

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, September 23, 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
John Wilkinson, Director of 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, September 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 245th 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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Mr. Shull, Supervisor for the Riverheads District, delivered the invocation.

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STUARTS DRAFT RESCUE SQUAD 50TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Beginning with a community meeting held on October 23, 1969 to discuss the formation of the Stuarts Draft Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 1970 twenty three volunteer members started the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid class in order to begin to provide rescue services to the Stuarts Draft community; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 1970 the Stuarts Draft Rescue Squad was certified and approved by the Virginia Department of Health to provide rescue services; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 1970 the first emergency call was received and answered; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 1970 ground was broken for a combination community center and rescue squad building located at the intersection of Manor road and Draft Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the fleet of equipment available to the community has increased from one 1966 ambulance to now ten pieces of apparatus; and

September 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE UPDATE

David Henderson, Pastures Representative for the Broadband Committee, gave an update from the Broadband Committee. COVID-19 has brought focus on the business and personal internet communication needs. In reality, this is a problem that has existed for a long time. Education and Economic are two main issues related to internet connectivity. The schools are facing the problem of inadequate internet service due to having the option for online education. 35-40% of Augusta County students lack adequate internet service. This is not the fault of the schools, the students, or their families. Some portion of 35-40% of the students is due to the service not even being available. Mr. Henderson discussed the economic effects of inadequate internet for schools, work and homes. The economic implications of broadband expansion are huge in Augusta County. The Broadband Committee will continue to work to explore cooperative options with adjacent jurisdictions and with other potential state, federal and private funding sources. A continuing commitment to expand and explore and a willingness to help fund some solutions is needed from the Board of Supervisors.

JR Lawhorne, Riverheads Representative and Chair of the Broadband Committee, summarized what the committee has accomplished to date. Augusta County has 967 square miles with a population of 75,000. 43% of parcels in the county are two or more acres with very low density. Rolling hills make wireless challenging. Mr. Lawhorne showed maps of various locations within the county to show density challenges. The 2021 VATI Grant proposal has been submitted. If this grant is awarded service could be improved in Deerfield, Morris Mill area, Fort Defiance and Middlebrook. The direction of the committee remains the same, to aim for public/private partnerships with providers to extend coverage to areas in need.

Ms. Carter stated that the committee has done a lot of work on broadband in the County.

Mr. Morelli agrees with Ms. Carter's statement.

Mr. Shull would like to for Shenandoah Valley Electric to offer something similar to BARC.

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2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Board considered the 2021 Holiday Schedule.

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|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Holidays | Observed |
| New Year's Day | January 1 |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | January 18 |
| George Washington Day | February 15 |
| Memorial Day | May 31 |
| Independence Day (Observed) | July 5 |
| Labor Day | September 6 |
| Veterans Day | November 11 |
| Thanksgiving | November 25 |
| Day after Thanksgiving | November 26 |
| Christmas (Observed) | December 24 |
| New Year's Day (Observed) | December 31 |
| Total Days | (11) Eleven |

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are ten holidays listed for 2021. Surrounding localities also do ten holidays.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the Holiday Schedule as presented.

September 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE (CONT'D)

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

Motion carried.

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CAMA REAL ESTATE SOFTWARE UPGRADE

The Board considered CARES funding request to purchase the Computer Aided Mass Appraisal Software (CAMA) in the amount of \$239,000.00.

Funding Source: CARES Fund \$239,000.00

Ms. Whetzel stated that the Commissioner of the Revenue has submitted a request to purchase the Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software using CARES Act funds. This software will allow employees to access remotely, which will allow for telework. This software will also be accessible for public use to access real estate records from any internet connected device. The request includes the purchase of the software for \$239,000.00, a maintenance agreement for \$34,000.00 and a cloud hosting fee of \$12,000.00, of which will be paid on an annual basis. The total request is \$285,000.00.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the funding request for the CAMA Software.

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

Motion carried.

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VPSA REFUNDING

The Board consider authorization to execute Certificate of Refunding for 2004A bonds.

