

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 26, 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, January 26, 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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The following students from the Buffalo Gap High School FFA led the Pledge of Allegiance:

Madison Wheeler is a senior and is the FFA President. She hopes to pursue a degree in radiology. Ms. Wheeler invited the Board to the FFA Breakfast on February 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. This is a breakfast to show appreciation to the teachers and the community.

Caleb Campbell is the FFA Sentinel and the Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge and Waynesboro Federation President.

Nicole Grady is the FFA Senior Reporter and hopes to pursue a career Veterinary Science.

Lorie Teeter is the FFA Food for America Chair Person and hopes to pursue a career in Veterinary Science.

Emory Seal is the FFA Junior Vice President and hopes to pursue a degree in Ag Engineering.

Jason Payne is the FFA Junior Reporter and hopes to pursue a career in HVAC.

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

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January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

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ARPA FUNDING

The Board considered the following American Rescue Plan funding allocations:

- 1) Sheriff
- 2) Government Center Project
- 3) Water tank recreational area.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the County will be getting \$14.7 million in American Rescue Plan Funding. Board allocations to date include Broadband VATI grant awarded in December 2021 for \$5.9 million and an employee bonus allocation for a total of \$982,000.00. This is a budgeted figure and will probably be less due to vacancies. Several other allocations have been discussed; a potential water tank in Weyers Cave for \$3.9 million, Sheriff equipment needs for \$380,100.00 and a potential project for the Government Center that would include a community project and space changes within the Government Center that would start with an ECC expansion.

Candy Hensley, Assistant to the County Administrator, stated that staff has spent time brainstorming the various needs of various departments to determine the best way to proceed. The first focus was for ECC and their space needs. Lineage Architects completed a preliminary feasibility study. The expansion would go into the County Attorney space, which would require moving their office to a different location. A second most significant project is the need to have a recreational area with multipurpose fields, field house, and park trails which would be on the southern end of the Government Center. This could be a project to benefit the community and a revenue generator for the County. By moving Parks & Recreation to the veranda area, they would gain activity space that was lost when the School Board moved into the building. This would also put Parks & Recreation closer to the recreational area to manage it. By Parks & Rec moving to the dock area, that frees up office space in the current Parks & Rec area to move the County Attorney's office and there is ample room for growth. Human Resources would also move to the area. Architectural and Engineering services for this project total \$88,220.00. This is for two proposals; one for Lineage to do the architectural work and the other is for Balser & Associates to do the site designing and planning for the project and included storm water work. The storm sewer system is very old and there is various problems with the system that need to be fixed.

There was also discussion of scaling the project back to the feasibility study and layout portion for the different departments within the Government Center. The total for that was \$10,340.00. Also discussed scaling back Balser & Associates work to just doing the storm sewer work, which is \$7,500.00. Ms. Hensley provided the Board with a complete layout of the Government Center showing the space that was taken from Parks & Recreation when the School Board moved into the building. A layout of the proposed area for Parks & Recreation, along with the area for the multi-purpose fields, was also provided. The beginning stages would be to master plan the area to determine the needs.

Mr. Slaven would like more time to evaluate the water tank project and the future needs of the area. The recreational project sounds like a good plan and would like more information on future benefits for the County.

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The Board considered community survey opportunity and need for strategic plan.

The Community Survey would consist of a list of questions that is standard throughout the Nation. There is a section that the County can determine what questions to ask the community. This survey could assist the Board with future strategic planning and future priorities and goals. The survey would be through a third party and compared to other localities twice a year.

Mr. Shull stated that he is not in favor of this. The County's strategic plan has been laid out. Primarily with the courthouse and the Sheriff's Department. There is a lot of needs with the volunteer agencies budgets. There is a jail expansion in the works. The County has the people and the means to come up with a plan on their own.

Mr. Slaven stated that now is not the time to start a strategic plan. Budget time for the County is a hectic time. He has concerns with the community survey popping up on someone's phone and they ignore it.

Ms. Carter has worked with strategic plans for most of her career. Planning is important and gives direction. A facilitator is an objective person that will help bring thoughts together to create a plan. Involving the community is important, but suggests starting with the strategic plan and then pull the community in to give feedback on what the Board has come up with.

Dr. Seaton amended the vote to approve starting the community survey process now and starting the strategic plan process in July.

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

January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
 Motion carried.

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WAIVERS – NONE

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Consider minutes from the following meeting:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 10, 2021
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, November 22, 2021

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

Donald Smith, Augusta County Sheriff, stated that they are compiling information regarding body cameras and in car cameras. He will make a presentation in the coming weeks. The salaries for his department needs to be evaluated. Before he makes a request for the body cameras, he urges the Board to consider increasing his deputy's pay.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Ms. Carter asked for an Animal Shelter update.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Animal Shelter RFP has been completed. The next step is an owner's meeting and decide what the next step will be. Waynesboro has been successful in finding part-time kennel help.

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Dr. Seaton, that the Board re-appoint Faye McCauley to serve on the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board. Effective immediately and to expire January 30, 2024

January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton would like to have input from citizens on continuing the Spring Clean-Up event. He gave an update on the courthouse bill at the General Assembly. Dr. Seaton named the committee members that were involved in voting for this bill to pass.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- 1) Plans to go back to Richmond to ensure voices are heard on the courthouse bill.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Dr. Seaton 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, Morelli
And Seaton
Nays: None

Motion carried.


Chairman


County Administrator