

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Jeffrey Slaven, Chairman
Pam Carter, Vice-Chair
Michael Shull
Butch Wells
Carolyn Bragg
Scott Seaton
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
Doug Wolfe, Director of Community Development
Julia Hensley, Planner II
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Gerald Garber
Timothy K. Fitzgerald

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 248th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Slaven welcomed those present at the meeting.

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The following students from Riverheads High School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Eli Marsh is a senior.

Clayton Davis is a senior.

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Ms. Carter, Pastures District, delivered the invocation.

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PARKS AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE REQUEST

The Board considered a funding request for three sets of soccer goals for Elementary School's Club use.

Funding Source: North River P&R Infrastructure 8023-54 \$2,000.00
Pastures P&R Infrastructure 8024-32 \$2,000.00

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is requesting funding for an after school soccer program that is operating at Churchville, Craigsville and North River Elementary Schools. The Buffalo Gap High School soccer team is providing mentoring to the children learning to play soccer. The request is for three sets of portable six by twelve soccer goals and the total cost is \$4,000.00. This would serve the Pastures and North River Districts.

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PARKS AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE REQUEST (CONT'D)

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the funding request as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meetings:
• Regular Meeting, Monday, November 20, 2023

CLAIMS:

Consider claims paid since January 1, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Scott Cline, Mt. Sidney, is concerned that the voices of citizens are not being heard. The six Board members that voted to appeal the court case, should pay the cost that is associated with appealing the court case, not the tax payers. He is concerned with the actions of the Board Chairman.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Ms. Whetzel discussed the following:

- 1) Advertisement for public hearing for the ordinance related to the Board of Equalization, 22-8 of the County Code.
- 2) Reassessment notices will be going out soon and they will contain next steps for the appeal process.

Land Use values will be updated. Land Use values are based on the State Land Evaluation Advisory Council (SLEAC) and they offer two recommendations. One is

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF (CONT'D)

an income approach and one is a rental approach.

The values that will be used are the lower of those two methods and that will be the income values. After the initial notices go out, the individuals that are in land use will get a second notice relative to land use.

3) The Arts Grant was discussed at length last year and money was given to Oak Grove Theater, Wayne Theater and Stonewall Brigade Band. Board direction is needed for FY25's budget. Application is due April.

Dr. Seaton stated that Wayne Theater draws people from all over Augusta County and the Cities. Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit organization that draws people from the region. He would be open to switching from Wayne Theater to the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra for the upcoming budget.

Mr. Slaven suggests half of the funds go to Oak Grove Theater since they are located in the County and the other half be divided among other organizations.

Ms. Whetzel will compile a list of organizations available and it can be discussed at the next worksession.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board appoint Butch Wells to serve on the CAP-SAW Board.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board appoint Carolyn Bragg to serve on the SAW-MPO.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton questions why we are paying outside council when the County is paying an Attorney and an Assistant Attorney regarding a simple FOIA case. Appealing the court case is frivolous and will add to the County's expenses billed by outside council. Dr. Seaton asked Mr. Benkahla if the FOIA law has changed or has the Virginia Constitution changed since the Cole versus Smythe case of 2020 that would precipitate overruling Cole versus Smythe?

Mr. Benkahla stated that it has probably changed, but is not sure if it will overrule Cole versus Smythe.

Dr. Seaton stated that the Board should not spend money that only benefits the Board and not the tax payers.

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

Dr. Seaton moved to cancel the appealing the Judges January 11, 2024 order in the current FOIA case before the Circuit Court.

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

Motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shull, seconded by Dr. Seaton, moved that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried.


Chairman
h:2-14min.24


County Administrator