Ms. Whetzel stated that a Certificate of Refunding of Local School Bonds. The County borrows money through the Virginia Public School Authority is before the Board. In 2004, funds were borrowed for Wilson Elementary School and VPSA would like to refund the loan. This refunding or "refinancing" will save the County approximately \$77,000.00. A Certificate of Refunding is due by October 7, 2020 that would be signed by the County Administrator and the School Superintendent.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Board approve the authorization for the County Administrator to execute the Certificate of Refunding for 2004A bonds.

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

Motion carried.

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September 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

AUGUSTA COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

The Board considered the following:

- 1) Amend the contract as indicated.
- 2) Allow the County Administrator to sign the contract.
- 3) Additional funding of \$445,843.00.

Funding Source: Courthouse Capital 4-70-80000-8148

Candy Hensley, Assistant to the County Administrator, recapped the process for the courthouse that has taken place to date. In April, 2020 the Board of Supervisors voted to cease work with Mosely Architects due to the uncertain budget effects regarding COVID-19. Additional opportunities arose during the summer related to an expansion of the 1901 Circuit Courthouse versus constructing a new courts facility at the current District Courts Building site. An expansion of the current courthouse provides many benefits. In June, 2020, the Board authorized staff to research and acquire purchase options for properties adjacent to the 1901 historic Circuit Court Building. Cottonwood Commercial was contacted and a contract was established on July 1, 2020. The County has secured nine purchase options on properties surrounding the Courthouse. In order to move forward, an amendment is needed to the current contract with Moseley Architects to allow architectural and engineering work to be completed in order to develop plans and prepare an application to meet City of Staunton's historical requirements. The following amendments are required:

- Remove the current schedule from the contract and replace it with a mutually agreeable schedule to be followed.
- Replace the current historical sub-consulting firm with Sadler and Whitehead.
- Revise the General Condition Construction Contract documents as prepared by the County.
- Add services rendered for consideration of the Union Bank site.

The total cost, after credits and additional services to the current Mosely Architect contract is \$445,843.00.

Tracy Pyles, 3665 Churchville Avenue, Churchville, VA, stated that he was disappointed when he was not given the opportunity to speak during the press conference regarding the courthouse. He is concerned with the amount of money being spent on the new proposed courthouse expansion. Mr. Pyles believes Lineage Architects should be used for the project. The Board of Supervisors has an obligation to table this project and re-evaluate it.

Mr. Shull stated that he is the only Board member that was on the Board in 2011 when this began. There has been multiple studies done on the courthouse previously and most all have been discussed in Closed Session. When the Board goes into Closed Session, the public is not told they have to leave and the meeting is over. The meeting is not over until it is adjourned. No one on the Board is arrogant or ignorant. The referendum was turned down in 2016 and the courthouse has been a work in progress since then. Mr. Shull has been against moving forward with moving across the street and tearing down the old building. He was against spending \$10 million to renovate Beverley Manor Elementary School. He congratulated Mr. Pyles for suggesting the plan that is being presented after the referendum failed.

Ms. Hensley clarified the process of the amendment to the contract.

Mr. Fitzgerald explained the contract process that has been taken. This is a services contract. The State Code of Virginia does not allow to bid out for pricing. It allows for a request for proposal and then proposals are submitted, an interview process with the architects is completed and then after an architect is selected, pricing is presented. After the referendum failed, the County proceeded with an RFP process and Lineage

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Gerald Garber, Chairman
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Chairman Garber welcomed the citizens present.

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Mr. Morelli, Supervisors for the South River District, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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LEGISLATIVE CONTRACT

Consider the annual renewal of the contract with Eldon James & Associates, Inc. for the amount of \$28,895.00.

Jennifer Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the County procured legislative services and contracted with Eldon James & Associates, Inc. in October 2017. The County's legislative agenda has been reinforced each year with the General Assembly. The annual contract is up for renewal at a cost of \$28,895.00. Given the economic situation, there will be no increase in the contract amount.

Ms. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board approve the renewal of the annual contract.

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

Motion carried.

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