

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Date: 4:00PM — Tuesday, March 14th, 2023

Location: Admin. Building Auditorium, 414 N. Main Street

MEETING #14 — March 14th, 2023

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 14th at 4:00 PM in the Admin. Building Auditorium:

PRESENT: R. Clay Jackson, Chair
Carty Yowell, Vice-Chair
Charlotte Hoffman, Member
Dustin Dawson, Member
James Jewett, Member
Jonathon Weakley, County Administrator
Sean Gregg, County Attorney
Kimberly Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant/ Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Jackson called the Board to order.

DETERMINE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jackson advised that a quorum was present.

The County Administrator notified the Board that the agenda was edited to include the Madison County’s Fair’s request, but that it was updated, sent to the Board and the press, and uploaded on the website.

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Jackson opened the floor for public comment. With there being no public comment being brought forward, the public comment opportunity was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve: Minutes from 02-16-23
 2. Approve: Minutes from 02-23-23
 3. Approve: Minutes from 02-28-23
 4. Approve: Minutes from 03-01-23
- *Supervisor Yowell requested to pull the minutes from the February 16th, 2023, meeting out of the consent agenda and vote on them separately because he was not in attendance at that meeting.*

- *Chairman Jackson agreed and stated they would first vote on the minutes from the February 16th meeting and then vote on the consent agenda.*

Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes from 2.16.2023, seconded by Supervisor Jewett. **Aye: Jackson, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0). Abstain: Yowell**

- *Chairman Jackson stated that they now needed to approve the consent agenda which includes minutes from 2.23.23, 2.28.23, and 3.1.23.*

Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes from 2.23.23, 2.28.2023, and 3.1.2023, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES & ORGANIZATIONS

Registrar, Lauren Eanes: Mrs. Eanes stated they are not doing primary elections, which is saving money. Mrs. Eanes stated they are cleaning up records and getting prepared for November.

Parks & Recreation, Jerry Carpenter: Mr. Carpenter stated that winter sports are completed, which they had 461 registrations total. For spring sports, there are 475 registrations and counting. They have Spring Break Camp coming up and Hoover Ridge Summer Camp registrations end April 30th. Mr. Carpenter stated they will also host several sports camps this summer. Mr. Carpenter stated they are starting a youth volleyball league with surrounding counties. Mr. Carpenter stated rentals at Hoover Ridge are doing well with fourteen rentals so far. Mr. Carpenter updated the Board on a few upcoming events at Hoover Ridge Park. Mr. Carpenter shared that he received a compliment from one of the Orange County coaches regarding the field maintenance.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Mr. Carpenter how the robot was doing for field maintenance.*

Mr. Carpenter responded that it was doing great.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Mr. Carpenter how adult yoga was going.*

Mr. Carpenter stated it was going great as well.

- *Chairman Jackson commented it sounds like they are doing a lot and it is great hearing about all the teams and activities.*

Planning Commission, Pete Elliot: Mr. Elliot stated they are working on a comprehensive plan monthly. Mr. Elliot stated they have three to four tough cases coming up.

Commonwealth Attorney, Clarissa Berry: Ms. Berry stated there is a lot going on in her department. Ms. Berry informed the Board that the Grant they used to pay the third attorney was extended in case the Board changed their mind on the third attorney position. Ms. Berry is working with the Virginia Association of Commonwealth Attorneys, and they have a Justice and Professionalism Committee and Ms. Berry is hosting one of the quarterly meetings. Ms. Berry gave an update on Drug Court. Ms. Berry notified the County Administrator there was a meeting where there was a new proposal for the state portion of the opioid abatement funds. The applications are due at the beginning of May for this.

- *Chairman Jackson asked if Madison was going to have more than two participants in Drug Court.*

Ms. Berry stated that would be the hope. Ms. Berry stated that drug court numbers are down across the state. She feels this is due to the change in the probation violation laws. Ms. Berry stated that some people are more appropriate for other programs other than Drug Court.

Emergency Medical Services, Noah Hillstrom: Mr. Hillstrom stated they had 149 calls for February with an average response time being 11 minutes. Lieutenant Carpenter is moving to Greene full-time and remaining part-time in Madison. They were able to fill Dylan's full-time spot with one of their current part-time staff. They do have additional part-time interviews. Mr. Hillstrom submitted the RSAF Grant. They retired the Medic 10 ambulance, and he will notify the Board when they are ready to find a new use for it.

- *Chairman Jackson inquired how the application process was going.*

Mr. Hillstrom stated they are having more luck with word of mouth than they are with Indeed.

