

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Tracy C. Pyles, Jr., Chairman
Terry Lee Kelley, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Carolyn S. Bragg
Wendell L. Coleman
Marshall W. Pattie
Michael L. Shull
Gerald W. Garber
Timmy Fitzgerald, County Administrator
John Wilkinson, Director 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, June 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 241th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Pyles welcomed the citizens present.

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Ms. Betty Haupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Wendell Coleman Supervisor of the Wayne District, delivered invocation.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC -- NONE

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SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-PRESENTATION

Jennifer Flynn, Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, was selected as Superintendent in January. She chose the Shenandoah National Park Service 26 years ago for her career. She passionately believes in their mission to preserve the places and stories that are most special about the American history. She is honored to currently be serving the National Park. This is her 7th duty station with the park. She has traveled all over the country. This is the longest in one place and in one park. Ms. Flynn started at Shenandoah National Park in November 2009 as the Deputy Superintendent so her focus has changed in her new position. 2016 was a very good year for the National Park. It was also the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service so there was a lot of media attention nationally. There was a large campaign called Find Your Park and lots of people found Shenandoah as their park. The visitation was 1.45 million last year. This is an 8.3% increase from the year before. So far this year the park is on track to either meet or exceed that number. The National Park Service conducts a study every year that looks at what the economic benefits are to the communities that surrounds the National Park sites. A community is defined as within 50 miles of the park boundary. In 2016 visitors spent \$96.2 million in the surrounding communities outside of the park. Their spending supports 1300 jobs, 300 of those jobs were in the park. 1000 of those jobs can be directly linked to support from visitors to Shenandoah. The park has been trying hard to make sure that everyone is engaged with the communities. The Celebrate Shenandoah Committee was formed at the park's 75th Anniversary in 2011. This

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SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

committee was formed to help with the planning of that celebration. Mostly Tourism officials from counties around the park. As well as some elected officials. At the end of the 75th Anniversary year, the committee decided to not disband. They felt like there was good synergy working across the park and not linear to the park. There are a couple very active subcommittees, one of which is the Branding and Promotion subcommittee. They are working hard to brand the region. When someone thinks about coming to Shenandoah they are driven to a website that is run by the Celebrate Shenandoah group. It gives them information about all of the possibilities that available. They are also working on a Land Use subcommittee. The Land Use subcommittee is working on a tool kit that would help counties and communities up against the park with planning purposes. The Blue Ridge Committee for park relations is another organization the park participates with. They were originally founded because in the 1980's the park was not getting along with the surrounding neighbors. They continue to meet currently because they like each other. The committee meets twice a year and it's been a good forum for the communities to give feedback. The members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Flynn meets with them and does an educational piece of the meeting and then any concerns can be brought forward from the different communities. The Blue Ridge Heritage project is a grassroots effort that has come together as another way to recognize the families that were displaced by the establishment of Shenandoah National Park. The project is building monuments to those families from each of the counties. The idea is that it is an opportunity for someone to come and visit each monuments, each community around the park and recognize the contribution and sacrifice of those counties. Rappahannock and Madison County have completed their monuments. Green County has chosen their location. Page County has broken ground. Rockingham County is meeting to start the process and Augusta County is next on the list to start the conversation. Bill Henry is the Chair of the organization. Within the park there are important partners. The Delaware North Corporation is contracted to run the lodging, food facilities and the commercial businesses within the park. They are in their fifth year of a ten year contract. Ms. Flynn encourages everyone to visit the park if they haven't in while. Facilities have been improved dramatically under the Delaware North Corp. contract. They are required to give 6.6% of their income to do maintenance on the facilities. The public restrooms have been updated. The lodge common space at Skyland is new. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is the volunteer partner. They provide 30,000-50,000 hours of time each year to help maintain trails. Shenandoah National Park has 500 miles of trail and PATC helps with 300 miles of those. The Shenandoah National Park Association is the education partner. They run the bookstores and the visitor centers. For the first time in their over 80 year history they broke \$1 million in sales last year. The Association provides public education seminars and gives direct support back to the park. The Shenandoah National Park Trust is based in Charlottesville. They fundraise for the park with a variety of projects. This year they are funding seventeen projects within the park in the amount of \$400,000. The year was started with a hiring freeze which was impactful to Shenandoah because at the time of the freeze there were 26 positions vacant. I am happy to report most of those positions are able to be filled. It will most likely be in the fall before most jobs are completely filled. They were able to bring on the temporary staff as planned. The temporary staff works 6 months or less and they help run the park in the summer. Shenandoah hired 128 temporary employees this year. The last centennial event was in April. The north district to the park was closed for one day which was Front Royal to Thornton Gap to Highway 211. No cars were allowed. Only cyclist, hikers and walkers had access to the road. There were 4,000 registered for this event. Only 900 actually showed up because the weather wasn't good. The Shenandoah National Park does have an entrance fee. The fee did increase in January. Four years ago the Director recommended examining the fee. The park wasn't charging

