

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Tracy C. Pyles, Jr., Chairman
Terry Lee Kelley, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Marshall W. Pattie
Michael L. Shull
Carolyn S. Bragg
Gerald W. Garber
Wendell L. Coleman
Timmy Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development
Misty Cook, Director of Finance
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 242nd year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Pyles welcomed the citizens present.

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The following student from Stuarts Draft Middle School led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance:

Jaylee Hatcher is a Civics and Economic student. She is on the cross country Team and the wrestling team. Jaylee holds the title of Virginia State Wrestling Champion for 2017.

Madison Fitzgerald is a Civics and Economic student. She is a singer and enjoys her agriculture class.

Alyssa Robinson is a Civics and Economic student. She is a member of the band and wants to be a Veterinarian.

Logan Roberts is a Civics and Economic student. He enjoys writing and is a member of the band.

Ryan Hellenga is a Civics and Economic student. He is a member of the Augusta County Wolves Lacrosse team.

Logan Perry is a Civics and Economic student. He is a member of the Augusta County Wolves Lacrosse team.

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Terry Kelley, Supervisor for the Beverley Manor District, delivered invocation.

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WILSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY VOLLEYBALL RESOLUTION

The Board considered a resolution for the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball team.

December 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

WILSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY VOLLEYBALL RESOLUTION (CONT'D)
Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball Team has enjoyed unprecedented success under the leadership of Coach Lauren Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball Team finished the 2017 regular season with a 27-2 record; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball team ended their season on a 24 match winning streak; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball team captured both the Shenandoah District and the Region 2B Championships; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball team has been highly recognized with four players earning all-district and three players earning all-region honors. Coach Lauren Grove was also recognized as the coach of the year in both the Shenandoah District, and the Region 2B; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball team also has been recognized in the state with Paris Hutchinson receiving 2nd team all-state and Hannah Johnson receiving both 1st team all-state and the state player of the year. Coach Lauren Grove was also recognized as the state coach of the year; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2017, the Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball Team, after a hard fought five set match won the Virginia High School League 2A State Championship; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, meeting in regular session on December 13, 2017, that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors hereby commends the 2017 Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball Team for all of its accomplishments during the 2017 Volleyball Season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors applaud Principal Dr. Kelly Troxell and Coach Lauren Grove and her staff, for instilling the principles of hard work, determination, teamwork and most importantly sportsmanship to the young women who were members of the 2017 Wilson Memorial High School Varsity Volleyball Team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, and be presented to Wilson Memorial High School in recognition for the accomplishments of their team during the 2017 High School Volleyball season.

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

Motion carried.

Coach Lauren Grove commented by saying it was a great season with a great group of girls. Each one managed to keep up with their academics and did a fabulous job.

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AUGUSTA SPRINGS PROPERTY

This being the day and time advertised to consider the sale of property owned by Augusta County, Virginia, tax map 62-28B in the Pastures Magisterial District.

December 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

PB MARES-AUDIT (CONT'D)

Misty Cook, Director of Finance, introduced Betsy Hedrick and Melissa Brohan with PB Mares which is the independent audit company for Augusta County.

Ms. Hedrick stated that an unmodified opinion has been issued on Augusta County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017. An unmodified opinion is a clean opinion. Two other reports were distributed and these reports are located in the back of financial statements in the compliance section. One report relates to internal control of financial reporting in compliance and the other relates to the County's Federal program. There were two findings reported and both have been addressed by management. The responses on the findings can be found in the back of the financial statements. The Financial Statements and other written communications were reviewed with the Audit Committee in a previous meeting. The Statement of Net Position is the difference between all of the County's assets and liabilities taken into account. At the end of fiscal year, the County's total net position was approximately \$19.7 million. For reference purposes, the management's discussion and analysis in the front of the financial statements provides a good financial summary of the fiscal years. Also, in the back of the financial statements in the statistical section, there are some 10 year historical trend information. Copies of the management letter and the report to the Board of Supervisors was given to the Board. These documents describe certain professional rules that have to be communicated to the Board.

