Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

ROLE CALL:

Gerald Garber
Jeffrey Slaven
Michael Shull
Carolyn Bragg
Scott Seaton
Pam Carter
Butch Wells
Timothy K. Fitzgerald County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
Nicole Price, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 250th year of the Commonwealth...

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Chairman Garber welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following students from Stewart Middle School FFA led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ben Layne wished to be an Engineer.
Steele Caricofe plans to pursue a career in Sports Psychology.
Carson Hall would like to be a Scientist.
Digory Towles would like to become a doctor.
Adam Zetwick is unsure what he would like study.
Garrett Packer plans to be farmer.
Brooke Eger would like to become a veterinarian.
Avery Martin would like to become a Park Ranger.
Annabelle Kelley would like to become a veterinarian.
Brynn Nestor would like to study in the healthcare field.
Stella Swats is unsure what she would like study.

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Gerald Garber, Middle River District, delivered the invocation.

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1. **Funding of Ambulance**

The Board considered a funding request to purchase a PL Custom ambulance in the amount of $445,367.00.
Greg Schacht, Augusta County Fire Chief, stated that this is a request to approve funding for a new PL custom ambulance from Goodman Specialty Vehicles in the amount of $445,367.00. The Ambulance Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Plan contains a detailed schedule to replace ambulances on a ten-year cycle. Augusta County Fire and Rescue staffs seven frontline units on a 24/7 basis and there are three additional units in reserve. The plan rotates each unit around the County to balance out the mileage. The goal is to reach 100,000 miles while in frontline status during the first seven years and the move to reserve status. This has proven to be effective in maintaining ambulances and keeping them in top working order.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the funding request to purchase a PL Custom ambulance in the amount of $445,367.00.

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

Motion carried.

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2. **Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Review**

The Board considered the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee recommendations.

Chief Schacht stated that the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee reviewed six applications during the September 025 round of grant requests totaling $124,168.88 and recommends approving $33,413.36 in requests.

Verona Volunteer Fire Company	$24,766.64
Riverheads Volunteer Fire Department	$ 8,646.72

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the committee's recommendations.

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

Carter

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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3. **Pro Suite CAD/Central Square**

The Board considered funding to purchase Central/Square Pro Suite through the TIPS contract.

Funding Request:	ECC, ACSO and ACFR combined	$465,931.41
	Augusta ECC alone	$157,243.91

Amanda Irvine, Director of Emergency Communications Center, stated that this is a funding request to replace and upgrade the existing Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The current system, in operation since 1999, no longer meets operational demands or state reporting requirements. The recommended upgrade is from Central-Square One Solution to CentralSquare Pro Suite.
Mallory Craig, Operations Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the highlights of the overall packet of information.

Mr. Shull questions if there are other companies that prices could be compared with.

Ms. Craig stated that there is a comparison chart in the packet outlining other vendors, their products, and the features they offer. While specific pricing was not included, the chart did reflect general cost characteristics such as high initial cost, higher overall cost, lower upfront cost, or mid-range. A specific dollar amount was not available, as pricing for these vendors would require going through their formal quote processes.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the funding request to purchase Central/Square Pro Suite through the TIPS contract and authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract.

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

Motion carried.

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4. **Pickleball Courts at Stuarts Draft Park**

The Board considered awarding a contract to G&H Contracting for the pickleball courts at Stuarts Draft Park in the amount of $434,470.00, which includes a 15% contingency.

Funding Source:	South River Infrastructure	$ 50,000.00
	Beverley Manor Infrastructure	$126,470.00
	Wayne Infrastructure	$ 50,000.00
	Parks & Recreation Capital	$100,000.00
	Stuarts Draft Ruritans	$ 40,000.00
	Forest Sustainability Funds	$ 68,000.00

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that the County's engineering team put together plans for the pickleball courts at Stuarts Draft Park. The bidding process is complete and it is recommended that the contract be awarded to G and H Contracting in the amount of $434,470.00, which includes a 15% contingency. The Stuarts Draft Ruritans have indicated a desire to support the project in the amount of $40,000.00. The County receives Forest Sustainability Funds that comes from the State. One of the allowable uses for those funds is Parks and Recreation. Over the years, that is what the funds have been used for. Currently, there is approximately $68,000.00 in that fund that could be used towards this project. The Parks & Recreation Capital Account would be used for up to $200,000.00 and then finally Ms. Bragg would like to use infrastructure money from South River.

Mr. Wells agreed to using $126,470.00 from his infrastructure account.

Dr. Seaton agreed to using $50,000.00 from his Infrastructure account.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve awarding the contract to G&H Contracting in the amount of $434,470.00 and authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

5. **Reimburse Legal Fees for Officers**

The Board considered reimbursement of legal fees and expenses for law enforcement officers.