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SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

enough based on National numbers. People don't mind to pay more, but a jump from \$15 to \$25 is too much at one time. There was a phased increase with the final phase last January with no intentions to raise the fees again unless directed to do so. The fee money stays at the park. 80% of the funds are kept at the park. The law states the money has to be directly supporting the visitor experience. It is anticipated to have approximately \$7.5 million in revenue. This is \$6.2 million that will be spent in the park on direct park support. There are fee free days on June 17 (Park Neighbor Day), Augusta 25 (Birthday), September 30 and November 11-12 (Veterans Day). One operational change is the Matthew's Arm Campground has been closed. New waste water treatment system is being installed so the campground has to be closed to the public. Plans are to be open by September 1. The park has a saying that it is the park's job to protect the park from the people, the people from the park and the people from the people. It has gotten much more complicated than that and that logic is too simplistic. It recognized that anything done in the park impacts the ones around them. Energy development, pipelines, other development, invasive plants, animals, diseases and insects all effect the quality of the park. Water quality and air quality is a concern. View shed impairment is popular because of the view from the park. The night skies are a big interest to people. The National Park mission is to put things into perpetuity for the next generation. Ms. Flynn looks forward to having the long view with the community.

Mr. Pyles thanked Ms. Flynn and asked how many counties are in the park.

Ms. Flynn stated there are 8 counties that have land in the park and Nelson is counted because they are up against the park.

Mr. Pyles asked what percentage of the park is in Augusta County.

Augusta County has almost 12,269 of the 200,000 acres.

Ms. Bragg asked if there were plans to for a Visitors Center on the south end.

In the short term, a mobile Visitor Center was bought. This isn't the perfect solution, but will give insight as to whether there should be something more permanent.

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REFUND REQUEST

The Board considered a request by Gregory Poole Lift Systems in the amount of \$4,307.80.

James Benkahla, County Attorney, stated that Gregory Poole Lift Systems out of North Carolina has requested a refund. They have been paying personal property in Augusta County and did not file a return for 2016 so the Commissioner's Office did a statutory assessment. Gregory Poole System also filed an asset listing in the Commissioner's office on April 21. The list has been reviewed and the value for personal property needs to be lowered. A refund in the amount of \$4,377.80 is requested.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg that the Board approve the refund request to Gregory Poole Lift Systems for \$4,307.80

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REFUND REQUEST (CONT'D)

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Shull, Garber, Coleman, Kelley, Bragg and Pyles, Pattie
Nays: None

Motion carried

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STUARTS DRAFT LIBRARY

The Board considered a funding request for the library start-up.

Funding Source: South River District	80000-8016-86	\$38,958
Beverley Manor District	80000-8011-85	\$20,000