Dr. Pattie stated that this was a smooth process. He commended Misty Cook on her hard work. The two issues that were reported were School Board related. One issue coming in the future is the Gatsby Statement. This is the accounting and financial reporting for post employee benefits. An adjustment was made last year that significantly helped, but there will be a large liability for next year. This is something that needs to be thought about. The current policy originated in the 1960's when healthcare was inexpensive. Health insurance cost is growing each year.

Dr. Pattie moved, seconded by Mr. Coleman, that the Board accept the audit as presented.

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

Motion carried.

- 2) The Board considered the audit contract extension for an additional one-year period.

Dr. Pattie stated that the contract extension for an additional one year period needed the Board's approval. This is the final year the contract can be extended. It will have to go up for bid next year.

Dr. Pattie moved, seconded by Mr. Coleman, that the Board approve the audit extension contract for an additional one-year period.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Pyles asked that Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Cook work on the proposal for post employee benefits and present it at the Staff Briefing in January.

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December 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

STUARTS DRAFT SMALL AREA PLAN TRANSPORTATION
CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Board considered Timmons proposed scope of work and proposed fees.

Funding Source: South River Infrastructure	\$7,166.67
Beverley Manor Infrastructure	\$7,166.67
Riverheads Infrastructure	\$7,166.66

John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development, stated that this is the Transportation component of the Stuarts Draft Small Area Plan. The Stuarts Draft Small Area Plan Committee has met six times and the Timmons Group has met with the committee as well. The transportation component is an important part of the comprehensive plan for Stuarts Draft with the Smart Scale funding from VDOT. It's important to have these components in place for future funding. The following projects are being considered for completion by Timmons Group:

- 1) Johnson Drive/Cold Springs Road Pedestrian Connection
- 2) Patton Farm Road Bridge
- 3) Draft Avenue Bridge
- 4) Bike/Pedestrian Assessment

The estimated project cost, along with meetings and traffic counts is \$26,500.00.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that \$5,000.00 was already in the budget for this type of work. Therefore, the actual amount needing approval is \$21,500.00.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the Timmons proposed scope of work and the proposed fees of \$21,500.00.

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

Motion carried.

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BUFFALO GAP ATHLETIC FIELDS

Consider funding for improvements to the athletic fields at Buffalo Gap High School.

Funding Source: Pastures Infrastructure 70-80000-8014-99 \$172,000.00

Mr. Pyles stated that the County has always worked with the schools to be a place of athletic endeavors. Our schools are not equal in facilities for many reasons and a lot of it is based on the location of the schools. Buffalo Gap High School is well used by the community for little league activities. Mr. Pyles has received complaints in the past concerning handicap accessibility for the football and softball fields. A handicap area was constructed behind the baseball field, but it is still not convenient. The school has also brought up concerns regarding the backstop on the baseball field and the need for additional practice fields. Mr. Pyles was given a list of needs from the school and will cover the costs from his infrastructure account in the amount of \$172,000.00.

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

- 3) Augusta Homebuilders Banquet and Award Ceremony
- 4) The Leadership Class of the Greater Augusta Chamber of Commerce
- 5) The Governor’s announcement regarding the Dupont Settlement Grant

Mr. Coleman reminded everyone of the WWRC Small Area Study Open House will be held on January 31, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Wilson Middle School.

Dr. Pattie thanked staff for their hard work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked Mr. Pyles for all of his work and dedication over the years.

Ms. Bragg thanked everyone for making the Stuarts Draft Parade a success. She thanked the staff for all of their accomplishments throughout the year. Ms. Bragg appreciates Mr. Pyles for all of his help and guidance over the years.

Mr. Kelley wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He purchased poinsettias for everyone that were grown in Augusta County. He thanked the staff for handling the email issue that happened for the fire chiefs. Mr. Kelley also attended a fire and rescue meeting on Policy of Emergency Response on the Interstate. The State of Virginia does not have a policy for responding on the interstate except in Henrico County. After meeting, a policy was created for Augusta County and will be discussed on December 21, 2017. Mr. Kelley also thanked Mr. Pyles for his service to the community and appreciates the opportunity to work with him.

Mr. Pyles thanked the Board for the plant he received in memory of his mother.

