Regular Meeting, Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

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
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development
Nicole Price, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 250th year of the Commonwealth...

Chairman Garber welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following students from Buffalo Gap High School FFA led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Joe Horn is a graduate of Buffalo Gap High School. He will attending the University of Northwestern Ohio to pursue a degree and Agricultural Equipment and Technology.

Tyler Whetzel serves as the FFA President. He plans to become a State Livestock Grader after graduation.

Henry Steel is a senior and serves as a Parliamentarian. After graduation, he plans to join the pipeline as a welder.

Parker McDorman is a Parliamentarian and plans to become an airplane mechanic after graduation.

Austin Buzzard is a junior and serves as Secretary for FFA. He is currently studying HVAC at VoTech and plans to work in the field after graduation.

Justin Grady is a junior and serves as a Reporter for FFA. He is currently enrolled at

Valley VoTech in welding and plans to follow that as a career.

McKayla Lloyd is a senior and serves as a President for FFA. She will be running for President with the State Office. She hopes to attend Virginia Tech after graduation to experience their four-year program with a major in Ag Business and a minor in Animal Science.

Regan Gualtney is a junior and serves as a Vice President for FFA. She plans to attend Veterinarian School and become an Embryologists.

Gracelyn Swisher is serving as a Vice President for FFA. After graduation, she plans to attend The Staunton School of Cosmetology.
Kerrington Floyd is a junior and serves as a Secretary for FFA. Her goal after graduation is to become a Horse Farrier.

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Michael Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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1. **<u>Emergency Operation Plan</u>**

The Board considered update and adoption of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Emergency Operations Plan.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is a resolution to extend the County's Emergency Operations Plan to January 31, 2026. The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission typically updates the Emergency Operation Plan, along with Staunton and Waynesboro. In the process of staff turnover, it has been determined that the County's existing Emergency Operation Plan has expired and it has been recommended that the plan be extended through January 2026. The County has an agreement with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission that they will update the plan regionally and it will be brought back to the Board at the end of January 2026 for adoption.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve extending the Emergency Operation Plan until January 2026.

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

Motion carried.

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2. **Opioid**

The Board considered the following:

a. An Operational Agreement for regional grant.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that Augusta, Staunton and Waynesboro jointly developed and submitted an application for cooperative partnership funding from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA), for Regional Prevention, Education, and Harm Reduction Services. There are two entities that would provide these services; the Office on Youth and The Central Shenandoah Health District. Also included in the agreement is CAPSAW as part of the oversight for the opioid grant funds and including administrative work. The application was approved by the OAA, and the MOU for the Board's consideration will formalize this cooperative partnership. This is a requirement in order for the funding to be released to the localities. Augusta is the fiscal agent and will take the lead on this particular grant. The MOU is for a one-year term with automatic renewals on an annual basis and it is a five-year grant renewing, until June 30, 2030. The agreement was modeled after a draft provided by the granting agency and it is under review by the localities. Approval would be contingent on final review by the County Attorney working with the two cities.
Dr. Seaton verified that CAPSAW would be involved in this process and Augusta County is the fiscal agent.

Ms. Whetzel stated that CAPSAW is working as the lead in administering the grant and helping with gathering proposals, writing grants, and submitting them through the portal for whichever of the three localities will be the lead on it. Their involvement is administrative only. Augusta County is the fiscal agent for this grant as the application was submitted through the County's portal. The application included a nominal amount for CAPSAW to do the administration of the entire grant over the five-year period. Waynesboro is mentioned in the agreement in relation to CAPSAW since Waynesboro is the fiscal agent for CAPSAW and the Office on Youth.

Dr. Seaton asked who legal questions go to.

Ms. Whetzel stated that if it was a question related to CAPSAW and their administration and their involvement, it would go through the City Attorney. If it is a question related to the OAA, directly related to this grant, we as the fiscal agent would address that first.

Dr. Seaton would like that wording the contract so it is clear.

Ms. Whetzel stated that if that is something to be considered in this agreement, the language can be reviewed and approval would be contingent upon adding something relative to that clarity on whose legal counsel would be addressed relative to this grant.

Ms. Whetzel clarified that the operational agreement is being reviewed by all three localities and it is between the three localities relative to the grant funding being received from the Opioid Abatement Authority. CAPSAW is administering the grant only. CAPSAW is receiving a portion of the grant because they are administering this for the three localities. The overall total for FY26 is approximately $206,000.00, $130,000.00 will go to the Health Department, $70,000.00 to the Office on Youth and approximately $6,600.00 to CAPSAW.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the agreement for the regional grant using CAPSAW as the administrator.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

b. A resolution for Sackler Settlement.

Ms. Whetzel stated that over time there have been law suits or litigations related to opioid settlements by large companies. When a settlement happens, the State of Virginia receives an allocation of the funding. A number of resolutions have been brought before the Board for consideration over the past two to three years. The Sackler Family is a $6.5 billion nationwide settlement that the state would get a portion of and then flow to localities.
The second resolution is for Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun and Zydis Settlements in the amount of $720 million nationwide claims. The two resolutions follow the Attorney General's Office draft resolution format.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the resolution for the Sackler Settlement.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

c. A resolution for Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus Settlements.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the resolution for the Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus Settlement.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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3. **Funding Request**

The Board considered a funding request for Master Planning for Augusta County Recreational Facility.

