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

1. **ROLE CALL:**

Gerald Garber
Butch Wells
Jeffrey Slaven
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

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

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Seth Fling from Stuarts Draft High School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. He is a senior and enjoys running cross country. He plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College and then transfer to Virginia Tech and study Business.

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Michael Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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2. **Contract Amendment-Entrance Sign for Government Center**

   a. Discuss a contract amendment for design services for a new entrance sign at the intersection of Lee Highway and Dick Huff Lane for the Government

Center.

The Board considered a contract amendment for design services for a new entrance sign at the intersection of Lee Highway and Dick Huff Lane for the Government Center.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is a contract amendment for a contract with Mosely Architects in regards to the courthouse. The courthouse project includes a new entrance to the Government Center. The existing signage has to be removed to allow for the new roadway to be built. Staff requested that Mosely provide a scope of work to do a design services for three different alternatives for the new sign in the amount of $12,629.00. With this contract amendment, Mosely will provide the three alternatives for consideration. Once that determination is made, they will go forward to design services to design the sign and prepare it for advertisement for bid. This cost is included in the current courthouse funding.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the contract amendment for the entrance sign design work by Mosely Architects in the amount of $12,629.00.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Garber, Wells, Slaven, Bragg, Shull, Seaton and Carter
Nays: None

Motion carried.

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3. **County BMP Maintenance 2025, RFP**

a. Consider awarding the contract to Brooks Land Services, LLC of Stuarts Draft for up to $25,000.00 for the current fiscal year.

The Board considered awarding the contract to Brooks Land Services, LLC of Stuarts Draft for up to $25,000.00 for the current fiscal year.

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that this is a consideration for a bid for stormwater maintenance. Subdivisions platted prior to 1997 do not require property owners to maintain County owned easements or BMP's. There have been a number of complaints and a gradual decline in ability to maintain with county staff since the loss of Department of Corrections inmate crews several years ago. An RFP was release for the channels that were most easily maintainable by a contract. Four companies attended a mandatory pre-bid conference on January 29. Two bids were received, one from RMI Services, LLC and one from Brooks Land Services, LLC. Brooks Land Services was selected by the committee to recommend award of the contract. They were responsive to the RFP, they have relevant experience doing this type of work and they are based in Stuarts Draft, response time to any of the BMP's anywhere in the County is forty-five minutes. Funding for FY2024-2025 is from Grounds and Maintenance and funding for FY2025-2026 is requested to come from Community

Development Operating.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve awarding the contract to Brooks Land Services, LLC in the amount of $25,000.00 and authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract.

Mr. Shull stated that the County needs to be mindful of the drainage when putting in new subdivisions to prevent further unnecessary spending.

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

Motion carried.

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4. **<u>Augusta County Landfill Lease Agreements</u>**

a. Consider the Augusta County Landfill Lease Agreements.

The Board considered the Augusta County Landfill Lease Agreements.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that two lease agreements concerning landfill property have lapsed. The first being an approximately 140-acre tract on the southeast side of the facility. This property was leased to Mr. Jesse Hershberger and was being used for crop production and hay production. The second is approximately 85-acre tract on the southwest side of the facility. This property was being leased to Mr. Charlie Schooley and was being used for cattle grazing. There have been some minor changes made in terms of acreage to the Hershberger lease. There was area in an easement that needed better protection so a small portion of the acreage was pulled out. The Schooley lease remains the same.
Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board authorize the Trustees of the Augusta County Landfill Land Trust to enter into an agreement with Charles Schooley for the lease of a parcel containing 76.579 acres of pastureland for an initial term of two years, with three renewal terms of one-year each, with the Augusta County Service Authority to act as agent for the Trustees in the management of such lease pursuant to the Augusta Regional Landfill Management Agreement dated March 4, 2021.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board authorize the Trustees of the

Augusta County Landfill Land Trust to enter into an agreement with Jesse Hershberger for the lease of a parcel containing 116.83 acres of pastureland for an initial term of two years, with three renewal terms of one-year each, with the Augusta County Service Authority to act as agent for the Trustees in the management of such lease pursuant to the Augusta Regional Landfill Management Agreement dated March 4, 2021.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

Alan and Christina Perkins, 195 Harris Creek Road, Louisa, VA, voiced their support of the Bunny Lu Rescue.

Joshua Cranor, 10835 White Dogwood Drive, Providence Forge, VA, spoke on how important the rabbit rescue is to the well-being of the animals and how it has impacted his family.

MaryAnn Smith, 145 Poland Street, Waynesboro, VA, spoke in support of the Bunny Lu Rescue.

Mary Ellen Whitehouse, 11 Aero Drive, Waynesboro, VA, is the operator of the rescue and spoke on the necessity for her to be allowed to continue fostering rabbits and finding them homes. She asked for the Board's help in being allowed to continue fostering rabbits in her home and educating people and advising people about rabbits.

Jonathan Kettler, spoke in support of the rescue and the discussed the zoning situation.

Abigail Kettler, spoke on her personal experience with the Bunny Lu Rescue. The rescue plays a critical role and has a positive impact within the community.

Bradley Neale, 137 Fairmont Drive, Staunton, VA, spoke in support of the rescue. He questions what is being done to correct oppressive and illogical zoning regulations put forward by the County.

Angela Bibeau, 46 Hamshire Way, Fishersville, VA, spoke in support of the rescue from the standpoint of a volunteer of the rescue.

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

NONE

7. Matters to Be Presented by the Board

Ms. Carter updated the Board on the tower in West Augusta. She also stated that there is an issue with the radio tower in Craigsville on Troxel Gap. There is not an ability to communicate with the 911 Center.

Tracy Martin, Fire Chief for Craigsville, stated that it is affecting other areas. They can communicate as long as they are in the trucks.

Mr. Fitzgerald is aware of the issue and will keep a close eye on the progress of getting the issue resolved.

Ms. Whetzel informed the Board of the information received from Amanda Irvine regarding the issue.

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8. 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. County Attorney

b) County Administrator

1. Boards and Commissions: CAPSAW 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]:

1. Potential acquisition of a parcel of real estate in Augusta County for a public purpose.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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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, Slaven, Bragg, Shull, Seaton and Carter

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board appoint Dr. Seaton to serve on CAP-SAW.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board appoint Carolyn Bragg to serve on Shenandoah Valley Partnership.

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

Motion carried.

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9. **Adjournment**

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

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

Motion carried.

Minutes approved by the Board on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

Chairman

County Administrator