

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

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

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 247th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Shull welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following students from Wilson Memorial High School FFA led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Emily Kline is a senior and the FFA President. After high school she plans to attend a four-year university and study to be a large animal veterinarian.

Caleb Jones is a sophomore and is the FFA Vice-President. He plans to attend a four-year college and go into the military.

Bell is a senior and the FFA Secretary. Her favorite CD is hip hop. After high school she plans to attend Kansas State for livestock nutrition.

Noah Wine is a sophomore and the FFA Treasurer. He plans to be a farmer after high school.

Alyssa Logan is a junior and the FFA Reporter. She plans to attend a four-year university and study environmental science.

Delaney Morris is a senior and the FFA Historian. After high school, she plans to attend Oklahoma State University to study agriculture education.

Brianna Dean is a sophomore and the FFA Sentinel. She plans to attend college and become a veterinarian.

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Dr. Seaton, Wayne District, delivered the invocation.

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March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PROCLAMATION

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

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 3rd to the 9th, 2023, and the theme is "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health"; and,

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Health District's mission is to protect and promote the health and well-being of residents in the Central Shenandoah Valley; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Health District serves the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro, with an estimated combined population of 308,875 citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Health District's public health professionals help out communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Health District's public health professionals have, and continue to display, an unprecedented commitment to serve our communities in response to an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during the 12-month period, the highest level ever recorded during a 12-month period, and this was an increase of 28.5 percent from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, call upon all citizens of Augusta County, to observe the week of April 3rd through the 9th, 2023 as National Public Health Week, during which our residents may join in celebrating the dedication of our public health professionals, past and present, and their families whose support allows them to serve our communities.

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

Motion carried.

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NATIONAL DEVELOPERS OF VIRGINIA, LLC - REZONING

**"THIS PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE DEFERRED TO THE MAY 24, 2023
REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING"**

Consider a request to rezone from Single Family Residential with proffers to General Agriculture with proffers approximately 14.276 acres owned by National Developers of Virginia, LLC and to amend the existing proffers associated with the Shannon Lea Subdivision on the north side of Route 610 in Stuarts Draft in the South River District.

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March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE-RESCUE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board considered the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan request.

Greg Schacht, Fire Chief, stated that the Board requested to obtain additional proposals for the Fire-Rescue strategic plan. Chief Schacht reached out to members of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association to obtain firms that conduct this type of service. Three names of firms were provided; Emergency Service Consulting International, Center for Public Safety Excellence, and North Carolina Chief Consulting. The County's scope of work was sent to each of them as well as the Berkley Group. One proposal was received from the Berkley Group, one group stated it was outside of their ability, and another had questions and felt the County was trying to develop a master plan and did not provide pricing. Berkley Group's proposal meets the County's scope of work, they are projecting it taking sixteen months to complete the plan for a total cost of \$92,730.75. Center for Public Safety Management, LLC proposal meets the scope of work. They are projecting 210 days for completion for a total cost of \$93,550.00. Chief Schacht recommends moving forward with utilizing the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC to complete the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan. They have conducted more than 425 similar studies in 46 states and utilize members that have experience and knowledge of fire-rescue systems.

Mr. Shull asked how many days will be scheduled to meet with the volunteers.

Chief Schacht stated that they have scheduled to meet with the stakeholders so they will be available as many days as it takes.

Mr. Wells asked how long the price quotes are good for?

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC sent an email extending the date to May 10, 2023.

Ms. Carter stated that due to the significant expenses coming up for the County and the fact that past strategic planning done through Fire-Rescue produced very little change or no action, her recommendation would be to not get an outside consultant for the strategic plan.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve using no consultant and doing the plan internally.

Dr. Seaton is concerned that the money will be spent and not implement anything from the strategic plan.

Mr. Shull is not in favor of using a consultant. He would like to see volunteers involved in the process. He suggests forming a committee that consists of various people within the County. The school system established a ten-year plan with no outside help and their next ten-year plan is going to be done the same way. The County is capable of doing the same thing. The request has been made of past Chief's to create a strategic plan, but things weren't implemented well. He is concerned if the wrongs things are implemented the ISO rating will be affected. Mr. Shull states that it is fiscally responsible for the County to create the plan in house utilizing volunteers and career staff.

Chief Schacht appreciates Mr. Shull's comments and agrees with his concerns. The question of whether this is worth \$91,000.00 depends on was in enacted on. If the plan that is created is enacted on it will be worth every penny.

Dr. Seaton is concerned with how it will be carried out. He is not ready to vote for it, but could easily vote for it in the future.

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

FIRE-RESCUE STRATEGIC PLAN (CONT'D)

Mr. Wells was under the impression at the Board Retreat that the Board agreed a strategic plan was needed and needed to be completed by an outside source.

Mr. Garber moved, seconded Mr. Slaven, that the Board approve tabling until the April 24, 2023 Staff Briefing meeting for further discussion.

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

Motion carried.

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FY2024 ARTS GRANT

The Board considered the FY2024 Arts Grant.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that Staff reached out to the Wayne Theater and Oak Grove Theater regarding a potential partnership for the Virginia Commission of the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant. Both entities have expressed interest in partnering on the grant. At a prior Board of Supervisors meeting, the funding allocation was suggested as:

Stonewall Brigade Band	30%
Wayne Theater	30%
Oak Grove Theater	40%

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board approve FY2024 Arts Grant.

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

Motion carried.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 25, 2023

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

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Chanda McGuffin, 644 Edwardian Lane, Waynesboro, requests that the Board of Supervisors purchase body and dash cameras for the Sheriff's Department.

Nancy Sorrells, 3419 Cold Springs Road, Greenville, spoke in opposition of a proposed rezoning in Greenville.

Dave Zimmerman, 120 Lee Highway, Verona, asks that the Board not forget about the volunteers when it comes to the Fire-Rescue Strategic Plan.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton stated that signing up to speak online is very difficult. He would like to suspend the requirement to sign up by 7:30p.m. and online. This gives the perception that the Board does not want people speaking.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve discontinuing the 7:30p.m. sign-up requirement and discontinue the online sign-up process until the system can be made more user friendly.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton stated that he has promoted and supported the priorities of the Sheriff's Department over the years. He supports the Sheriff's request and will ask for body cameras in this year's budget to protect our deputies from false accusations and provide the public transparency into the tough work of law enforcement.

Dr. Seaton asked what would be required of the Board to appoint members to address the Comprehensive Plan advisory Group.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Board will consider community members that will be beneficial to completing the process. The steering committee will need to be created in May.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Reminder of the Budget Worksession on Monday, March 27th at 8:30 a.m. in Smith West. Citizens will be able to view the meeting via a zoom link and it is also open to the public.
- 2) The Code of Virginia allows the Board forty-five days to appoint a new member to serve the South River District. Applications will be accepted though 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 2023. The Board will then schedule an interview session to consider the applicants. Typically, in the past the interviews have been in closed session and not open to the public.

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve livestreaming the interview process for the South River District open seat.

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

Motion carried.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Slaven, 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) Board of Supervisors

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On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Seaton, the Board came out of Closed Session.

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

Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Shull, Slaven, Garber, Wells, Carter, and Seaton
 Nays: None

Motion carried.

March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

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

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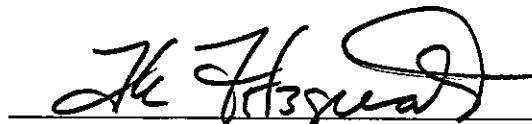
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried.


Chairman


County Administrator

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