

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

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

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, June 10 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 244th year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Garber welcomed the citizens present.

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Mr. Morelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The Board considered a funding request for additional Fire-Rescue staffing in the amount of \$236,191.00.

Funding Source: Pastures Infrastructure	8014-105	\$78,730.33
North River Infrastructure	8013-64	\$78,730.33
Beverley Manor Infrastructure	8011-100	\$78,730.34

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator, stated that there has been a funding request for Fire-Rescue staffing at Churchville Volunteer Fire and Rescue in the amount of \$236,190.38. The Churchville Volunteer Fire and Rescue has been working with Administration, Mrs. Carter, and Mr. Slaven to create 24/7 staffing with career personnel to provide service for Churchville and the western part of the county. The first year of the additional staffing will be covered from Pastures, North River and Beverley Manor Infrastructure accounts. Next year the cost will be included into the normal operating budget. Also included in this request are Lt. Upgrades, bunkroom improvements, and roof replacement. An increase in Revenue Recovery of \$59,800.62 has been accounted for to offset the total cost.

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (CONT'D)

Chief Williams of Churchville Volunteer Fire and Rescue thanked the Board for considering this.

Ms. Carter thanked him for collaborating with the County on this project. She realizes the financial concerns.

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

Mr. Shull asked what the funding would cover for the Lt. Upgrades.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this funding is for the increase salaries for upgrades for Lieutenants. There will be three people promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Churchville Volunteer Fire and Rescue to manage the western side of the county. There is one Lieutenant located at Company 10 and they manage from Company 10 to Craigsville.

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

Motion carried.

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REVENUE RECOVERY POLICY

The Board considered staff recommendations for policy revisions.

Misty Cook, Director of Finance, stated that there is a need for revenue for ambulance transports and EMS personnel. Ms. Cook has worked with the Public Safety Committee to create a proposal to revise the Revenue Recovery Policy. Currently the County has a compassionate billing policy, which means that County residents are not billed for services once their insurance company has paid. All other patients outside of the County are sent three statements and then the balance is written off if not paid. Finance is proposing the following amendments to the policy:

1. Amend the policy to allow non-resident patients to be sent to collection. Currently there is no hard collections policy.
2. Amend the policy to state that any patient who receives payment for services directly from their insurance, but does not remit payment to the County for these services will be held responsible for their bill regardless of the locality they reside in. If payment is not received within 90 days, the account will be turned over to collections.
3. Amend the policy to add that the County will honor financial assistance letters from local hospitals. Invoices will be adjusted based on the assistance percentage in the letter.
4. Amend the policy to offer a 10% cash discount for all uninsured patients who do not fall under the compassionate billing section.
5. Add a policy to allow the County to bill commercial payors for treatment but no transport.
6. Add a policy to allow more billable services on the fee schedule.
7. Several life members of volunteer agencies have stated that they will not have to pay balances owed to the County. If it is the Board's desire to adhere to this, it should be clearly stated in the billing policy.

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WAIVERS

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the waiver request.

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

Motion carried.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

CLAIMS

Consider claims paid since May 1, 2020.

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

Motion carried.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Steve Morris, 203 Hotchkiss Road, Churchville, thanked the Board for looking out for Churchville. He feels Augusta County needs more volunteers in the Fire/Rescue stations.

Steven Grepps, 63 Eastgate Drive, Verona, thanked the Board for what they done for Churchville. He is concerned with the number of members leaving Augusta County to other jurisdictions. Pay, staffing, and opportunities are many of the reasons for leaving. An incentive pay have been taken out of the budget, but it is needed to retain the fire/rescue personnel that we currently have.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

Dr. Seaton gave an update on COVID-19.

Mr. Shull has spoken with Delegate Campbell and Eric Bond on school opening up in the fall. Transportation to and from school will one of the biggest issues.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY STAFF

Timothy Fitzgerald, County Administrator discussed the following issues:

- 1) Steve Landes, Clerk of Court, has been researching the history of the courthouse. He would like to place a historical marker at the courthouse. No funding support has been mentioned.

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CLOSED SESSION (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

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

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board appoint Matthew Egeli to serve on the Augusta County Service Authority. Effective July 1, 2020 and to expire on June 30, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board re-appoint Keith Phillips to serve on the Agriculture Industry Board. Effective July 1, 2020 and to expire on June 30, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Morelli moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board re-appoint Doren Stegura to serve on the Library Board. Effective July 1, 2020 and to expire June 30, 2024.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Shull moved, seconded by Ms. Carter, that the Board appoint Rebekah Castle to serve as the alternate for the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board Chief Elected Officials Consortium.

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

Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion carried.

Chairman

County Administrator

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