

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

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

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 9, 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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Lily McNally from Fort Defiance High School led the Pledge of Allegiance. She is a senior, serving as the SCA Class of 2022 Vice President and plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College and transfer to James Madison University.

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

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Ms.Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board allow Dr. Seaton to join the meeting via zoom.

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

Motion carried.

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February 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

RIVERHEADS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM RESOLUTION

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board adopt the following resolution.

WHEREAS, the Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team has enjoyed unprecedented success under the leadership of Coach Robert C. Casto; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, 2006, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 the Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team won the Virginia High School League Class 1 State Championship; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team continued its success by winning the Region B championship and becoming the Virginia High School League Class 1 State Champions for the sixth time in row; and

WHEREAS, team members of the Riverheads High School Varsity Football team have been widely recognized in the Shenandoah District, Region 1B, and across the state with eleven team members being named All-District, nine team members being named to the offensive All-region team, seven being named to the defensive All-region team, and eight team members being named to the first team All-State and three team members being named to the second team All-State; and

WHEREAS, team member Caden Cook-Cash was recognized as the Shenandoah District, the Region 1B and the Group A Division 1 state offensive player of the year and team member Noah Smiley was recognized as the Region 1B and the Group A Division 1 state defensive player of the year, and Coach Robert Casto was recognized as the Shenandoah District, The Region 1B, and the Virginia High School League Class 1 state coach of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Riverheads Gladiators' victory completes its undefeated season and furthers its winning streak to 50 games, the longest active winning streak among high school football programs in the nation and two games shy of the Virginia High School League record for most consecutive wins; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Augusta County can be proud of the way the Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team promoted teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, meeting in regular session on February 9, 2022, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors hereby commends the 2021 Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team for all of its accomplishments during the 2021 Riverheads Football Season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors applaud Principal Matt Stephens and Coach Robert Casto and his staff, for instilling the principles of hard work, determination, teamwork and most importantly sportsmanship to the young men who were members of the 2021 Riverheads High School Varsity Football Team; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, and be presented to Riverheads High School in recognition for the accomplishments of their team during the 2021 High School Football season.

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

Motion carried.

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REDISTRICTING

This being the day and time advertised to consider an ordinance amendment to the voting precincts and polling places in Augusta County.

Leslie Tate, Senior Planner, this is an ordinance amendment to the voting precincts and polling places for Augusta County. Redistricting is the process in which local and state governments work to redraw the lines of political boundaries. This occurs in the first year ending in one after the completion of the decennial census. It is the responsibility of local governments to review and redraw the lines for magisterial districts and voting precincts. All political districts must adhere to the "one person, one vote" rule, meaning they must be as equal in population as possible. Criteria includes "one person, one vote", compact and contiguous districts, keep communities of interest unified as much as possible, must have clearly recognizable boundaries, must not be drawn to discriminate on the basis of race, incarcerated population must be factored out of its total population and local voting precincts must not be split between congressional or state election districts. The Electoral Board is primarily responsible for establishing polling places, while the Board of Supervisors is primarily responsible for determining precinct boundaries and naming any new precincts. Population counts of precincts must be based on the most recently available counts of registered voters. Precincts must not be

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REDISTRICTING (CON'TD)

split between magisterial districts, Virginia Senate/House of Delegates districts, or U.S. congressional districts and must be greater than one hundred registered voters but less than 5,000 registered voters. Polling places must have ADA accessibility in both the building and in the parking lot, be located within the precinct or one mile or less outside the boundaries of a precinct and be a public building whenever possible. The proposed map is representative of the existing magisterial districts that were amended at the end of 2021. It is proposed to combine the Churchville Fire and the Churchville Elementary Precincts in the Pastures District. The proposal is for everyone to vote at Churchville Elementary School. In the North River District, it is proposed to split the Fort Defiance Voting Precinct and add the Oak Grove polling place. Both Fort Defiance and Oak Grove would vote in Clymore Elementary School; one in the cafeteria and one in the gym. It is proposed in the South River District the Ridgeview Precinct will be split and the Mount Vernon Precinct will be created with a polling place at Stuarts Draft Elementary School. No changes in or additions to the polling precincts in the Riverheads District. The Wilson Precinct that was in the Wayne District has now moved into the Beverley Manor District and voting will take place at Valley Vocational Technical Center. There are three proposals for the Wayne District. One is two new voting precincts; Ladd Precinct with voting at Brite Transit Facility and Goose Creek Precinct with voting at Bridge Christian Church. Fishersville Precinct will be voting at Wilson Elementary School. There are no changes for the Middle River District.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open.

Elizabeth Jordan is new to the area and is concerned with the lines and not being able to vote for her School Board member.

Pat Morgan is in the North River District. He is concerned about the addition of a voting precinct in Fort Defiance. There is a crowding issue with only one precinct. A different location should be found for the new Oak Grove Precinct.

Janet James is in the Wayne District and would like for the maps to be more clear.

Mr. Shull received a phone call from Gary and Betty Glendye on Mt. Tabor Road with concerns about the proposed changes and placing them in the Pastures District. They will have to travel to Churchville to vote.

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

Mr. Slaven has been approached about changing the name to the newly proposed Oak Grove Precinct. The precinct name should represent something in that area.

