

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

**ROLE CALL:**

Jeffrey Slaven  
Chris Kincheloe  
Michael Shull  
Gerald Garber  
Scott Seaton  
Carolyn Bragg  
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

Steve Grepps

**ABSENT:**

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Government Center Main Board Room, and in the 250<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth...

Chairman Slaven welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The Board of Supervisors led the Pledge of Allegiance

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Gerald Garber, Middle River District, delivered the invocation.

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**1. Removal and Relocation of Veteran Monuments or Memorials**

This being the date and time advertised to receive public input on the removal and relocation of four veteran monuments or memorials.

Nicole Price, County Attorney, stated that the Board is proceeding according to the Virginia code section of 15.2-1812. As required by the statute, the County advertised for the public hearing. This is an opportunity for public comment and the Board will hold for thirty days before any action is taken.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, is representing the Augusta County Military Memorial and read a statement from the Board of Directors of the Augusta County Military Memorial. The committee strongly supports the preservation of the plaques and the history they represent. It would be an honor to include the plaques in the memorial garden.

Alex Davis, 3625 Churchville Avenue., Churchville, asked what is trying to be accomplished and at what cost? The proposed memorial seeks to honor all who have served and will serve. This is an honorable goal and something that everyone supports, however, removing and relocating the plaques does not strengthen that mission, it contradicts it. Mr. Davis urges the Board to leave the plaques on the historic courthouse.

Grace Shuler, 328 York Drive, Waynesboro, thanked the Board and the Veterans Memorial Committee for their work. The memorial is a meaningful and worthwhile effort that will reflect the communities deep respect for its veterans. Ms. Shuler voices concerns on removing the plaques from their current location. When a historic plaque remains in its original location, it reflects the values and context of the time in which it was created. When it is removed and placed in a new setting, it can suggest those same values are being carried forward today. Her main concern is the reuse of the World War I plaque which contains segregated records of white and black service members. As a community, we should not perpetuate racial segregation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. All who served should be honored with equal dignity.

Melissa Patrick, 10 Bagby Street, Staunton, is in support of the Military Memorial to be constructed in Verona, however, not all are in favor of removing the war memorial plaques from the old courthouse building providing the building remains in possession of the County. These are plaques that to the war dead of slightly over 300 local men that died in those four wars. The plaques should be treated with honor and respect, but there are veterans who believe that it can best be done by leaving them in their current location, especially if the building is repurposed a museum. The plaques also represent the gratitude and appreciation of donors from across Augusta, Staunton and Waynesboro and some of the donor organizations are not in favor of moving the plaques.

Victor Ludwig, 313 Greenway Road, Staunton, served as an Augusta County Judge and dedicated one of the plaques currently on the old courthouse building. He read his comments that he made during the dedication. The plaques were dedicated at that location. Mr. Ludwig appreciates the efforts for the new war memorial; however, it is

important to remember the men represented on the plaques at the current location; especially if the old courthouse should become a museum.

Nancy Sorrells, 3419 Cold Springs Road, Greenville, touched on two subjects; the future of the historic courthouse and the plaques that are situated on the old courthouse building. The plaques situated where they are having a place of honor which is important to many citizens. There is no guarantee that the old courthouse will be used as a museum or remain standing. Ms. Sorrells suggested that the Board pass a statement that the County will protect the historical integrity of the Augusta County Courthouse building and the lot on which it stands and that their future will be one of honor in the certainty.

Andrew Phillips, 1509 Spring Hill Road, Staunton, serves as the President of the Augusta County Historical Society. He read a statement approved by the Historical Society's Board voicing concerns over the future of the historical courthouse. The Board is urged to pledge to preserve the historic building in a manner that honors the shared history.

Raymond Carrier, 350 Todd Road, Mt. Sidney, has been involved with the new war memorial. He has spoken to numerous people that are not aware of the plaques on the courthouse. The men listed on those plaques are not getting the recognition they deserve being on that courthouse wall. They need to be placed in location where they will get the recognition they deserve.

There being no other speakers, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Board will consider this item at their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

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Mr. Slaven showed an ink pen that was designed and made by students at Valley Technical Center Precision Machining class.

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## **2. Veterans Memorial Resolution**

The Board considered the following resolution:

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY AND THE CITY COUNCILS OF STAUNTON AND WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA DEDICATING A MEMORIAL TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**WHEREAS**, since the formation of Augusta County in 1743, when colonial militia units were organized along Virginia's frontier to defend settlers of the Shenandoah Valley and surrounding regions;

**WHEREAS**, those early citizen-soldiers, drawn from Augusta County and neighboring communities, including what became the Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro (the County and Cities collectively referred to herein as the “Grateful Communities”), stood in defense of their homes during several colonial conflicts of the eighteenth century, thereby establishing a tradition of military service that has endured and continued for more than Two Hundred Eighty years;

**WHEREAS**, throughout the American Revolution and subsequent conflicts of the early Republic, soldiers from this region served in the cause of independence and national preservation, instilling in our communities throughout Augusta County a legacy of patriotism, sacrifice, and devotion to liberty;

**WHEREAS**, in the War of 1812, the War for Texas Independence, and again during the Mexican War, the sons of our communities fought for our enduring principals of freedom and independence;