Mr. Shull mentioned the Staunton Christmas parade. It was a great success and there was a larger attendance this year than in past years.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the following issues:

- 1) Distributed to the Board a copy of the Composite Index. Last year the Composite Index was at .3508 and this year it is at .36. The lower the number, the more funding will be received from the state. Mr. Fitzgerald also stated that this number includes land use. If the land use was deducted it would make a significant difference in funding received.
- 2) The Legislative Package was distributed to the Board of Supervisors. There was a meeting held with the Legislators to discuss the proposal and priorities.
- 3) VACo Government Day will be February 8, 2018 in Richmond.
- 4) A request was received from Nancy Sorrells in regards to the pipeline. Schages Road is a private road with four houses on it. There was easements signed in order to get the pipeline through the property. The issue is the pipeline runs on the upper side where the houses are and Dominion wants to take all of easements up against the houses and use the road as permanent access to a valve box. There is concern from one of the homeowners and requests have been made to Dominion move the easement on the side of the road that is the Waynesboro Nursery. It is also asked that consideration be given on paving the road. Nancy Sorrells is asking the Board to write a letter making these same requests.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Kelley, that the Board authorize writing the letter of request for paving and moving the pipeline to the other side of the road.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

- 5) John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development, gave a list projects regarding the DuPont Settlement. The first deployment of money from the DuPont Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund will cover 5 projects in Augusta County. Jennings Branch Stream restoration and rehabilitation of a dam in Dooms are the first two projects. There has not been a dollar amount released of what Augusta County will receive.

Mr. Wilkinson also stated that there are land conservation projects awarded for acquisition of property, restoration of plant and animal habitats, and restoration of forest of wetlands. These projects include the Cave Conservatory area, the Virginia Native Plant Society 22 stream fence out projects and 12 animal waste projects. Recreation projects will begin after January 1, 2018.

- 6) The Board considered the resolution honoring Supervisor Tracy Pyles, Jr.

Ms. Bragg moved, seconded by Mr. Coleman, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles, Jr. has faithfully served on the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County, Virginia for many years; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. began his career on the Augusta County Board of Supervisors in 1996 and served for twenty-one years representing the citizens of the Pastures District; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. effectively and efficiently represented his constituents in the Pastures Magisterial District of Augusta County in an exemplary manner, giving of his talents and time, listening to their concerns, endeavoring to resolve their problems, and having their interests uppermost in his mind while making all decisions in which he participated; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure on the Board of Supervisors, Tracy C. Pyles, Jr. demonstrated his sincere love for Augusta County, and he strived to ascertain that all decisions made by him were in the best interests of the County; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. was elected three times by his fellow colleagues on the Board to serve as Chairman and four times to serve as Vice- Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. was also appointed by his fellow Board members to serve on various committees, boards, commissions, and as a member of the Augusta County Service Authority; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. during his tenure on the Board has achieved many accomplishments for the constituents in the Pastures District including but not limited to a new Churchville Elementary School; the opening of a new library branch in Churchville; the establishment of Augusta Springs Park; the establishment of the Deerfield Park, the opening of a new library branch in Deerfield; a renovated Craigsville Elementary School; the completion of a new Craigsville Community Center and Town Hall; the establishment of the Deerfield water project; and

WHEREAS, Tracy C. Pyles Jr. has increased public safety in the Pastures District by financially supporting volunteer Fire and Rescue stations and increasing Fire and Rescue staff at Deerfield, Craigsville, and Churchville; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to express their esteem, admiration and appreciation for his faithful service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, mindful of the service, devotion, dedication, loyalty, and untiring efforts of Tracy C. Pyles, Jr. to his community, to Augusta County, to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to his fellow colleagues on the Board, does hereby express their humble and heartfelt thanks and appreciation which he so richly deserves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread in the official minute book of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and a copy be delivered to Tracy C. Pyles, Jr.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Kelley presented Mr. Pyles with the resolution, an Augusta County seal and chair.