Diantha McCauley, Library Director, and Debbie Sweeney, Assistant Director, handed out to the Board revised figures from the original start-up projected cost for the proposed Stuarts Draft Library. It is tentatively planned to be open and operational in September of 2017. The library will be located at the Broadmore Plaza in Suite 107. The property has 3,311 square feet which would accommodate approximately 10,000 items that will include books, DVDs, books on cassette, and puppets, etc. The plan is to be open 20 hours per week. It is anticipated to have four public computers available, copier/scanner/fax, and wi-fi. A 789 square foot meeting room with a separate entrance is in the plans to be a part of the new library. The separate entrance will allow for the meeting room to be used during the hours the library is closed. This is similar to the one offered at the Churchville branch. A newly hired station manager, Margaret Robinson, starts on Friday. She is the former Librarian at VSDB and she has experience building libraries. Ms. Robinson combined the three separate libraries at VSDB into one new facility. In the proposal, Augusta County is paying for half of the carpeting and half of building of a wall to block off the meeting room. This will include some electrical outlets and cabling. The biggest expense, other than the carpeting, would be adding the computer equipment. Augusta County Schools are looking at some unused equipment at the closed elementary schools. It's not certain they will be usable because of age. The primary cost for furniture and fixtures is \$3,000 for a book drop. Again, the schools have been looked at and some of the shelving and furniture that can be used at the new library. There is a security deposit cost of \$1,950 and approximately \$4,000 for movers. The anticipated annual operating cost will be approximately \$30,770.

Mr. Pyles asked the following questions:

- 1) What is the rental fee and the cost for Library staff?
- 2) With the items that are being split in half, who is paying each half?
- 3) How long is the lease?

Ms. McCauley stated the rental is \$1950.00 per month. Which is \$23,400 annually. The cost for Library staff is approximately \$10 per hour. This is a part-time position with no benefits. That is included in the budget for the coming year. Thomas Shields is the owner of the property and will pay half on the carpet and the dividing wall. The lease is for three years.

Ms. Bragg stated that we are paying half of the cost for the building of the wall. However, Mr. Shields is doing a number of other renovations to the facility.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that the facility used to be a fitness center and there are

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WAIVERS (CONT'D)

Mr. Wilkinson stated that Mr. Wolfe sent an email to the Service Authority informing them that he needs to meet with them to discuss the issues and what bonding is needed so the permit can move forward.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Pyles asked if the public wished for any item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. There was no request.

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

MINUTES

Approved minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 2017
- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, May 10, 2017

CLAIMES

Consider Claims paid since May 1, 2017.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Pattie, Shull, Garber, Coleman, Kelley, Bragg and Pyles
 Nays: None

Motion carried.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Mr. Garber:

Wants to make sure that the job related to the courthouse is clear to himself and Mr. Kelley. The main job is to sort through all of the options and bring a report back to the Board. If there is something different from that they need to know. There have been several meetings with the Judges and the City of Staunton. They will continue to meet probably once a week and work their way down the list. The goal is to be able to come back with the total number of options. Also a response to the chairman's email about Board committees. Mr. Garber has spoken with some Board members about this same issue. There seems to be a different structure from six years ago. The structure puts a lot on the Board Chair and Vice Chair and underutilizes some of the talent available on the Board. Mr. Garber would like to see Board members specific abilities utilized.

Mr. Pyles:

There is a lot to what Mr. Garber said. If you have good people it can make a bad system work. If you have bad people no system works. When Pat Coffield started with the County he was surprised at the fact that Augusta County had rotating Chairmen. The good part about a rotating Chairman is while you get inundated for one year, everybody has a chance to get involved with Economic Development and Fire & Rescue. There are advantages to that with each Board member getting stronger and not sitting on the same committees all of the time. In the past there was a feeling that there wasn't enough involvement of everybody and things got squashed before it saw the light of day. Rotating in and out meant that everybody would have an opportunity.

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

That's not to say there's not a better way to do it. There was concern about politicization where four members would control everything. There are pros and cons to everything. The reason for the conversation was because people need to be more active. The Board has certain things that have to be done. Some choose to not do anything. They show up, get the information and then make a decision. There are only so many resources. How much staff time do we want to take up with so many different people and issues? How does staff get their regular jobs done? There has to be something between activist, supervisors and how staff can manage everything. In some cities, a councilman or supervisor is a part of the staff with an office. Augusta County has a tendency to have lean staffing. If a Board member is interested in a project and has a certain staff person they would like to see involved with the project that would work in order to get the job done. There has been talk about whether the structure of the Board and how they serve on committees should change. Should there be a type of retreat with the Board or a day for Board members to come together and voice opinions and ideas? As a chairman of one year, he feels there's not much getting done.