**WHEREAS**, during the American Civil War the men and women of our communities demonstrated courage under fire and steadfast loyalty to comrades and homeland;

**WHEREAS**, during World War I, the men of the Grateful Communities mustered into 116<sup>th</sup> Regiment as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division while others mustered into service with the Marines and Navy, mobilized for federal service and deployed to France, engaging in major offensives including the Meuse-Argonne, sustaining heavy casualties while helping secure Allied victory in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific;

**WHEREAS**, on June 6, 1944, the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment secured its place in history, landing on Omaha Beach during Operation Overlord, enduring devastating losses yet pressing forward with extraordinary valor to establish a foothold that proved decisive in the liberation of Western Europe;

**WHEREAS**, as names of sons and daughters of the Grateful Communities are among those who served and those who fell in numerous campaigns across Europe, Africa, and the Pacific culminating in Allied success and the conclusion of World War II;

**WHEREAS**, subsequent conflicts including Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the Global War on Terror, members of these communities have served with honor and distinction across all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States – including the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force – on land, at sea, and in the air;

**WHEREAS**, the spirit of our sons and daughters uniquely embodies the citizen-soldiers tradition of the National Guard, balancing civilian life with military readiness, prepared at all times to serve both the Commonwealth of Virginia and our Nation;

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Bodies of the Grateful Communities recognize that the

freedoms enjoyed by their citizens have been preserved at great cost through the courage, endurance, and sacrifice of all who have worn the uniform of the United States and their families;

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that the Grateful Communities formally express their gratitude and permanently commemorate both the distinguished legacy of all veterans and those who have fallen in service to our communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County and the City Councils of Staunton and Waynesboro do hereby honor and commend all past and present members of the United States Armed Services for their extraordinary record of continuous service from 1743 to the present day; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Grateful Communities solemnly remember those who gave their lives in defense of liberty in every generation and in every branch of service, and express profound gratitude to their families for the burdens they have borne; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Grateful Communities hereby dedicate a memorial, to be situated in a place of prominence at the Government Center for Augusta County, which shall recognize the historic service and sacrifice and also honor all men and women of these communities who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this memorial should stand in perpetuity as a tangible reminder to future generations of the region's enduring heritage of military service, the cost of freedom, and the solemn responsibilities of citizenships; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be entered into the permanent records of the Governing Bodies of Augusta County and the Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro, and transmitted to representatives of the appropriate branches of the Armed Services of the United States, so that the appreciation of these communities may be formally conveyed.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this was on the agenda from a previous Board of Supervisors meeting. There was a question regarding the French and Indian War. He pointed out that all of the conflicts throughout the American Revolution and before was addressed under the third WHEREAS in the resolution. The second question that was raised was regarding the word "shall" in the second to last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. That word has been changed to "should". This will allow for change in the future if it is necessary.

Dr. Seaton stated that after reading the resolution a number of times, he is concerned that it does not include everyone who has fought for our country. The wording seems to be white northern European wording and does not include everyone who fought in wars.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board postpone consideration on the resolution until the May 13, 2026 regular meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grepps

Motion carried.

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### 3. **Garbage Removal**

The Board considered the removal of garbage from property located at 60 Laurel Drive, Greenville.

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that the county has received complaints of varying nature on this property. The County has an active case in Augusta County General District Court for conditions constituting a junkyard. In addition to the junkyard, there is a large amount of trash accumulated on the property and the Virginia Department of Health has provided a letter stating that the trash/garbage could represent a public health concern. The County will continue to seek judicial relief, however, in order to provide some immediate relief for adjacent residents, the Board may consider directing a cleanup of all trash, garbage, refuse, litter and other substances.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board deems it necessary to enter into the property and to remove the trash, garbage, refuse, litter, and other substances which might endanger the health or safety of other residents of the County as outlined in the letter from the Health Department.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grepps

Motion carried.

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### 4. **Consent Agenda**

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

#### **MINUTES:**

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 2026
- Staff Briefing, Monday, February 23, 2026
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 25, 2026

- Staff Briefing, Monday, March 23, 2026

CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since March 1, 2025.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grepps

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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

Lee Ann Whitesell, 2707 Old Greenville Road, Staunton, is a teacher from Valley Career and Technical Center. She thanked the Board for their continuing support.

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

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Mr. Fitzgerald reminded the Board's special meeting for the Budget Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe stated that there will be railroad crossing work taking place on Dick Huff Lane starting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and would be completed by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Dick Huff Lane will be closed during this time and a detour route has been set in place.

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

Mr. Shull stated that he thought it was important to have the ability to call in for meetings and there should have been microphones in the Smith room for the budget worksession.

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**8. Closed Session**

On motion of Mr. Kincheloe, 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. Zapton Building in downtown Staunton – 111/113 S. Augusta Street

**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. 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. Zapton Building in downtown Staunton – 111/113 S. Augusta Street

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

Motion carried.

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

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

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

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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: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Bragg and Seaton

Nays: None

Absent: Grepps

Motion carried.

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

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## 9. **Adjournment**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grepps

Motion carried.

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Chairman

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County Administrator