Ms. Price stated that the Board received two requests for reimbursement for legal fees and expenses from two Sheriff Deputies, William Mikolay and Charles Taylor, Jr. The circumstances of both are slightly different. They are separate incidents, but both of the deputies were charged with criminal charges and those charges were subsequently dismissed and the legal fees are being requested to be paid for by the locality. This is allowable under state code.

Ms. Carter questioned the charges that are still pending for Mr. Mikolay.

Ms. Price stated that Mr. Mikolay was charged with two charges. He was charged with a felony and that charge was dismissed in February 2025. The remaining charge is scheduled to be dismissed in February 2026. He is requesting only the portion of legal fees and costs that were associated with the charges that have already been dismissed. He would be eligible for the other fees and costs if those charges are dismissed.

Ms. Carter questioned if the County was guaranteed to be reimbursed by Compensation Board for the expenses.

Ms. Price stated that it is clear from the statute, which is 15.2-1711, that if a County chooses to reimburse upon request, the County would be reimbursed two thirds of the amount from the Compensation Board.

Mr. Shull questioned if the officers are facing civil charges.

Ms. Price stated that they are facing civil charges. There are civil lawsuits that they both have attorneys for those matters and those fees are being paid for by Virginia Risk Management because they were officers of a Constitutional Office.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve the reimbursement request.

Dr. Seaton stated that the two deputies are asking the Board to use taxpayer dollars to reimburse for legal expenses spent defending themselves because of their actions. He stated taxpayers do not deserve to pay for their mistakes. Dr. Seaton stated his understanding of certain details of the cases for both deputies, stating he doesn't think the public can understand what went on. He stated he is choosing to protect the public funds from being used in cases where the officer's conduct was not within the scope of duty. He stated he supports Sheriffs and Deputies who act in good faith while maintaining checks to prevent misuse of taxpayer money.

Mr. Wells stated that it is not the Board's job to adjudicate these cases.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board postpone the request until the November 24, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting.

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

Motion carried.

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6. **Legislative Package**

The Board considered the final draft of the 2026 Legislative Package.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the Board has addressed the Legislative Package and some changes were made in the first draft. One is related to car tax and keeping the local authority for assessing and taxing cars at the local level, where the state would not make any changes that would affect the County's taxing powers. Approximately fourteen percent of the budget comes from personal property tax. We do not want the state to make changes that would affect that dollar amount. Secondly, there was an item in the VACo packet to talk about closure of state facilities and the fact that the state could vet that with localities ahead of time to see what that reuse of property would be as well as the tax values for the property. There are provisions in the package for Children's Services Act or CSA that talks about the importance of it and move it into priorities, but then discuss the item that is a budget provision that says that the state will only pay up to a five percent increase in a contract for day placement. This would be language added to the legislative packet to say the County disagrees with that. If there is an increase above the five percent, the state should pay as well as localities. From the local CSA perspective, our team tries to keep those day placements at a minimum. The School Board suggested adding Career and Technical Education Funding to the package. That is funding operations similar to what the Governor's Schools do at a state level. The other item that was mentioned was relative to changing the minimum value on PPTRA for the qualifying vehicles from one thousand to two thousand. From a county's perspective, $4.3 million is received a year from the state as part of their $950 million allocation for PPTRA that goes back to 2006. That is spread over all of the values of all the vehicles. Currently, the percentage reduction is twenty six percent between the one thousand and the twenty thousand qualifying vehicle amounts. If the amount is increased to two thousand, the people that are moving from one thousand to two thousand are going to get a zero bill or a bigger deduction. The people between the two thousand and the twenty thousand qualifying vehicle reduction will have a lesser percentage. The County is getting the same amount whether the minimum is one thousand or two thousand.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board accept the Legislative Package with the additional language.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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7. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

CLAIMS:
Consider claims paid since September 1, 2025

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

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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

NONE

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

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Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. Reminder the Board Appreciation Dinner on December 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Staff Briefing will be on Monday, November 24th starting at 3:00 p.m. and the Regular Meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Shull questioned Chief Schacht about scheduling vacations for Fire-Rescue and voiced concerns with the shift schedule being worked.

Chief Schacht stated that he is not aware of issues with scheduling vacations. He also explained the need to do twenty-four-hour shifts starting at 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Carter asked Chief Schacht if the contracts or agreements with the different agencies have been reviewed.

Chief Schacht stated that they are currently working on reviewing them.

Ms. Carter is disappointed with the service that All Points is providing.

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11. **Closed Session**

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

1. **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.

2. **the legal counsel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.23711(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. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter]:

a. 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 Ms. Carter, 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, 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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12. **Adjournment**

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Minutes approved by the Board on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

Chairman	County Administrator