Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Gerald Garber, Chairman
Butch Wells, Vice-Chair
Pam Carter
Michael Shull
Scott Seaton (Electronically for the Budget Items)
Jeffrey Slaven
Steven Morelli
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 245th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed those present for the meeting.

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Mr. Morelli, Supervisor for the South River District, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Ms. Carter, Supervisor for the Pastures District, delivered the invocation.

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<u>RENT ANYTIME STORAGE, LLC -- REZONING</u>

This being the day and time advertised to consider a request to rezone from Multi-Family and General Agriculture to Attached Residential approximately 8.6 acres of an approximately 18 acre property with a proffer amendment pertaining to the entirety of the 18 acre property owned by Rent Anytime Storage, LLC located on Kiley Lane approximately 0.1 miles north of the intersection of Colters Place Drive and Stuarts Draft Highway in Stuarts Draft in the Beverley Manor District. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

Leslie Tate, Senior Planner, stated the proposed general use of the property is townhomes. The general use of the property as stated in the Comprehensive Plan is Neighborhood Mixed Use, which may include a variety of residential uses at a density of four to eight dwelling units per acre and convenience retail and office uses on up to 20% of the total land area. The existing proffers are proposed to be amended and additionally applied to the portion of the property currently zoned General Agriculture. Proffer amendments intend to change references from multi-family development to attached residential, eliminate conditions pertaining to already developed property, and reference the correct tax map parcel numbers for this property and adjacent property. Ms. Tate showed a map of the property. The property was rezoned in 2015 with the intention of developing both multi-family housing and business uses on the same property. The request is compatible with adjacent residential development. Public water and sewer are available to serve the property. The request for townhomes is compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

RENT ANYTIME STORAGE, LLC -- REZONING (CONT'D)
Dan Hansen, Balzer and Associates, representing the applicant. Ms. Tate's report was very comprehensive and will answer any questions the Board may have.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open.

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

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve the rezoning request and proffer amendment as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that Board allow Dr. Seaton to join the meeting electronically.

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

Motion carried.

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Misty Cook, Director of Finance, stated that the revised budget appropriations total $319,407,218.00. This included $87.3 million in transfers between funds. The FY22 advertised budget appropriations total $273,231,369.00. This included $63.8 million transferred between funds. The advertised budget included a real estate tax rate of sixty-three cent per one hundred and increase in the $2.50 personal property rate to $2.60. Increases in meals and lodging would go from four percent to six percent and this was included in the advertised budget. These changes for the meals and lodging were approved at the March 24, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting, but were not included in the original proposed budget due to the draft budget already being sent for print. Revisions from the Board of Supervisors Worksession on March 29, 2021 were also included in the advertised budget. A public hearing was held on April 14, 2021 and there were six speakers. It is before the Board to consider the 2021 tax rate and to consider appropriating the FY21 and FY22 budgets.

REVISED BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021
Consider the revised budget for FY 2020-2021.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that Board approve the revised budget as presented.

REVISED BUDGET FOR FY 2020-2021 (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

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2021 TAX RATES

Consider adoption of real and personal property tax rates for 2021, as proposed at a public hearing held on April 14, 2021.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that Board approve keeping the current tax rate on personal property at $2.50.

Mr. Shull does not agree with raising taxes at this time. Citizens are just coming out of a pandemic and having difficult times. There is money coming from the Government to help bridge the gap of a budget shortfall due to COVID-19.

Dr. Seaton stated that he is grateful for the love and support during this difficult time. There will need to be tax increases in the future, but this is not the time to do so.

Mr. Wells stated that everyone is aware of what will possibly be coming to us from the Government. The number of budget requests that come in each year and need to be rejected are concerning.

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

Motion failed.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board approve the 2021 tax rates as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022

Consider the proposed budget for FY 2021-2022.

Mr. Wells stated that during the first budget worksession, the Board was presented with a balanced budget. Staff included four requests that were not included in the balanced budget. The four items were discussed and at that time, the Board agreed that three of them should be funded. Mr. Wells would like to reduce the number of fire fighter positions from 15 to 13 and increase the cost of living raise for County employees from three percent to five percent.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board reduce fire fighters from fifteen to thirteen and increase the cost of living raise for County employees from three percent to five percent.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022 (CON'TD)
Ms. Carter reminded the Board that according to Virginia Code, the budget does not need to be approved until July 1, 2021. The SAFER Grant could provide a substantial amount of money and it is unknown if the County will receive that money or not to date.