Mr. Garber stated was thinking from his perspective it be discussed before personalities became involved. He wants it talked about as a better way to do it, not have it involve putting names and faces to it. It has nothing to do with the people that have been in the positions. It appears that you can get really busy and if you get too busy things don't happen. For example, six years ago when he went off the Board, the person coming in asked what the biggest problem was in Augusta County. Mr. Garber stated that Fire & Rescue was the biggest problem in Augusta County. Fire & Rescue is a large issue in the County and it's not going to go away. It's big in terms of money. People go to the meetings, but it takes a couple of years to know where everything is going and understand it. Mr. Garber indicated that the best person to get the job done should be sent, but the best person isn't always the same person every time. It's the person that understands and can be heard.

Mr. Pyles asked if he had recommendations.

Mr. Garber stated he had recommendations for another year, but it's too soon to bring it up. He is fine with how things are for the next six months. It's important to talk about it when it's not about people, but about structure. Mr. Garber also recognized Joyce Hoover birthday and wedding anniversary. Ms. Hoover is the longest term employee at 43 years with Augusta County.

Mr. Coleman followed up on Mr. Garber's comments. He has talked to each Board member individually at various times with ideas for the future. Different supervisors have different thoughts about what direction to go in the future. The Board gets together each year and discusses priorities in each district. They talk about things County wide that should be a priority. What Mr. Pyles did was come up with a good list of the seven things and then it's a matter of the County wide list where there wasn't a level of agreement. Some of the items on the County wide list have started, such as the reassessment. Mr. Coleman agrees that a special meeting with the sole purpose of looking at board and leadership structure is important. He was a part of the Board when it was decided to go to the rotating system. The process has served well, but may not serve well going forward with all the high profile items on the table. In looking at the committee structure, he is not suggesting making big changes, but make small changes in leadership. Possibly have the Board Chair serve a couple of

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

years. Board members have stated they spend a year on a committee getting comfortable with it and then they rotate off. Mr. Coleman was put on the Audit Committee and didn't have a clue what was going on. Dr. Pattie had served on the same committee for five years and was very comfortable when they met with the contractor. Mr. Coleman didn't go into the meeting prepared and didn't know what to expect. To go along with the point that Mr. Garber made, play to our strengths. Who on the Board has the most to bring to the Economic Development discussion and to the Fire & Rescue discussion or any other discussion? It's important to get ideas out and come up with a decision. The action plan with Fire & Rescue is the decision to close Company 10, but what are the steps and who is doing what. It is important that everyone know the plan even if they aren't intimately involved. Each Board member gets asked questions about certain matters and if that Board member isn't on a particular committee they don't know what is going on.

Mr. Coleman and Mr. Fitzgerald attended the MPO meeting and full funding for the Wilson round-a-bout has been received. They met with the transportation board and stressed the importance of this funding. From VDOT's point of view, this will not be a waste of money, but will compliment whatever comes out of the WWRC US250 transportation study. There is a public meeting and open house on June 22 from 5pm-7pm at the Wilson Memorial Middle School.

Ms. Bragg:

- 1) Thanked everyone for approving moving forward with the Stuarts Draft Library.
- 2) She and Mr. Fitzgerald attended the Fire Fighters Promotional Ceremony.
- 3) The first Stuarts Draft Small Area Plan meeting went well.
- 4) Reminder of the Fire Academy graduation on Monday.
- 5) The Chamber Business Breakfast with the three localities will be Wednesday.
- 6) Shenandoah Acres Volunteer Fire and Rescue Fun Fest Day is next Saturday.

Mr. Kelley would like for everyone to remember the Congressman that was shot in Washington, D.C. He is thankful that we are well represented in the County with the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue. What they do is very much appreciated and he personally thanks them for all they do.

