Regular Meeting, Wednesday, May 27, 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
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, May 27, 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.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

G. L. “Butch” Wells, former Board Member for the Beverley Manor District, delivered the invocation.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

1. **VDOT 6-Year Plan**

This being the date and time advertised to consider and receive input in regard to the proposed Secondary System and receive input on the Secondary Road Construction Improvement budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Don Komara introduced his staff that were present: Cody Huffman, Jeff Nicely and Josh Robson. He presented the secondary six-year plan for the County. A secondary road is a route six hundred or above. Route 11, Route 340 or Route 256 are all considered primary roads. The Secondary System primarily looks at improving gravel roadways. To qualify as a secondary gravel roadway, it has to have a green road sign with numbers over six hundred and the roads have to have fifty or more vehicles per day. Mr. Komara reviewed the routes included in the plan.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

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

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the VDOT 6-Year Plan as presented.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None
Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

2. **Public Use Overlay Amendment**

This being the date and time advertised to consider a request to amend the Public Use Overlay on approximately 27.466 acres owned by County of Augusta located on the north side of Technology Drive in Verona in the Beverley Manor District. The Planning Commission recommends approval.
Julia Hensley, Planner II, stated that the property is located in an Urban Service Area of the Comprehensive Plan and is planned for Public Use. The amendment would add "public safety training facilities" to the list of additional permitted uses on the property.
The Chairman opened the public hearing.
There being no speakers, the Chairman closed the public hearing.
Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Mr. Grepps, that the Board adopt the resolution with the changes stated by Dr. Seaton.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

3. **Mill Place Commerce Park - VA Business Ready Sites Program Grant Application**

The Board considered moving forward with submittal of the application and include a letter of support.
Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that Augusta County has the opportunity to apply for a Virginia Economic Development Partnership Virginia Business Ready Sites Program site development grant. This grant would allow the County to do a pad ready site in Mill Place Commerce Park. This would create a 26.5 acres pad ready site to accommodate a building as large as 300,000+/- square foot. This would allow a prospective company the option of that square footage or a smaller building with the capacity to expand. The total cost to grade the site is $6,236,252.10. If the grant is received, the County's portion is estimated at $3,118,126.05 (50%) which would be paid through the economic development capital account. A letter of support from the Board is also requested.

Dr. Seaton asked what the balance was in the EDA account.
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that it currently has a balance of $5.6 million.
Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve moving forward with the application and provide a letter of support.
Mr. Slaven abstained due to his involvement with Mill Place Commerce Park.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None
Abstain: Slaven
Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

4. **Fire-Rescue Fund Grant**

PREVIOUSLY POSTPONED
The Board considered the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee recommendation for Dooms Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of $25,000.00.
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this was discussed at a previous meeting. The Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee recommended $25,000.00 funding to Dooms Volunteer Fire Company for cutter, spreaders, ram, batteries and chargers for vehicle extraction.
Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee's recommendation Dooms Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of $25,000.00.
Dr. Seaton stated that volunteers save the tax payers a lot of money.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg and Seaton
Nays: None
Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

5. **Infrastructure Funding Request**

The Board considered a funding request from Dooms Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Funding Source: Wayne Infrastructure
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is a funding request from the Wayne Infrastructure account also for the Dooms Volunteer Fire Company to purchase equipment. This is for the remainder of the cost of the extrication equipment. The total cost of the extrication equipment was more than the max that could be applied for through the grant fund. The total for the extrication equipment was $40,000.00 Funding includes $16,000.00 to upgrade thermal imaging cameras for the department, $13,000.00 for hose appliances and $8,000.00 for new pagers.
Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the funding request for the Dooms Volunteer Fire Company.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None
Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

6. Infrastructure Funding Request

The Board considered a funding request from Middlebrook Volunteer Fire Department.
Funding Source: Riverheads Infrastructure $24,499.70
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that that this is an infrastructure funding request from Middlebrook Fire Department from the Riverheads Infrastructure account in the amount of $24,499.70. The request is for renovations that are needed in the old building. It will also cover the cost of office renovations, chimney work and parking lot paving.
Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve the funding request from the Middlebrook Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of $24,499.70.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

7. Fire-Rescue Recruit Staffing

The Board considered the addition of nine recruits.
Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, stated that they are in the process of hiring for the next recruit school. During recruit schools we lose approximately nine recruits due to various reasons. It takes twenty-two weeks and after completion the goal is to be fully staffed. Chief Schacht requested the ability to over hire nine additional personnel. The goal would be to have a full staff once recruit school is completed.
Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the addition of nine recruits for Fire-Rescue.
Mr. Shull would like to see what can be done to retain employees.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: Shull

Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

8. Waynesboro First Aid

The Board considered a funding request of $40,000.00
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that a request has been received from Waynesboro First Aid Crew in the amount of $40,000.00. A couple of years ago this request was made and the Board was able to grant the funding.
Mr. Ward, Executive Director for Waynesboro First Aid Crew, stated that he is grateful for the continued and generous support that the City of Waynesboro provides in dollars and in non-tangibles that come at no cost such as radios and maintenance. Waynesboro First Aid Crew runs a great deal of Augusta County calls and is the only agency in Augusta County that can provide backup to the EMS Supervisors that Augusta County has. They
are requesting $40,000.00. However, if the Board would prefer to reject the request, it is understandable. The most important objective is to get on record for commitment from the Board to establish a funding formula moving forward. They are seeking equity and parity in addition and not necessarily additional revenue in total.
Mr. Shull would like to review their audit before making a decision on funding.
Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Grepps, that the Board approve postponing to the Wednesday, June 24, 2026 meeting to allow time to review the audit report from Waynesboro First Aid Crew.
Dr. Seaton questioned how much is given to Waynesboro First Aid in the budget?
Mr. Fitzgerald stated that they do their own Revenue Recovery and then the gap is funded. How much they receive is determined by the number of calls they run.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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

Jo Dee Massanari, 2556 Estaline Valley Road, Goshen, voiced concerns regarding data centers. She has written a book that details everything about data centers.
William Bashaw, 172 Bashaw Road, Goshen, voiced concerns regarding data centers and the use of AI.
Carson Holloway, 929 Patterson Mill Road, Grottoes, has concerns with Fire-Rescue. The County needs the right people doing the right job. There has to be minimum standards set and met to deliver service.
Timothy Anderson, 87 Turk Mountain Lane, is the Chief at Dooms Volunteer Fire Company. He thanked the Board for their continued support.
Cindy Weaver, 3033 White Bridge Road, Waynesboro, thanked the Board for the funding for Dooms Volunteer Fire Company.
Jenson Carter Jones, 433 Wagneridge Road, Waynesboro, is pleased that the Board decided to fund the Dooms Volunteer Fire Company requests.

Anna Harris, 357 Mine Branch Road, Crimora, thanked the Board for funding the request for Dooms Volunteer Fire Company.
Steve Morris, 203 Hotchkiss Road, Churchville, is concerned about Board priorities with Fire-Rescue.
Marco Floyd, is concerned about the change to a 8am start time instead of 6am.

-
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

-

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

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1. A potential sale of real estate of the Zapton House and parking lot. This has been on the market and there is a contract in place that the Board has reviewed.

Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Mr. Garber, that the Board accept the offer of Duffy Pappas to purchase the following two parcels of real estate from Augusta County for $390,000.00. Both parcels are located in the City of Staunton, 111 and 113 South Augusta Street, also know as the Zapton House, and 115 South Augusta Street, which is a vacant parking lot. I further move that we authorize the County Attorney and the County Administrator to finalize the terms of the sales contract and that we authorize the County Administrator to sign the sales contract.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.

-
-
-
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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

Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board appoint Tom Sheets to serve a term on the Recycling Committee. Effective July 1, 2026 and to expire June 30, 2030.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Slaven, Kincheloe, Garber, Shull, Grepps, Bragg

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board re-appoint the following to Boards and Commissions. Effective July 1, 2026 and to expire June 30, 2030:

- Jeremy Shifflett Ag Industry Board
- Ernie Landes Parks & Recreation
- Allen Dahl Augusta County Service Authority (Augusta Water)
- Carolyn Coop Library Board
- Matt Dana Broadband Committee

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

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.
Mr. Grepps moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board appoint Scott Cline to serve a term on the Planning Commission. Effective July 1, 2026 and to expire June 30, 2030.
Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Seaton and Grepps
Nays: Slaven, Garber and Bragg
Abstain: Kincheloe

Motion failed.
Ms. Bragg reminded everyone that May is Business Appreciation Month.
Dr. Seaton reminded everyone of the Dooms Volunteer Fire Company carnival.
Mr. Shull encourages citizens to support the volunteer fire companies. He also requests that Chief Schacht visit each fire company that has first due in Augusta County and address any concerns. Mr. Shull expressed condolences to the Joe Williams family.
Mr. Kincheloe moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board re-appoint the following to Boards and Commissions. Effective July 1, 2026 and to expire June 30, 2030:

- Robert Taylor Smith Planning Commission
- Carl Ray Cline Recycling Committee
- Karl Kiracofe Ag Industry Board
- Tim Simmons Augusta County Service Authority (Augusta Water)
- David Henderson Broadband Committee

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

and Seaton

Nays: None

Motion carried.
* * * * * * * * * * * * *

12. **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, 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