

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Gerald Garber, Chairman
 Butch Wells, Vice-Chair
 Pam Carter
 Michael Shull
 Scott Seaton
 Steve Morelli
 Jeffrey Slaven
 Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
 Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
 John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development
 James Benkahla, County Attorney
 Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 246th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed those present for the meeting.

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Carolyn Bragg, former Board of Supervisors, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mr. Shull, Supervisor for the Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION

Timothy K. Fitzgerald introduced Aubrey Moore from the Health Department.

Ms. Moore is appreciative of Augusta County's unwavering support as the Health Department did testing mitigation and vaccinations efforts.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adopt the following resolution.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, The President of the United States traditionally designates the first full week of April as National Public Health Week; and,

Whereas, National Public Health Week is scheduled for April 4th to the 10th, 2022, and the theme is "Public Health is Where You Are"; and

Whereas, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers,

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Kay Frye was a leader in developing the Agriculture and

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION (CONT'D)

the special privileges of my life. I think that you all would agree that Augusta County ranks as one of the finest spots on earth and to have had a small role in making sure that the Augusta County of tomorrow is just as good, if not better, than the Augusta County of today was a wonderful experience.

Without a doubt, as the third woman to serve on the board, I stood on the shoulders of those pioneering women who came before me, Cheryl Miller and Kay Frye. Finding a seat at the governance table in a world where decisions were once made only by men in "smoke filled back rooms" was certainly challenging at times and somewhat lonely. I treasure the conversations and advice from both Cheryl and Kay that I had during my eight years on the board. I learned much from walking the trails that they blazed. My first four years on the board were the last four that Kay served, and I enjoyed working alongside of her and especially casting my vote that helped unanimously elect her as Augusta County's first chairwoman.

As the others on the board know, including Pam Carter, now the fifth woman to serve on the board of supervisors, the job of being a public servant is not always easy, regardless of your gender. The odds are that when a citizen reaches out to you, it is not to tell you about the great job that you are doing. Rather, it is often a plea for help. Helping solve those problems, being where the rubber meets the road so to speak, and keeping the quality of life high for all who live in our communities is what made this job so rewarding for me.

The issues, large and small that we faced individually and as a board during my tenure are too numerous to list. However, there are three things that I accomplished while on the board, for which I am most proud. 1. The first was the creation of the Middlebrook Library—a project that really evolved out of a situation created when the library bookmobile stopped running. The solution was to create a library station, for which the county received a National Association of Counties award. 2. The second project was bringing sewer to the village of Greenville, an historic 18th century village where the compact rows of buildings erected long before the idea of indoor plumbing was a glimmer in anyone's eye left no room for traditional or engineered septic systems. Sewer brought life back to the village. 3. Lastly is the building of the Riverheads Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station. Building and staffing that station filled what had been the biggest fire and rescue hole in the entire county.

As some of you might know, I was not born in Augusta County. Thankfully, I arrived here when I was 13 as a student at Riverheads High School. I am who I am today because of our schools and our community. I saw my service on the board as a chance to give back to this special place. I might not have been born here, but, starting with my great-grandfather who opened a business in downtown Staunton in 1903, I am the fourth generation who came here and decided to stay.

I will always be indebted to the people of the Riverheads District for putting their trust in me for eight years and allowing me to serve and become a part of Augusta County's history.

Carolyn Bragg echoed Nancy's statement.

Ms. Carter presented the signed resolution to Ms. Bragg.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT BOND ISSUANCE

This being the day and time advertised to consider the proposed issuance of general obligation school bonds of the County in the aggregate maximum principal amount not to exceed \$68,900,000.00, which are expected to be sold to the Virginia Public School Authority for inclusion in one or more of the VPSA's pooled bond sales. Proceeds of the Bonds will be used for the purpose of financing certain capital improvements for the County's public school system, including construction and equipping of Buffalo Gap Middle School and Riverheads Middle School and to pay costs of issuance of the Bonds.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT BOND ISSUANCE (CONT'D)

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that this is a public hearing on the proposed issuance of general obligation school bonds. The bonds will be used to fund capital projects for school purposes, primarily the construction and equipping of a new Riverheads Middle School wing and a new Buffalo Gap Middle School wing. The resolution allows for reimbursement of prior expenditures incurred for the project. The issuances are not to exceed an aggregate maximum principal amount of \$68,900,000. The School Board approved a resolution on February 17, 2022. An application was submitted to VPSA on February 28, 2022 for \$25,000,000 to begin the project. The second borrowing is expected to be in May of 2023. The resolution authorizes the pledge of full faith and credit of the County and authorizes County representatives including the Chairman of the Board and County Administrator to sign off on the documents and have them executed. The public hearing is on the total amount of the project up to \$68.9 million. If the Board approves the resolution, it will be filed with the Clerk of Court tomorrow. The deadline for all paperwork is April 7, 2022. If there are changes to the project, the application would be able to be withdrawn by that date.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open.

