

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Gerald W. Garber, Chairman
Carolyn S. Bragg-Vice Chairman
Terry L. Kelley, Jr.
Michael L. Shull
Wendell L. Coleman
Marshall W. Pattie
Pam L. Carter
Timothy K. Fitzgerald, County Administrator
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
John Wilkinson, Director of Community Development
Leslie Tate, Planner
James R. Benkahla, County Attorney
Angie Michael, Executive Assistant

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 242nd year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed the citizens present.

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The following student from the Buffalo Gap High School led us with the Pledge of Allegiance:

Kieland Chandler is a senior at Buffalo Gap High School. She attends the Shenandoah Valley Governors School. Ms. Chandler is the Executive President for the Student Council and serves as secretary of the National Honor Society. She is also a member Art Honor Society and plays volleyball, basketball and softball. Ms. Chandler plans to attend the University of Virginia and study chemistry.

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

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AMERICAN RED CROSS PROCLAMATION

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2018

WHEREAS, THE American Red Cross saw a record-breaking year in 2017 of challenging domestic and international response efforts. Through the support of its volunteers, in just 45 days, the Red Cross responded to six of the largest and most complex disasters of 2017 including back-to-back hurricanes, the deadliest week of wildfires in California history, and the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas. In addition, the Red Cross responded to nearly 50,000 home fires in 2017, providing casework assistance to help 76,000 families recover; and

WHEREAS, in Augusta County, the Red Cross has a long history of helping our neighbors in need. The Central and Shenandoah Chapter, Virginia region, assisted with more than 150 local disasters in the past year alone. They installed nearly 1,500 smoke alarms and reached thousands of people with fire safety information. In our area, the Red Cross handles an average of 350 emergency military calls every year and collects an average of 12,000 units of blood from our generous blood donors; and

WHEREAS, March is American Red Cross Month, a special time to recognize and thank the Red Cross

February 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Mr. Shull stated that three board members attended a meeting at the White House. At this meeting, agriculture and internet were discussed. The Market Animal Show Committee is asking for funding and with budget coming up it will need to be reviewed.

Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that Chairman Garber is planning to meet with the Chair of the Ag Committee to let them know how much funding is available and suggest coming to the Board of Supervisors for approval to use the available funding.

Mr. Shull would like to look at the tax rates from other Counties and compare them to Augusta County. He would like to compile a report to look at growth over the past several years.

Mr. Coleman thanked the ones from the Board that were able to attend the White House meeting.

Ms. Carter would like any follow-up regarding the White House meeting to be forwarded to her.

Mr. Shull stated that there have been several emails from the special assistants that have been received asking for ideas to be sent so the ideas can be reviewed.

Ms. Bragg suggests compiling ideas and sending it as a whole.

Mr. Shull stated that it was an honor to be invited to this meeting.

Ms. Bragg attended the Augusta County Middle School STEM Program at Expo. There were 270 students and 170 projects which were amazing and an eye opener. She also attended the Augusta County Fire Department Banquet. The Board traveled to Richmond for Government Day and talked to the Delegates on issues. The Market Animal Show gave a presentation. Shenandoah Valley Partnership is doing a program on February 23 at Blue Ridge Community College on a new air service at Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport. Business Staffing had a ribbon cutting for their new location in Fishersville.

Dr. Pattie attended the Market Animal Banquet at Expo and it was well attended. Any money the Board donates needs to be specific to operations. There are questions that have not been answered on the new facility for the Market Animal Show. The White House meeting was successful. It's important to get ideas together for them to review. He recommends letting community members work together and do the footwork of putting ideas together so when things are proposed it has been well thought out.

Mr. Kelley stated that one interesting point from the White House meeting was when the Secretary of Interior pointed out that when the Government shut down this time compared to the last, this President said the National Parks would not be shut down. They do not belong to the Government, they belong to the people. Mr. Kelley attended Swoope and Company 10's Banquet. He also attended the meeting on the Comp Plan for Mill Place Commerce Park.

Mr. Garber stated that his dinner will need to be moved to a different date. The Board chose March 5 for the dinner.

Mr. Shull pointed out that there were close to 600 in attendance for the Market Animal Banquet.

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February 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator discussed the following issues:

- 1) CSPDC Transit Funding letter of request was received. There was a pilot program previously brought up and didn't have the interest to happen. The scope of that project has been reduced. A bus service would run five days a week from Staunton to Charlottesville. As part of this program, there was a grant to be applied for and the grant required a local match. The local match total was \$70,000, of which Augusta County was asked for a commitment of \$14,000.00 a year for the next three years. The grant deadline was February 1 and the County did not commit to the \$14,000.00. This funding will show up in the budget as a budget request. Staunton is able to commit and Waynesboro is not able to commit after looking at their budget.

Mr. Coleman stated that the funding had to do with the number of commuters per destination. Augusta County has 306 commuters with Stuarts Draft and Fishersville having the greatest number. There is a fee associated with this service.

Dr. Pattie stated that there is definitely benefits with this program.

- 2) VLGMA Winter Conference is Thursday and Friday in Charlottesville. The agenda appears to be informative.
- 3) Leslie Tate, Planner, gave an update on the Mill Place Commerce Park zoning. Two business owners attended a meeting previously concerning the Mill Place zoning. It was suggested that 50,000 square feet of warehousing is low and it should be pushed to 100,000.00. There was discussion of office uses. Retail has been eliminated as a use with the proposed draft. Offices would be permitted in area one and area two would be the hotel and conference center. Every area of the park would have full range of industrial uses. The Board's direction is needed of how to move forward.

Ms. Bragg suggests the Board reviewing the information and placing it on the Staff Briefing agenda.

Ms. Carter asked if increasing the warehouse would place the County in a better position.

Ms. Tate stated that it may be beneficial for future use. There would need to be conditions written in the zoning.

Mr. Coleman points out that it is difficult to make a decision with not being able to hear the actual conversation at the meeting. It's important to protect the investment. What is already there and what is planned is impressive.

Ms. Carter would like to hear from more owners or occupants.

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CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Ms. Bragg, seconded by Mr. Shull, the Board went into closed session pursuant to:

(1) the real property exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3)
[discussion of the acquisition for a public purpose, or disposition, of real property]:

- a) Ladd Elementary School
- b) Verona Elementary School
- c) Augusta County Courthouse
- d) Mill Place Commerce Park

(2) the economic development exemption under Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(5)

