will be running for the Middle River Magisterial District Board of Supervisors seat again.

13. **Adjournment**

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried.

Minutes approved by the Board on ___________________________. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

___________________________________ ___________________________________

Chairman County Administrator