Funding Source:	South River Infrastructure	$1,125.00
	Beverley Manor Infrastructure	$1,125.00
	Wayne Infrastructure	$1,125.00
	Pastures Infrastructure	$1,125.00

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that in November 2024 the Board authorized funding for conceptual planning for a recreational facility to be located in the open space south of the Government Center. Staff worked with the review team to evaluate three concepts developed by the design consultant. The planning effort validated that the space is suitable for such a facility and the planning team recommends doing further analysis to refine the preferred alternative and develop planning level cost estimates. A cost proposal change order was submitted in the amount of $4,500.00 to refine the preferred option and get the cost estimates.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve adding on the additional funding of $4,500.00 for the Master Planning of the Augusta County Recreational Facility.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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4. **Consent Agenda**

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

Dr. Seaton pointed out that in the minutes for June 11, 2025, it showed he adjourned the meeting, but he was absent. That needs to be corrected.

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, June 11, 2025
- Staff Briefing, Monday, June 23, 2025

CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since July 1, 2025

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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

NONE

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

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. At the last School Board meeting, they approved Cambridge Learning Center's proposal to utilize their facilities to operate an after school care program at Cassell Elementary and Stump Elementary. The locations of Clymore Elementary, Churchville Elementary and Wilson Elementary are currently staffed by the YMCA for after school programs. There is a portion of Virginia Code, section 22.1-132.1, which involves day care programs and localities. The first sentence of that code section states "upon agreement of the relevant governing body, the School Board may establish a day care program". The School Board is requesting that the Board of Supervisors consider agreement that they develop these two after school programs at Cassell and Stump Elementary with Cambridge Learning Center.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board agree with the School Board's decision to allow day care centers at Cassell and Stump Elementary.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2. Mr. Fitzgerald provided an update on the Churchville Volunteer Fire Department project. Lineage Architect provided a report on where the project stands at this point. The survey has been completed on the boundary. All of the setbacks and all of the court records have been recorded and put onto the plat. Information has been received from the Department of Health to allow mapping of the existing septic and begin assessing the septic system for future growth on the site. The survey team made field visits to obtain existing topography and other physical features and included the stream sections necessary to meet stormwater requirements. All of this was incorporated into what is called an Existing Conditions Plan. A creation of what is called a buildable area is underway now and they are going to use that to

inform the layout of the building and what is built. The buildable area is determined by the setbacks and zoning requirements. After completion of the buildable area, the architectural process could begin. The architectural team completed their research on the best practices in fire station design. This included examination of dozens of fire station designs all over the country. The team conducted a comprehensive review of the safety and health conditions for the design of a fire and emergency medical service stations jointly published by the US Fire Administration and FEMA. The Rockingham County Fire Station 10 was visited by the architects, Chief Schacht and Candy Hensley. That facility was designed based on the current best practices. The programming and Space Planning Analysis has been reviewed to determine the square footage for the rooms and the spaces based on the best practices. The architectural team is also working on floor plan components that they have been creating based on the Space Planning Analysis and researching for additional spaces to include the apparatus bay, the decon block, community room and the kitchen block, sleeping quarters and the day room block. The next step is to finalize the buildable area. The architectural team will use that to assemble the floor plans within the area. It is estimated that those components should be completed within the next three weeks and then a cost estimate will follow.

3. Mr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board of the last Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14th from 5pm-7pm at Buffalo Gap

Middle School.

4. Mr. Wolfe pointed out that he is working to get a Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting set up for the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission.

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

Mr. Shull stated that he has attended several Comprehensive Plan Community Meetings. The consensus that he is getting from citizens is they would like to hold off on the Comprehensive Plan. The citizens would like to review the completed plan before the Board votes on it. Citizens have also questioned why there is a rush to be completed now.

Ms. Bragg stated that this is something that should have been discussed at the beginning of the process. The Comprehensive Plan is nearing completion within the next couple of months. Staff has spent numerous hours putting the plan together.

Mr. Shull asked how much the Hill Contract was and how much has been paid out. He also requests the information that was received by Hill Studio.

Mr. Shull would like to receive an update on the broadband project. He also questioned how many twelve-hour fire stations have County personnel.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are five, not including Stuarts Draft Rescue.

Mr. Shull questioned if the County goes to twenty-four shifts, will the twelve-hour employees stay at twelve hours or will they become ten-hour shifts.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the hours would be 8:00am to 6:00 p.m. The Fire Chief has discussed these hours with the individual station Chiefs and they are in agreeance with this change.

Ms. Bragg reminded everyone of the Stuarts Draft Carnival coming up.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve a funding request from Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department to purchase radios in the amount of $17,226.54 to come from Pastures Infrastructure.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Slaven recommends having the All Points Broadband come to give an update on the project.

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8. **Closed Session**

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Shull, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

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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: Office on Youth

2. **The real property exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3)**

[Discussion 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.

2. Historic Augusta County Courthouse in Staunton

3. **The legal counsel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8)**

[Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.]:

1. Historic Augusta County Courthouse in Staunton

4. **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 commercial space and mixed-use development near the City of Waynesboro.

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

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, Slaven, Shull, Bragg, 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:

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

Motion carried.

Ms. Carter did not certify due to Dr. Seaton having a conversation with a citizen in the audience after the Board had voted o enter into Closed Session.

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

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<u>BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS</u>
Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board re-appoint Carrie Landes to serve a term on the Office on Youth Commission. Effective immediately and to expire on August 13, 2028.

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

Motion carried.

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Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board ratify the submission of the grant application on August 12, 2025 and to direct the staff to continue with the grant application process, including review by the County Attorney until further action by the Board of Supervisors.

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

Motion carried.

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9. **Adjournment**

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, 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, September 10, 2025. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

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Chairman County Administrator