Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

ROLE CALL:

Jeffrey Slaven
Chris Kincheloe
Michael Shull
Steve Grepps
Gerald Garber
Scott Seaton
Carolyn Bragg
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, January 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 250th year of the Commonwealth...

Chairman Slaven welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following student from the Wilson Middle School, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Shree Madhani runs track and plays volleyball. She plans to become either a cardiothoracic surgeon or pediatric surgeon.

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Michael Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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1. **Committees & Commissions for 2026 Appointed by the Board**

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS FOR 2026 APPOINTED BY THE BOARD
The Board considered the following:

1. Elect representative to Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC).

Patrick Lam and Jeff Slaven

2. Elect representatives to Agriculture and Forestal District Committee.
   Richard Williams, Wes Marshall, W. Douglas Riley, B. Randolph Roller, Ashlie Howell, George Price (Commissioner of the Revenue), Jeff Slaven (Board of Supervisors)
3. Emergency Management Director: Jeff Slaven
4. Emergency Management Co-Director: Tim Fitzgerald
5. Emergency Management Coordinator: Patrick Lam
6. Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator: Amanda Irvine
7. Audit Committee: Jeff Slaven and Chris Kincheloe

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is standard practice for the first official meeting of the year in which the Board considers committees and commissions that are appointed by the Board as a whole. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the list of committees and commissions.

Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board appoint the committees and commissions as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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2. **Library Board Bylaws**

The Board considered an update to the Library Board of Trustees Bylaws.

Natalie Hutchinson, Library Director and Susan Thacker, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees were present. Ms. Thacker stated that this is an amendment to the Bylaws on the status of a quorum. In the current Bylaws a quorum is defined as four. It is requested to change it to a majority of the named members because in the past there have been issues with not having an adequate amount to conduct business.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that this is before the Board of Supervisors because the 1976 resolution creating the library system included that any amendments to their Bylaws had to be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors as well. The last time the Bylaws were reviewed by the Board of Supervisors was in 2023.

Dr. Seaton asked if the Board approved policies were available.

Ms. Hutchinson stated that the policies were available on the website.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board accept the amendments to the Bylaws as presented.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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3. **Housing Partnership MOU**

The Board considered a Housing Partnership MOU.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the Staunton Redevelopment Housing Authority, the SAW Habitat for Humanity and the Renewing Homes for Greater Augusta recently partnered together. As part of that partnership, they question if the City of Staunton and Augusta County would
be interested in adding an addendum to a Memorandum of Understanding that they have created. Language has been drafted by one of the County's Planners relative to what that addendum would be and the roles that the County would play in this. It would include supporting affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization in Augusta County through policy planning, assist with identification of community housing needs and priorities in the County, provide technical assistance data in coordination with county departments, leverage public resources, land and funding opportunities to support collaborative housing initiatives, and participate in joint efforts to engage the public and advance housing goals in Augusta County. Many of the initiatives are currently active through the work that is done in building out the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Bragg questioned if Waynesboro is included.

Ms. Whetzel stated that they have their own Redevelopment Housing Authority.

Dr. Seaton questioned how this changes what the County is doing currently.

Ms. Whetzel stated that it does not change anything. It strengthens the partnership for funding opportunities.

Dr. Seaton recommends passing on the MOU. His biggest concern is creating an entity. It is uncertain what will happen with the General Assembly and housing. Augusta County needs to keep control.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Grepps, that the Board not approve the MOU.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Grepps, Shull, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None
Motion carried

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4. **<u>General Engineering/Architectural Services</u>**

The Board considered awarding the contract for General Engineering/Architectural Services.

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that the current contracts for General Engineering Services expire on January 31, 2026. Staff has proceeded in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act to evaluate and recommend consulting firms to provide Architectural and Engineering services for the county. The RFP is broken down into four categories; Small Projects, Transportation, Planning and Related Studies and Services, Economic Development Services and Architectural Services. With projects that require surveying, the consulting firm hired to complete work in categories two and three will be encouraged to use local services to the extent possible. Mr. Wolfe reviewed the current contracts for 2021-2025. The review team consisted of staff from Administration, Economic Development, Engineering, Facilities, Finance, Parks & Recreation and Community Development. The proposed contracts are as follows:

- Category 1 (Small Projects) - EGS & Associates, Timmons Group and Hurt and Proffitt
- Category 2 (Transportation, Planning & Related Studies & Services) – Timmons Group, Rinker Design & Associates and EPR PC
- Category 3 (Economic Development) – Timmons Group, Hurt and Proffitt and Balzer & Associates (Westwood)
- Category 4 (Architectural) – Lineage Architects, Glave and Holmes and Moseley Architects

Requested action from the Board is to award contracts to the recommended firms and to Authorize the County Administrator to execute the contracts as approved by the County Attorney.

