

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Jeffrey Slaven, Chairman
Pam Carter, Vice-Chair
Michael Shull
Butch Wells
Gerald Garber
Carolyn Bragg
Scott Seaton (Via Zoom)
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At an adjourned meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, May 22, 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 Wilson Middle School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ruth Doyle finished the 8th grade and is grateful for the opportunity to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Bill Surret delivered the invocation. He served in the Korean War as a second lieutenant and serves as Chaplain for the VFW #2216.

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Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board approve Dr. Seaton joining the meeting via Zoom.

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

Motion carried.

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LYME DISEASE AWARENESS PROCLAMATION

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

WHEREAS, from 2004-2018, vector-borne diseases in humans have more than doubled in the US and while Lyme disease accounts for 82% of all reported tick-borne diseases; other tick-borne diseases including spotted fevers, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis have become increasingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the US caused by bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is transmitted primarily by the blacklegged tick found in 50% of US counties, concentrated in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and Western regions of the US; and

WHEREAS, in response to this growing problem and risk, US federal entities developed the National Public Health Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in People (2024) to address the rising public health threat of VBDs; and

WHEREAS, ticks that carry Lyme disease can also carry several other pathogens, many of which are reported in Virginia and often co-infections (infection with more than one tick-borne pathogen) are reported, which complicates diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases are a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms, physical findings and the potential of exposure to infected ticks or their habitat; and

WHEREAS, when Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, it may result in severe illness, disability, or death; and the CDC has just added (2024) Lyme disease to the list of disease agents that have been linked to chronic symptoms; and

WHEREAS, while most tick-borne diseases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics and by taking steps to prevent bites can help prevent tick-borne diseases, including using tick repellent, removing ticks promptly and properly, applying pesticides on the landscape and reducing tick habitat, every community has the responsibility to educate the public about the symptoms, the importance of seeking prompt medical treatment, and how to prevent tick-borne diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health coordinates various tick-borne disease activities including surveillance, education, and outreach initiatives, and works to advance workforce development and training to sustain and strengthen tick-borne disease public health practices; enhance tick-borne disease surveillance capacity; and perform and evaluate educational outreach to healthcare providers, public health partners, policy makers and the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Augusta County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as Lyme & Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month in Augusta County and encourage all community members to help spread tick-borne disease awareness and prevention education.

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

Motion carried.

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This being the day advertised to consider a request to add a Public Use Overlay over approximately 6.51 acres located at 31 crossroads lane in Fishersville in the Beverley Manor District. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the request.

Julia Hensley, Planner II, stated that this is a request to add a Public Use Overlay over an existing church in order for Augusta Christian Academy to add high school grades. Augusta Christian Academy currently operates their K-8th grade classes out of a building on Tinkling Spring Road. The property in this request is located at 31 Crossroads Lane in Fishersville in the Beverley Manor District. The proposed overlay would not change the current general business zoning of the property and is consistent with the future land use designation of the property.

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PUBLIC USE OVERLAY-CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH (CONT'D)

The applicant, Harold Munson, is a member of the Christian Academy Board. The Academy has been open since August. He stated that the space at Crossroads Baptist Church may not be needed, but space is quickly becoming an issue so they want to be prepared.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

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

Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg that the Board approve the request as presented.

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

Motion carried.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Board obtained public feedback on a future application of the CBDG Grant.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, reviewed the property effected by the block grant and the grant process. Prior to the application submittal, the County must allow the opportunity for the public to speak to the CDBG Grant application. The CDBG application would be for master planning services to establish a vision for the future redevelopment of the property. These efforts will review and analyze the existing site conditions, community and property owner desired uses for redevelopment, land use designations, zoning for Augusta and Nelson Counties, site layouts, and other data to inform potential redevelopment scenarios. Having a master plan for the property will open more grant opportunities as well as continue the relationship with the property owner as development options are proposed. If the grant is awarded, engagement efforts would include a stakeholder committee with regional representation, conversations with local property owners, state agencies and members of the development community. The public comment period is to comply with grant requirements, and if awarded, further feedback will be obtained in the master planning process. The property owners were present to show support of the application. Multiple inquiries related to the project have been received. The application has recently been opened and staff will continue to work on a submittal along with assistance from the CSPDC. Board approval is not required at this time.

Tim Kaus, President of the Property Owner Association of Swan Ridge Estates, is excited to see clean up happen with the property. He is slightly concerned with the future development and increased traffic in the area.

Greg Clemmer, lives in that area and agrees with Mr. Kaus.

The Board accepted as information.

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EARLY DETECTION SCREENING

Mr. Wells does not agree with postponing this issue. The only question he has is if this could include the volunteers.

Dr. Seaton stated that typically with testing such as this there is a co-pay associated unless negotiated. The cost would be much higher if the test is run through the doctor's office. Using this organization would be more cost effective. He agrees with moving forward for this year and next year look into including the volunteers.

Dr. Seaton moved that the Board approve moving forward with the early detection screenings for Fire and Rescue.

Ms. Carter does not agree with the co-pay statement. Typically, with preventative testing there is not a co-pay associated with it. If this is done for the career staff it needs to be done for the volunteers as well.

Ms. Bragg sees this as being pushed very quickly. There are a lot of questions left to be answered and decisions to be made. All options need to be evaluated and a plan made from there.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Garber, that the Board approve postponing the decision for 90 days to allow for further evaluation.

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

Motion carried.

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST-CRAIGSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

The Board considered a funding request from Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is a request to fund an APEX 4 Point Deluxe Kit coming from the Pastures Infrastructure account.

Funding Source: Pastures Infrastructure 8014-123 \$6,964.74

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

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

Motion carried.

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CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES:

Consider minutes from the following meetings:

- Budget Worksession, Monday, March 25, 2024
- Special Meeting, Wednesday, April 17, 2024
- Staff Briefing Meeting, Monday, April 22, 2024

May 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA (CONT'D)

CLAIMS

Consider claims paid since April 1, 2024

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote was as follows:	Yeas: Slaven, Carter, Shull, Garber, Wells, Bragg 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 - NONE

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF -- NONE

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton requested the status of applications for body camera grants. He questioned the fire flow limitations across the County.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that at this point there is not a plan in place to address the fire flow limitations, but areas could be evaluated and the Board would decide how to move forward.

Dr. Seaton asked for an update on Broadband service.

Ms. Whetzel stated that the State of Virginia has turned in their challenge process to NTIA. Once the State hears back, they will open the Bead process for providers to apply for that funding. It is expected to open in the summer and then close near the end of the calendar year. The All Points project is in the Make Ready pole upgrade portion. They are working with SVEC and Dominion to upgrade poles in the area to begin actual construction.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board appoint Tyler Ingram to serve a term on the Broadband Committee.

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

Mr. Garber moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board re-appoint Richard Halterman to serve a term on the Economic Development Authority.

Motion carried.

Motion carried.

Motion carried.

Motion carried.

Ms. Carter stated that Beverley Manor Middle School is now closed. She thanked the Governor and the General Assembly, especially Senator Obenshain and Delegate Runion, for getting the money approved for Craigsville to pay off their infrastructure debt left from closing the prison.

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

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board appoint Andrea Journell to serve a term on the Youth Commission.

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

Motion carried.

The Board congratulated Dr. Seaton on his new marriage.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shull, seconded by Ms. Bragg, moved that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion carried.


Chairman
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County Administrator