

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 7:00 PM Government Center Main Board Room

ROLL 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, May 13, 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.

The Board of Supervisors led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Shull, Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

1. Removal and Relocation of Veterans Monuments or Memorials

The Board considered the removal and relocation of four veteran monuments or memorials.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that a public hearing was held April 8, 2026 to receive public input on this matter. State Code requires thirty days of time lapse between the public hearing and the Board taking action. Several emails were received from citizens in regards to removing the plaques.

Mr. Shull stated according to people he has spoken with and the emails that have been received, majority of the citizens prefer for the plaques to stay at the old courthouse. He hopes to have the old courthouse turned into a museum and the plaques would be a part of it.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board keep the plaques on the 1901 courthouse until a decision is made on the future of the building and if the time comes that the plaques need to be moved the Board can make a decision at that time.

Mr. Slaven stated that in the beginning it seemed to be a good idea to move the plaques. After comments from several citizens the idea seems to center around history and it should be more about respect. His concern is remembering the plaques are there and are not forgotten and they are given their due respect.

Ms. Bragg stated that she has had mixed feelings on the location of the plaques. Her desire is the plaques are located in a place of honor and a place that is accessible and visible to the citizens. The Board has heard from some of the organizations that were responsible for the placement of the memorials and their words were passionate and filled with respect. The plaques should stay where they are as long as the courthouse is used for public purpose and where the public is welcome to enjoy the building and the grounds.

The Board voted on the motion on the floor to keep the plaques where they are currently located.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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2. Veterans Memorial Resolution

The Board considered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, since the formation of Augusta County in 1738, 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 nearly Two Hundred Eighty-Five 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 principles 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 116th Regiment as part of the 29th 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 securing the end of first World War.

WHEREAS, on June 6, 1944, the 116th 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, the 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, in 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-soldier 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 1738 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 shall 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 citizenship; 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.

Dr. Seaton stated that he would like to see corrections made to the resolution. Nothing changed from the last meeting.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, pointed out the changes that were made to the resolution.

Dr. Seaton addressed some of the items that he would like to see changed.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board adopt the resolution with the changes stated by Dr. Seaton.

Mr. Slaven asked Dave Zimmerman if his group would like additional time to consider the changes that Dr. Seaton was proposing.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that they would like more time.

Ms. Bragg withdrew the motion.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Grepps, that the Board postpone to the June 10, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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3. **Fire-Rescue Fund Grant**

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

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Fire-Rescue Grant Fund Committee reviewed three applications during the March 2026 round of grant requests totaling \$56,973.35, and three of the four committee members recommended fully funding all requests. Normally, the requests are limited to \$50,000.00. However, these requests were good requests. The previous fund grant request was not fully funded at the \$50,000.00.

Dooms Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. \$25,000.00
Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. \$22,244.79
Swoope Volunteer Fire Company \$9,728.56

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the committee's recommendation of \$25,000.00 for the Dooms Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Grepps stated that each department is to required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the County. Dooms has not signed this memorandum.

Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the funding for Dooms Volunteer Fire Company be postponed to the May 27, 2026 meeting. This will give them time to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding with their members.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Mr. Kincheloe, that the Board approve the committee's recommendation for Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$22,244.79.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Mr. Grepps, that the Board approve the committee's recommendation for Swoope Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$9,728.56.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

4. **Infrastructure Funding Request**

The Board considered a funding request from the Doods Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Funding Source: Wayne Infrastructure

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is a funding request from Doods Volunteer Fire Company. The first request is for thermal imaging cameras in the amount of \$16,000.00 to replace or upgrade their current ones. The second is for \$13,000.00 to purchase hose appliances, as theirs is outdated and breaking from decades of use. The third request is for \$8,000.00 for pagers. This is a total of \$37,000.00. This amount does not include the \$25,000.00 that was recommended by the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee for extrication equipment.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the funding request for Doods Volunteer Fire Company for thermal cameras, hose appliances and pagers in the amount of \$37,000.00 from the Wayne Infrastructure account.

Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board postpone to May 27, 2026 until Doods makes a decision on the Memorandum of Understanding.