The County Administrator stated that there is difficulty finding people because hospitals are filling their shortage of nurses by bringing in paramedics, which has lessened their pool of applicants.

- *Supervisor Yowell inquired how many staff they are down.*

Mr. Hillstrom responded they are down one and they have a staff currently on military leave.

Emergency Management, Gavin Helme: Mr. Helme stated they received the funds from the Public Assistance Grant (PA Grant) from the January third storm. Mr. Helme stated they are still waiting for the 2022 LEMPG Grant. Mr. Helme has been in communication with nearby counties regarding Aries to get Aries set up in Madison. Mr. Helme stated cert teams are being recommended by FEMA and VDEM, which allows areas to be able to service themselves if they are cut off from services. Mr. Helme is hoping to apply for a grant to support this need. The Shelter Upgrade Grant should be announced on or before the end of this month.

Information Technology, Bruce Livingston: Mr. Livingston stated they are working on the new ticketing system. Mr. Livingston is in communication with the County Administrator and Mr. Frazier regarding a new Fob system.

The County Administrator stated they need to get cameras first before they can move forward but they are looking into it.

Mr. Livingston stated they are working on getting a quote together for the backup upgrade. Mr. Livingston stated they are working on a new system called PRTG, where they are adding all their critical devices and their IP addressed so they are notified if there is an outage. Mr. Berry and Ms. Strother rolled out the new onboarding form which will help notify IT of what needs to be set up for new staff. Mr. Livingston is going over the final quotes for the CCTV at the Commonwealths Attorney's Office. Mr. Livingston is buying a few extra switches to have ready in the event they do have switches blow out. This will help get the internet back up and running faster.

Finance, Jennifer Warren: Mrs. Warren stated that they have been very busy working on the fiscal year 2024 budget. Mrs. Warren stated they are working on requisition and PO policies in Tyler Munis. Ms. Strothers and Mrs. Warren are working with Tyler Munis on the payroll implementation.

Economic Development & Tourism, Tracey Gardner: Ms. Gardner stated that the Real-Life program that Ms. Berry mentioned early saved her daughter's life and she recommends it. Ms. Gardner stated she was at the CEDs meeting on February 10th at the Regional Commission (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). Ms. Gardner did the ribbon cutting for Cake Crumbs. Rosie Beachy, from the Small Business Development Center in Charlottesville, will be holding hours in the conference room at the visitor center on March 27th, July 24th, and September 25th for counseling with businesses. Ms. Gardner stated the next Tourism Committee meeting is April 18th. Ms. Garden gave notice of a grant deadline on March the 17th. Ms. Gardner stated the business appreciation dinner is back and it will be at Early Mountain and the Bavarian Chef will be catering. VDOT is going to be providing the special event boards so the Chamber of Commerce will fund both parades and the Street Festival. Ms. Gardner is still working on performance agreements with The Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Grant (AFID Grant). There are also some other grants she is working on.

- *Supervisor Yowell stated he had a call from Jane Bowling Wilson, from Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, and they are gearing up for Give Local Piedmont and she has noticed that Madison has low number regarding nonprofit participation. Ms. Wilson would like to hold an event to invite nonprofits to learn how to apply and other details regarding Give Local.*

Ms. Gardner stated she could reach out to her.

The County Administrator mentioned that they have had no luck filling the spot for the Piedmont Workforce Development Committee and he has asked Ms. Gardner to help with this. The County Administrator thanks Ms. Gardner for mentioning the grant cycle and stated that Mr. Gordon is actively working applying to fund the BDA, which is an acronym for the units that are in the school that amplify radio signals for the first responders.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

5. Emergency Management Proclamation

The County Administrator stated the Emergency Management Proclamation would recognize Emergency Management Professions Week, which would be from March 19th through March 25th.

Mr. Helme stated he would like to, if the Board voted in favor of it, use social media to post about it and there is a PowerPoint slide that can introduce the Emergency Management staff.

Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to approve the Proclamation that recognizes March 19th through March 25th as the Emergency Management Professionals Week, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

6. PRA Mower Purchase

The County Administrator stated a mower was on the Parks & Recreation fiscal year 2024 capital request. Parks & Recreation is in dire need to replace one and it is the start of mowing season. They have a proposed Supplemental Appropriate for approval that is the lowest price but for the equipment that is needed. The funds would come from the contingency funds.

Mr. Carpenter stated the mower they currently have is about to end.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked if Mr. Carpenter was going to sell the old mower.*

Mr. Carpenter stated that was the plan.

The County Administrator stated Parks & Recreation had other equipment needs and they are going to take on the task of funding those if the County can help with the mower.