Ms. Bragg questioned what the term would be for the contracts.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the term is for one year and can be renewed for three additional terms. If there are no concerns after the one-year mark, the contracts will automatically renew.

Mr. Shull asked for a list of everyone that sent in a proposal and would like time to review the proposals and contracts.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he would provide the information requested.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board postpone to the January 26, 2026 worksession.

Mr. Fitzgerald questioned the County Attorney if the contracts would be ready before the next meeting for review.

Ms. Price stated that what is being proposed is consistent with the Virginia Public Procurement Act. A standard contract has been reviewed for each proposal.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that the procurement process is clear in the law on how this is handled. Firms are picked and interviewed based on rankings. The interviews are scored and candidates are selected.

Ms. Price stated that there was an RFP that went out and the selection was made by how closely they met the RFP.

Ms. Bragg questioned if this was something that the County could change without requiring the whole RFP process to be done again.

Ms. Price stated that it is important that the County comply with process that the County said it would follow. That would be the policies of the Finance Department and Community Development consistent with the RFP that was approved and sent out. There is nothing wrong with the Board obtaining more information, but if the question is if different criteria can be used or a different process the answer is no.

Mr. Shull stated that he is not suggesting making changes for this time, but changes could be made for future RFPs from what is learned with this one.

The Board voted on Mr. Shull's motion to postpone this item to the January 26, 2026 worksession.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Kincheloe, Grepps, Shull, and Seaton
Nays: Slaven and Bragg
Abstain: Garber

Motion carried.

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5. **Infrastructure Funding Request**

The Board considered a funding request from Verona Volunteer Fire Department for parking lot paving in the amount of $15,000.00.

Funding Source:	North River Infrastructure	$10,000.00
	Beverley Manor Infrastructure	$ 5,000.00

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is a request for paving that was completed in front of the bay space. Weatherman Collins did the work and made a portion of the work a community donation. The remaining balance is being requested by Verona Volunteer Fire Department.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the funding request.

Mr. Grepps requested that $5,000.00 be used from the Beverley Manor Infrastructure account.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Grepps, Shull, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None

Motion carried

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6. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

<u>MINUTES:</u>
Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- Regular Meeting, November 12, 2025
- Staff Briefing, Monday, November 24, 2025

<u>CLAIMS:</u>
Consider claims paid since December 1, 2025.

Dr. Seaton request that the November 12, 2025 meeting minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. The minutes did not adequately reflect his reasonings for voting against the refunding of legal fees and expenses for two County deputies.

The Board voted on the Regular Meeting on October 22nd, the Staff Briefing on November 24th and the claims paid.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Grepps, Shull, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton moved to change the November 12th minutes to reflect his comments regarding Charles Taylor and William Mikolay. He voted against using tax payer money because their pleads demonstrated not being innocent. An email was received from James Hingley in Albemarle regarding the issue and their plea agreements.
Mr. Slaven pointed out that the determination of guilt or innocence is determined by the courts.

Dr. Seaton read the statement from Mr. Hingley.

Mr. Slaven pointed out that there was a response from the Augusta County Commonwealth Attorney that explained the background of the case.

Ms. Bragg stated that the referenced email was sent to the Board on December 4, 2025, which is after November 12. This can't be mentioned in the November 12th minutes. Minutes are not done word for word so it can be mentioned in the minutes for this meeting, but since it had not occurred until after the November 12th meeting, it cannot be included in the minutes.