Dr. Seaton stated that there is an agreement with Doods Fire Company and this request will be coming from the Wayne Infrastructure account which has an available balance of \$293,605.35. This is good use for infrastructure money. It has nothing to do with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. He recommends against postponing.

Mr. Shull is not in favor of holding money because it may be equipment that is needed. The equipment is used for public safety.

The Board voted on Mr. Grepps motion.

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

Motion carried.

5. Infrastructure Funding Request

The Board considered a funding request from the New Hope Community Center for improvements to the ball fields in the amount of \$25,000.00

Funding Source: Middle River Infrastructure

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there is a project coming to a close for the New Hope Community Center with a new concession stand at the fields. An additional \$25,000.00 has been requested from the Middle River Infrastructure account to help with completing the project.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the funding request for the New Hope Community Center ball fields in the amount of \$25,000.00.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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6. Dick Huff Lane Improvements

The Board considered awarding the contract for Dick Huff Lane to Plecker Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,816,465.00 with a 10% contingency.

Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development, stated that an incoming lane will be added to Dick Huff Lane and dual left turn lanes going south on Route 11. There were three bids received on April 15, 2026 for the improvements of Dick Huff Lane, the main access road to the Government Center. Bids were received from Plecker Construction Company, Inc., Partners Excavating Co. and Allegheny Construction Company, Inc. Bids received from Plecker and Partners were below the engineer's estimate and Plecker's bid is approximately 11% lower than the engineers' estimate of \$2,029,716.37. Timmons Group's analysis and recommendation, along with Staff's recommendation, is to award the bid to Plecker Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,816,465.00 with a 10% contingency.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve awarding the contract to Plecker Construction Company.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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7. Consent Agenda

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

MINUTES:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- Staff Briefing, Monday, April 20, 2026
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CLAIMS:

Claims paid since April 1, 2026

WAIVER REQUEST:

Waiver request from Matthew Yoder from the requirement to connect to public sewer. Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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8. Matters to Be Presented by the Public

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, thanked the Board for the support and leadership on decisions made for the County.

Randall Wolf, Stuarts Draft, expressed concerns regarding gatherings at local restaurants after meetings. He is concerned that the gatherings are illegal. He also asked for the status of the old animal shelter.

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9. Matters to Be Presented by Staff

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. New Hope Fire Department has requested funding for new kitchen appliances in the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Middle River Infrastructure account.

Steven Rea, President of New Hope Fire Department, stated that he was able to find the appliances on sale.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve the funding request for New Hope Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Mr. Grepps will be abstaining from the vote due to his current position with the New Hope Fire Department.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Grepps

Motion carried.

2. The new courthouse ribbon cutting will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd. Due to the ribbon cutting starting at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Fitzgerald requests that the Board allow the Government Center to close at 3:30 p.m. on that day. This will allow the employees to be a part of the celebration and will also help with traffic.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board allow closing the Government Center at 3:30p.m. on June 3, 2026.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

Mr. Grepps attended the Market Animal Show and was pleased with the turn out.

Dr. Seaton thanked the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in the happenings in the County.

Mr. Shull thanked Fire-Rescue for all they do. He would like to see the Market Animal Show buyers posted on social media or the website.

Mr. Garber would like for the Broadband Committee to be discussed at the next worksession.

Mr. Slaven stated that the area is in a drought situation. He encourages everyone to be aware of the issue.

The Board took a five-minute break.

11. **Closed Session**

On motion of Mr. Kincheloe, 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]:

- a. Boards and Commissions: Library Board, Recycling, Ag Industry Board, Parks & Rec Commission, Planning Commission, Service Authority, Broadband, Blue Ridge Criminal Justice

(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 TMP#'s 034 A1 19 and 034 A1 22
- b. Schneider Park in Stuarts Draft

3. 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 TMP#'s 034 A1 19 and 034 A1 22

b. Schneider Park in Stuarts Draft

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]:

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

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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

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

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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, Grepps, Bragg and Seaton

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**

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, Grepps, Bragg and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Minutes approved by the Board on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The signed minutes can be reviewed in the County Administrator's Office.

Chairman

County Administrator