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COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Pyles made the following statement:

I asked for time at the end of the meeting to share a couple of thoughts and encouragements since I won't be here to lecture everyone in the future. It has been a great honor to serve this County and I appreciate very much your thoughts tonight. As with most things that I do, I tried to do some research on farewell talks. I read Washington's that was 32 pages. Madison originally wrote one and then served another four years. I was disappointed in the fact that Washington nor Eisenhower talked about their accomplishments. One of the things I took from these people is in each case, they had served their country honorably and admirably. Both had nearly a half century of service, both in military and in government. Then they had their jobs as President for eight years. They had great accomplishments. Washington being the Father of the Country and putting things together and staying an extra term due to turmoil among political parties. Eisenhower conceived the Marshall Plan and put someone else's name on it. That is what leadership is. You don't need to take credit for things because the credit speaks for itself. Each of those men, as they were leaving, the burden of leadership is to worry about what is next. What is going to happen to the future of the Country? Washington was very concerned about the problems with politics and dissolving it. He was worried about debt. Eisenhower talked about debt and worried about it, but what he was trying to say was balance. There needs to be balance in what we do. There is so much energy when we want to do something, but if we aren't planning right for the future, then we haven't done well. I think that concern is well thought out. We have done a great job in Augusta County in managing our debt and having a balance. I hope that goes forward. What I usually thought about when things came up was how it would affect individuals in the community. How our taxes would affect people and how it would affect farmers. You worry about the cost of things and how it affects people. The burdens they have to go through and the cost they have. The Government should not put too much burden on the people. The burden from Augusta County is as low as possible. They talked about security and we have done a great job in protecting our people. As we have developed our Fire and Rescue program. We need to take a minute to think about how far we have come with the program. We have not put money first, we have put lives first and we still found a way to make it work. I think the two things we need to do is work on the protection and invest in the people. We have spent nearly \$200 million dollars since I have been on the Board to improve our schools. I think that is important. Kids feel better in better schools and teachers perform better. That is an investment in them. When we have people come here they want to know what the workforce is. The education is a big deal. We have tried to promote and do things that bring in jobs that people will benefit from. That they can work and be able to afford a vacation. Those jobs are critical and they have a value that ripples throughout the community. I won't be here to disagree with Ms. Bragg about the value of tourism and retail and meals. That's nice extra money, but people know the hospitality industry doesn't provide good jobs for people to have all of the extras in life. It's the difference between us and the City of Staunton right now. Staunton has invested greatly in tourism. They refurbished the hotel at millions of dollars. They are buying other properties at \$15 million and they are not getting a return on any of this. It has shown in the

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COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

medium household income where they are about 15% behind Augusta County. They have no growth there. The only additional population since 1980 is from what was annexed from Augusta County. I say that because I think one of the things that came up a lot this year was working with the cities. We try very hard to work with the cities. Over the years, we haven't been able to get things done because we have people not looking at what's best for the people and what's best for the politics of it. In 1983 there was a proposal and in 1984 there was a vote of consolidation of the City of Staunton. It was seen as this wow thing that was done. The County voted for it 80%. The City voted against it 60%. When I read through the old articles, we kept hearing the same things from the same people, the Constitutional Officers. If we are going to have improvement in funding and keep taxes low, that is the thing of the future. I think when they don't want to do things voluntarily, we have to do things that make it obvious. 911 is obvious and consolidated water and sewer systems is obvious. Staunton could save money by being a part of this. I'm going to put together a report with the three areas and show how much it is costing per capita. I know we can save Staunton 10¢ to 20¢ on a tax rate and have lower water and sewer cost. I want the citizens to know that this overburdening government, having 3 governments for one locality makes no sense. If we are going to continue to have services at the rate we have them, it has to be through the consolidation and efficiency of services. They are letting their citizens down with their schools. They are taking shortcuts on the schools being built that will hurt them. If Staunton wants to grow, they need a better high school. I think there is a way to make that work. I'm not going to waste all of the money that has been invested in me over the years. I'm going to try to do some things that bring rationality and reason to why this area could be better. We have great people. I think there is a better way to do things and we need to bring them out. I thank you very much for the resolution. I am humbled by it. I thank you for the seal and the chair.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion carried.

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Chairman

County Administrator