Mr. Shull reminded the Board that the money coming in from the Government could be used just like the CARES ACT money. There were bonuses given from that money and there is no need to raise the salary increases.

Mr. Morelli stated that a bonus does not help individuals with their retirement plan.

Mr. Slaven stated that he does not want staff to feel like he does not appreciate what they do. He has spoken with several constituents in his district and they believe the tax increase is understandable and reasonable.

Dr. Seaton stated that the fire fighters need to stay at fifteen.

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

Motion failed.

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the budget as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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Dr. Seaton left the meeting.

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FIRE-RESCUE FUND GRANT REVIEW
The Board considered committee's recommendation for funding.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Fire-Rescue Grant Committee reviewed the March 2021 round of grant requests. Two applications totaling $54,006.00 in requests were reviewed and recommends approving the two applications, totaling $50,000.00

Riverheads Volunteer Fire Department	$25,000.00
Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Department	$25,000.00

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the funding request in the amount of $50,000.00.

April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE-RESCUE FUND GRANT REVIEW (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

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BLUE MOUNTAIN MARKETING AND REZONING AGREEMENT

The Board considered the amended Marketing and Rezoning Agreement for Blue Mountain.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that in 2016 the Board initiated a rezoning of the Blue Mountain Property in Weyers Cave. Along with the rezoning, there was a Marketing Agreement provided. The agreement established joint marketing responsibility between the County and the owner. In this amendment, there is a request to reduce the acreage currently marketed for an approximate total acreage of 194. The Economic Development Authority has addressed this issue and has approved the agreement.

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the amendment as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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INFRASTRUCTURE – VOLUNTEER F&R PAGING APP

The Board considered funding for a one-year trial of a paging app for Fire and Rescue funding will be from the Board Infrastructure account.

Funding Source:	Beverley Manor Infrastructure	8011-104	$714.29
	Middle River Infrastructure	8012-101	$714.29
	North River Infrastructure	8013-68	$714.29
	Pastures Infrastructure	8014-109	$714.29
	Riverheads Infrastructure	8015-88	$714.28
	South River Infrastructure	8016-98	$714.28
	Wayne Infrastructure	8017-108	$714.28

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that this was discussed during the last budget meeting and the Board thought it would be appropriate to move forward with this. Included in the packet was a listing of what was originally proposed, which was for 400 active volunteers and also information about how the County agencies already have an app that is being paid for. During the Board's worksession, the questions arose about how many volunteers are actively running calls and there are approximately 400 per the worker's comp count. At the April 14, 2021 Board meeting, it was requested that the count include out of County agencies. That would add an additional 285 volunteers including the outside agencies. In County only actively running calls would be $5,000.00 or $714.29 per District. In County only, all volunteers (per budget request) would be $7,813.00 or $1,116.14 per District.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the original request with the option to purchase more if needed.

INFRASTRUCTURE – VOLUNTEER F&R PAGING APP (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

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BROADBAND

The Board considered a Memorandum of Understanding and a Contribution Agreement for the 2021 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Grant Award.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the County received a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Grant. The partner provider is MCW Communications and Highland County. The grant will cover Deerfield, Middlebrook, Morris Mill and McDowell. The total grant is $1.27 million and the County's match is $212,942.00. A Memorandum of Understanding is required to be executed between the County and MGW Communications. The document reflects the responsibilities of both parties for the project. The County will be reporting all grant criteria and sending notification to property owners in those areas. The provider will be constructing the entire broadband network for those areas. A Contribution Agreement is required to be executed between the County and Economic Development Authority (EDA). The document notes that the County will send grant and local match funds to the EDA and the EDA will pass them to MGW Communications.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding and the Contribution Agreement.

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

Motion carried.

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WAIVERS – NONE

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Tiny Tang encouraged the Board to pass a resolution to educate citizens about the barbaric practice of forced organ harvesting of prisoners of conscience mind in China.

Steve Grepps thanked the Board for funding Fire and Rescue.

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April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD
Ms. Carter submitted a FOIA request to the Director of Public Safety. She met with the Secretary Moran about her FOIA request. The meeting was informative and she is willing to share details of the meeting.

Mr. Shull expressed his condolences to the Seaton family.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF
Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1) Market Animal Show begins on Thursday, April 29.
2) Staff met in regards to Round Hill Solar and the siting agreement that was received. The public hearing date for this project is set for June 9, 2021 unless the Board disagrees.

The Board agrees to the June 9, 2021 date.

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

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

Motion carried.

Gerald W Garber
Chairman

County Administrator

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