Ms. Price reminded the Board that they have chosen to use Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rule speaks to the minutes of a proceeding. Robert's Rules of Order encourages minutes to be a summary, not a transcript. The Board decides what is included in the minutes, but it is not meant to reflect exact statements made by any Board member, but is to summarize. Page 220 of the November 12, 2025 minutes includes a paragraph which summarizes Dr. Seaton's statement. The Chair may want to entertain a motion from Dr. Seaton that would be specific as to what he would like to show in the summary, but it is not a transcription. Ms. Price also reminded the Board that the Board was not asked to make a decision or to vote on whether they were acquitted or innocent or any of those other types of terms which carry specific meanings in the law, not just the plain meaning in a discussion. The Board was asked to determine whether the Board wished to reimburse the fees and costs associated with criminal charges that were ultimately dismissed. The Board was provided proof that the charges that were being asked to be reimbursed were in fact dismissed. The decision was being made as to whether it met the statute. The statute requires a dismissal. The statute does not distinguish between someone who enters a certain type of plea.

Ms. Bragg stated that she would be hesitant to say in the minutes that the officers were guilty when a dismissal was issued. That is not the Board's decision to make and the court was clear on their decision.

Mr. Shull suggested a more detailed summary in the minutes for statements that are made by individuals.

The Board voted on the motion made by Dr. Seaton to approve the November 12, 2025 minutes with the addition to state that Charles Taylor and William Mikolay were not acquitted.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Grepps, Shull and Seaton
Nays: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber and Bragg

Motion failed.

Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the November 12, 2025 minutes as presented.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Bragg and Shull
Nays: Grepps and Seaton

Motion carried.
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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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

Scott Williams, PO Box 700, Fishersville, is associated with Crescent Development and the current President of Augusta Home Builders Association. Their mission is to build affordable, well built houses for the people of the community. Affordability is a major issue in housing and new construction. As a trade group, Crescent Developers fully supports the Comprehensive Plan and the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Crescent Developers can provide housing for the members of the community and support agriculture. One of the goals in the quality of life section of the Comp Plan calls for making sure there is adequate supply of housing that is affordable for the residents of the county. Mr. Williams asked that the Board approve a request to engage in conversations with the development community and stakeholders to work together to come up with ideas. A letter has been submitted asking the Board to initiate the process.

Ms. Bragg stated that there are options that the County can explore and made the request that the Board allow staff to come up with ideas.

Mr. Shull stated that the size of houses needs to be reviewed and alternatives to expensive homes and more affordable homes.

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

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. The General Assembly is in session and along with that there are a number of bills being discussed that will affect the County and not good for local government.
2. A funding request has been received from the Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Department for repairs to their concrete floors in their facility.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve a funding request from Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Department to repair and resurface concrete bay floors in the amount of $89,964.00.

Funding Source:	Middle River Infrastructure	$39,982.00
	North River Infrastructure	$39,982.00
	Beverley Manor Infrastructure	$10,000.00

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

Dr. Seaton moved to remove the four-minute time limit for public speakers if there are no more than ten speakers for public comment during meetings.

Mr. Slaven stated that the time limit has added a layer of time management to the meetings.

Ms. Bragg stated that for consistency purposes, the four minutes should stay in place.

Mr. Grepps suggested expanding it to more than four minutes.

Mr. Shull would be in favor of a ten minute time limit for up to ten speakers.

The Board voted on Dr. Seaton's motion to remove the four-minute limit.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Grepps, Shull and Seaton
Nays: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber and Bragg

Motion failed.

Ms. Bragg encouraged everyone to go beyond the local delegates and reach out to the ones that are not in the same frame of mind as the locality.

Mr. Grepps requested a moment of silence for the passing of Joe Miller.

Mr. Grepps stated that he is concerned with the price of moving the Lady Justice statue to Verona. He recommends putting on hold to allow more time for review.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the process has been started with Moseley. The first phase of the project was to determine cost to remove the statue and an approximate cost for what goes in the statues place.

Dr. Seaton stated that he would recommend terminating the project. He read a statement by Doug Sheridan regarding the Lady Justice statue.

Mr. Shull suggested getting a cost for a new statue at the new courthouse and leave the history in Staunton.

The Board directed staff to get a cost estimate for a new statue and discuss at a future meeting.

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10. **<u>Closed Session</u>**

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

1. **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 Office space, flex space, storage facilities, manufacturing facilities, utility and mixed use development.

(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. Schneider Park
2. Zapton House

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Grepps, Shull, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

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

Nays: None

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

11. **Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Board, Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull that the Board adjourn subject to call of the Chairman.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried

Chairman

County Administrator