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

6. (a) Madison County Fair Request

- *Chairman Jackson stated that the Madison County Fair is requesting the Board to waive permit and tipping fees like in years past.*

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve exempting the Madison County Fair from the County's landfill fees, building inspection fees, and zoning fees for the 2023 County Fair, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. **Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).**

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

7. DHCD/Brightspeed MOU Update

The County Administrator stated they have a fully executed MOU, which will provide Broadband to the Wolfstown area. Firefly covers all but the Wolfstown and Etlan area. Brightspeed is the name of the internet service provider now. They must be completed by December 2024 and the rest of the RISE Project must be completed by August 2025.

DISCUSSION

8. Sign Ordinance (Signs on County Property)

The County Administrator stated there are a lot of signs left on the County's property. The County Administrator requested the Electoral Board to discuss this issue and bring forth a recommendation. The purpose of tonight is to discuss this issue. If the Board is led to move forward, the County Administrator, the County Attorney, the Electoral Board, and the Registrar would work together to amend the current ordinance.

Leri Thomas, an Electoral Board Member, stated she would recommend banning anything other than government signage. The Electoral Board does not want it to seem that the Registrar's office is favorable to one Candidate over another.

Lauren Eanes, the Registrar, stated that once early voting is open, the Registrar office is a polling place, and it is up to the Board of Supervisors if they want political signs in the front yard.

- *Chairman Jackson feels they have a beautiful campus here and doesn't want to trash it up with signage.*

The County Attorney reached out to local Counties to see how they are managing this issue. He recommended having people post signs only on the election day. His concern for an absolute prohibition is because it is a polling place and one issue they are going to face, regarding federal election law, is candidates traditionally have been allowed to communicate at the polling place. The County Attorney stated he would do more work on it.

- *Supervisor Jewett asked the County Attorney if there is a potential challenge on the grounds of the first amendment for restricting political advertising.*

The County Attorney stated this is why he wants to ask surrounding counties what they are doing. He feels that if the county allows some signage, they would be better off.

Ms. Thomas stated that no one votes at the Registrar Office on the election day. Ms. Thomas stated that those regulations only apply to precincts and precincts are only functioning on Election Day.

The County Administrator recommend using the language, "all third-party signs" so they are not specifying a specific group, so it is neutral.

- *Supervisor Jewett stated he was concerned about restricting any type of political advertising during the early voting period. Supervisor Jewett inquired if there is a way to restrict the signs to a specific location on the property.*

The County Attorney stated that the Commonwealth of Virginia passed rules that the State Law preempts what local jurisdictions are doing with some of these.

- *Chairman Jackson stated he felt the general direction is to have the County Attorney do a little more research and get back to the Board.*

Ms. Eanes mentioned that other localities have updated their ordinance since early voting has changed. Ms. Eanes stated she could provide those to the County Attorney if that would be helpful.

- *Chairman Jackson stated he wants to be sure not to restrict the Historical Society's regarding their "Open Sign".*

The County Attorney stated that since they are lessees of the property, then it isn't government property.

- *Chairman Jackson stated he doesn't like the signs and think they make Madison look poorly. Chairman Jackson recommends having the County Attorney look further into it and bringing it back as old business at the March 28th meeting.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Berry: Mr. Berry added to IT's report from earlier stating they will be dropping Vimeo as a streaming service. Ms. Berry stated they will still stream through YouTube and Go To Meeting, but it will save the County money and is not necessary.

- *Chairman Jackson inquired about the cost difference between Zoom and Go To Meeting.*

Ms. Berry stated he could investigate the price difference.

The County Administrator added that the goal is to go to one streaming service. The recording is also saved on YouTube and there is a recorder set up to capture the meeting.

Ms. Thomas stated she was not able to get Go To Meeting to work on her computer when she tried to join the meeting.

- *Chairman Jackson stated he still wanted to have access to remotely participate, but there are hardly any participants, and he agrees to cutting down to one streaming service. He would recommend seeing which is better Zoom or Go To Meeting.*

The County Administrator mentioned that most department staff watch it directly on YouTube.

- *Chairman Jackson agreed, but stated he recommended to still have a steaming service that is interactive.*

CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections:

- 3.2-3711(A)(1) for personal

Seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0)*

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to re-convene the Board in Open Session, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).*

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to certify by roll-call vote that only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) that were identified in the motion to convene in closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman.

Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).

As a result of the Closed Session, the Board took the following action(s):

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve the contract amendment dated 14, March 2023 for Jonathon Weakley, setting his salary at \$136,000 per year effective July 1, 2023, and authorized the Board Chairman to execute, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).*

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to conduct, Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Dawson. *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0).*