There being no speakers the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve amendment as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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PAY AND CLASSIFICATION STUDY

The Board considered approval of pay and classification adjustments.

Ms. Whetzel stated that in planning for the FY23 budget and with the current situation of recruiting qualified applicants for public safety and county positions, it was determined that the County needed to conduct a Pay & Classification Plan Study for the public safety departments due to employees leaving for more money and flexible work schedules to include working from home. The Pay & Classification Study yielded results that in order for the County to stay competitive with other localities; we needed to make changes to our minimum pay ranges across most of the pay grades. To help with compression within the departments and reward the long-term employees, every employee will receive an increase with the implementation of the Pay and Classification Plan changes. The total to be presented in the proposed budget is \$2,043,570.00. The total for the revised FY2022 budget is \$340,595.00 for the two months remaining in this budget year.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the pay and classification as presented.

Dr. Seaton stated that ECC, Fire-Rescue and Deputies are behind in pay and the County is losing them to nearby jurisdictions. If this is not passed there will be personnel shortages which will effect delivery of services from the County.

March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Randall Wolf, PO Box 61, Stuarts Draft, questioned why visitation had been stopped at the Middle River Regional Jail.

Chanda McGuffin, 644 Edwardian Lane, Waynesboro, stated that body cameras need to be in the budget. There should be a public hearing to allow for public comment on the issue.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter stated that Senator Kaine and Senator Warner introduced a bill to establish a Shenandoah Mountain Scenic Area.

Mr. Wells stated that legislation is moving forward for referendum in November. The bill has been signed by Senate and the Speaker of the House and will now go to the Governor.

Dr. Seaton stated that the Dooms Crossing river access is having a grand opening at the end of April.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the request for funding from the Fire-Rescue Fund Grant Committee.

Mount Solon Volunteer Fire Department	\$25,000.00
Wilson Volunteer Fire Company	\$16,351.76

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve advertising a public hearing for the April 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting regarding body cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Slaven would like to see all information before holding a public hearing.

Dr. Seaton wants a public hearing on the concept of body cameras, not the cost or brand.

Mr. Shull does not agree with having a public hearing at this time. There is more cost involved than just the cameras.

Mr. Morelli agrees that it is not the right time and more information is needed.

Ms. Carter stated that the more public input the better.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD (CONT'D)

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

Motion failed.

Mr. Wells is not opposed to a public hearing. At this time, there is not enough information that would allow questions to be answered properly.

Mr. Shull would like a broadband update.

Ms. Whetzel stated that Shenandoah Valley and Dominion have been working through easements related to the middle mile for their fiber backbone. The VATI 2022 Grant, which is a regional eight county grant with the northern Shenandoah Valley Commission and All Points Broadband, is currently being work through to get under contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development. The deadline to get all of this done is May 5, 2022. Construction is not expected to start until after May 5, 2022. A rolling schedule will most likely be put out. There will not be a big announcement of who will be getting hooked up. The citizen will need to sign up on the All Points Broadband website and then as it gets close, they will notify that they will be coming. Thirty days out they notification will be sent regarding connection.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Thanks the Board and Faith Duncan, Human Resources Director, for their hard work on the pay study approval.
- 2) Ms. Whetzel stated that the Community Survey is being rolled out to the public and will be showing up in news feeds.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Seaton, 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 (a) prospective candidates for employment, or (b) assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific employees]:
 - a) Boards and Commissions: Youth Commission, Ag & Forestal Dist., Ag Ind. Brd, Recycling, Library, Broadband Committee, Library Board, Augusta County Service Authority, Valley Community Services Board, Shenandoah Valley Partnership, Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation, Community Policy Management Team
- (2) 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]:

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CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

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

(3) the legal counsel exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(19)
[A discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A)(19) of the Code of Virginia]:

a) Security-Augusta County Government Center

(4) the legal counsel exemptions under Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711(7) & (8)
Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel

- (a) Hershey Chocolate of Virginia LLC v. County of Augusta, Virginia (CL2100253800)
- (b) Commonwealth of Virginia v. Gerald W. Garber, et al. (CL21002043-00)
- (c) Augusta County Courthouse Referendum

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

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Garber, Wells, Carter, Shull, Slaven, Morelli
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.

March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Garber, Wells, Carter, Shull, Slaven, Morelli
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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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Slaven, that the Board appoint William Schindler to serve an un-expired term on the Planning Commission. Effective immediately and to expire June 30, 2022.

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

Motion carried.

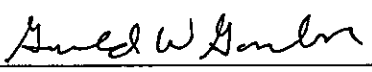
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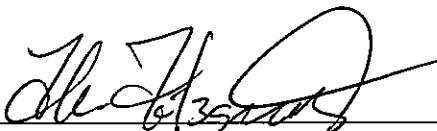
ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion carried.


Chairman


County Administrator