

Staff Briefing Meeting, Monday, April 21, 2025, 1:30 PM Government Center Main
Board Room

1. **ROLE CALL:**

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

ABSENT: Pam Carter
Nicole Price, Interim County Attorney

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the
Augusta County Board of
Supervisors held on Monday,
April 21, 2025, at 1:30 PM at the
Government Center Main Board
Room, and in the 249th year of
the Commonwealth...

Chairman Garber welcomed those present at the meeting.

2. **VDOT**

a. Report by VDOT.

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VDOT ROADS

Don Komara, Residency Administrator, discussed the VDOT status report of April 21, 2025.

The Board accepted the report as information.

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3. **Fire-Rescue**

a. Report by Staff.

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

The Board accepted the monthly report as information.

b. Fire-Rescue Fund Grant

1. Chief Schacht discussed the Fire-Rescue Grant Fund Committee recommendations.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

c. Discuss Churchville Hub station.

1. Chief Schacht discussed the Churchville hub station.

The Board authorized holding for a later meeting.

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4. **Glebe Cemetary Update**

a. Presentation by General Ted Shuey

General Ted Shuey updated the Board on the Glebe Cemetery.

The Board accepted the update as information.

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5. **Budget**

BUDGET

Misty Cook discussed the following:

- a. Revised Budget for FY2024-2025

- b. Proposed Tax Rate for 2025
- c. Proposed Budget for FY2025-2026

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting agenda for public hearing.

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- a. Discuss Revised Budget for FY2024-2025
- b. Discuss the Proposed Tax Rate for 2025.
- c. Discuss the Proposed Budget for FY2025-2026.

6. **Cigarette Tax Increase**

- a. Discuss an ordinance that would increase the excise tax on the sale of cigarettes equivalent from \$.30 to \$.40 on each package containing twenty-five or fewer cigarettes to be effective July 1, 2025.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, discussed an ordinance that would increase the excise tax on the sale of cigarettes equivalent from \$0.30 to \$.40 on each package containing twenty-five or fewer cigarettes to be effective July 1, 2025.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting agenda for public hearing.

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7. **Augusta Health Medicaid Letter**

- a. Discuss a request from Augusta Health.

Tim Norton, Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, discussed a request from Augusta Health for a Medicaid letter of support.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

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8. **Comprehensive Plan Update**

- a. Update by Staff.

Julia Hensley, Planner II, discussed the Comprehensive Plan.

The Board accepted as information.

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9. **Planning Commission/Public Hearings**

- a. Discuss a request to rezone from General Agriculture to General Business with proffers approximately 33.11 acres (TMP 077 30D) owned by H2 Holdings LLC. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

Ms. Hensley discussed a request to rezone from General Agriculture to General Business with proffers approximately 33.11 acres (TMP 077 30D) owned by H2 Holdings, LLC. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

The Board authorized placing on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025 regular meeting agenda.

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

The following was discussed:

1. Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, discussed ordinance amendments for public hearing advertisement.

The Board authorized advertising for public hearing.

2. Mr. Fitzgerald read a letter received from the AARP Tax Aide thanking the County for hosting their service at the Government Center.
3. Mr. Fitzgerald updated the Board on the Rattlesnake Run Fire.

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

Dr. Seaton directed staff to place Celebrity Lane on the Wednesday, April 23, 2025, regular meeting agenda for Board's consideration on the garbage issue.

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12. **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 & Commissions: Economic Development Authority

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

(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]:

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

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

Motion carried.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

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

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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