Mr. Pyles stated that he has given some thought about what his responsibility is on the Board. What is the whole Board's responsibility? We have been told for several years that the courthouse is insecure. In regards to Mr. Kelley's comment, one of the problems with the shooting was the ball field is in the wide open and that allowed easy set up for a crime. Our Judges and other personnel in the courthouse are in the wide open as well. Our fingers are crossed every day that nothing will happen. There are certain times that Government is told to do something and they choose to hold back. The Augusta County Board of Supervisors tries to do what is asked of them. All of this money spent for flood control dams, we've done it when a lot of people won't. The risk with these dams are not near as substantial as the situation at the courthouse. Recently there were two inmates that broke out of jail. Two guys with not much time left are so unwise that they break out with half a plan. People do reckless and dangerous things. Things are going to happen, but we have to do everything in our power to protect our family or to give the protection that is expected in your job. We have a job to do and we're not being allowed to do it. Shame on City Council, shame on the Bar Association and shame on the Historic Preservation people for not allowing us to do our job. They are keeping us from doing the necessities and it's wrong. We are willing to do what we are supposed to do and everybody has an iron in the fire except the ones that have to pay for it and people that have to be protected. The courthouse is the greatest symbol we have in this County for what this Government is supposed to be. A Government of Justice.

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

That's why the courthouse has such a standing in our legislature, because it means so much. Mr. Pyles hopes that Mr. Garber and Mr. Kelley fixes the courthouse situation quickly. It's a shame that the City of Staunton is standing in our way for something that would help them to stop the decay of business downtown. We could help them in all of the things that they need to do, but they say never.

Mr. Kelley stated that they have found out what can't be done and now they will find out what can be done.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Staff discussed the following issues:

- 1) Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan update. There have been meetings with Verona Fire Dept. Their membership voted to accept an ambulance at their facility with two 24/7 staff. They would like to continue to keep their two 12 hour people on daylight shift for fire. That's slightly different from what the plan called for. The plan originally called for the two to go 24/7 off a 12 hour shift and have an ambulance with an EMS Supervisor. It will take six people to staff the ambulance for 24/7 at Verona. Mr. Fitzgerald's recommendation to take the remaining staff and staff the second ambulance at Riverheads. This allows us to keep the people in Middlebrook working 12 hour shifts for the time being. We can also utilize staff as floaters. There is currently a contract being discussed with Verona on the ambulance and the standard 75/25 split for revenue recovery. The EMS Supervisor could either be at the Government Center during the day or bunk out of Verona at night or to have them at the Government Center full time and run out of the training center.

Mr. Coleman would like to see movement and make changes. The changes will not be easy. It's important to continue to build the relationship with Verona in terms of moving forward. We have a plan and we have a direction and we continue to seize the opportunity as it presents itself. It may be small steps to end up doing something much bigger. We know what we want to do as part of the more strategic plan, but we do what we can do.

Mr. Kelley agrees with Mr. Coleman and is thankful that it works out so the people stay in Middlebrook. It was a concern and it left a big gap in the County. We will continue to work with the fire boxes.

- 2) NACO Conference in Columbus Ohio July 21-24, 2017. Normally no one attends from Augusta County, if anyone is interested let Mr. Fitzgerald know.
- 3) VLGMA Board meeting and conference next week.
- 4) Pat Morgan is being recognized by the General Assembly for his years of service to the County's in Virginia. They passed a resolution and would prefer to present it to Mr. Morgan at a 1:30 Staff Briefing meeting.

Mr. Pyles stated that it is fine with the Board.

- 5) Fire Academy graduation Monday at 6:30p.m.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Mr. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Bragg, 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

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On motion of Mr. Shull, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board came out of Closed Session.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Bragg, Kelley, Garber, Wendell, Shull, Pattie and Pyles
 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:

 AYE: Bragg, Garber, Kelley, Coleman, Shull, Pattie and Pyles
 NAY: None

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

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Kelley moved, seconded by Ms. Bragg, that the Board make the following appointments:

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS (CONT'D)

<u>Board</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
CAP-SAW	Andrea Kendall	2-year, effective 6/30/17; Exp. 6/30/19
BRCJB	Miles Bobbitt	2-year; effective 6/30/17; Exp. 6/30/19

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Bragg, Kelley, Garber, Wendell, Shull, Pattie and Pyles
 Nays: None

Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Dr. Pattie, the Board adjourn subject to call of the Chairman.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Pattie, Shull, Garber, Coleman, Kelley, Bragg and Pyles
 Nays: None

Motion carried.

Chairman

County Administrator