Mr. Slaven moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve advertising for public hearing to change a polling precinct name from Oak Grove to Rolla.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board accept the precincts as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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Marcy Reedy, Chairman of the Electoral Board and Georgia Long, Secretary of the Electoral Board announced that the Electoral Board is looking for people to work the polling places. Contact the Registrar Office, if anyone is interested.

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I81/I64 RESOLUTION

The Board considered resolution.

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that this is a resolution that would encourage the Commonwealth of Virginia to utilize infrastructure funds to improve interstate 81/64 corridor in both Rockbridge County and Augusta County. Rockbridge will be taking the resolution to their Board for consideration this week. This is to push State Delegation and Congress to use infrastructure funding for improvements to the highways.

Resolution Encouraging the Commonwealth of Virginia to Utilize Infrastructure Funds to Improve the Interstate 81/64 Corridor in Rockbridge and Augusta Counties.

WHEREAS, US Interstates 81 and 64 intersect in Rockbridge County and share the same travel path north to Augusta County, where they diverge; and,

WHEREAS, this section of interstate highway (I81/I64), between mile markers 191 and 222 is among the most heavily travelled in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, over 50,000 vehicles traverse I81/I64 each day; and,

WHEREAS, as the corridor is a major shipping artery for the eastern United States, a high percentage of the vehicles is comprised of semi-trucks; and,

WHEREAS, these trucks share the road with innumerable passenger vehicles containing families and business commuters; and,

WHEREAS, the density of traffic and varied size and travelling speeds of vehicles on I81/I64 often results in traffic crashes; and,

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require rest time for commercial drivers and parking availability along I81 / I64 is limited and often creates additional safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS, in the past five years (2017 – 2021) there have been more than 1000 vehicle crashes on this section of interstate highway; and,

WHEREAS, these crashes have resulted in 10 fatalities and nearly 400 injuries; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge and Augusta Counties provide Fire and EMS service response to assist crash victims; and,

WHEREAS the Virginia State Police (VSP), and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provide law enforcement and traffic management during crash incidents; and,

WHEREAS, local law enforcement, to include the Rockbridge and Augusta County Sheriffs' Departments, are often called upon to assist the Virginia State Police in crash response and traffic detours; and,

WHEREAS, over the past three years on fire and EMS responses alone, Rockbridge and Augusta Counties fire and EMS agencies have provided approximately 6,000 hours of response time, involving multiple stations, units and personnel; and,

WHEREAS, interstate traffic is routinely detoured around crashes, onto Virginia primary and secondary roads, as well as through the cities of Lexington and Staunton; and,

WHEREAS, these detours require additional local personnel to manage, and interrupt daily travel for our citizens and commerce of our businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the addition of one north and one south-bound lane for this highly traveled section of Interstates 81 and 64 would serve to reduce both the number of crash incidents and the necessity to detour traffic onto local roadways; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has and will be receiving federal funding designated for infrastructure improvements,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, The Board of Supervisors of Rockbridge County, and the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County, request and encourage the United States Congress, The Virginia General Assembly and The Governor of Virginia to designate such funding as would be needed to fully fund the construction of a third lane on the shared section of Interstate 81 and 64 through Augusta and Rockbridge Counties.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

CLAIMS

Consider claims paid since January 1, 2022

STREET ADDITION

Consider a street addition for Valley Manor Subdivision.

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

Motion carried.

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(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Sam Orlando, 47 S. Windsong Ct, Fishersville, is concerned about the Sheriff and his actions.

Cortez Nathan, 30 S. Windsong Ct., Fishersville, is concerned about the Sheriff and his actions.

Tobias Hough, 260 S. Windsor Drive, Fishersville, is new to the area and is concerned about the Sheriff and his actions.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Mr. Wells gave an update on the progress of the courthouse bill. The Courthouse Committee determined that Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Wells will be traveling to Richmond to attend the committee hearing.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

1) There was an Animal Shelter owners meeting last week. The Animal Shelter Board decided not to accept an RFP for the operation of the shelter. The three localities will continue to manage the shelter. A new organizational structure is being worked on and Augusta County will assume the role as Fiscal Agent for the shelter starting July 1, 2022.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Shull, 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, Economic Development Authority, Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board
 - b) Board of Supervisor

On motion of Mr. Shull, seconded by Mr. Wells, 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.

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. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board re-appoint Brett Snyder to serve on the Economic Development Authority. Effective March 15, 2022 and to expire March 14, 2026.

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Morelli moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board re-appoint Mark Frazier to serve on the Economic Development Authority. Effective March 29, 2022 and to expire March 28, 2026.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Morelli, that the Board appoint Cory Sheridan to serve an unexpired term on the Shenandoah Workforce Development Board. Effective immediately and to expire on June 30, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

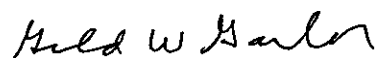
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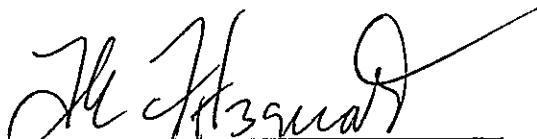
ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Morelli moved, seconded by Mr. Shull 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