

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Date: 4:00PM — Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Location: Admin. Building Auditorium, 414 N. Main Street

MEETING #21 — May 9, 2023

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 9 at 4:00PM in the Admin. Building Auditorium:

PRESENT: R. Clay Jackson, Chair
Carty Yowell, Vice-Chair
Charlotte Hoffman, Member
Dustin Dawson, Member
James Jewett, Member
Jennifer Warren, County Finance Director (appearing as substitute for Jonathon Weakley, County Administrator)
Sean Gregg, County Attorney
Hannon Wright, County Attorney
Suzanne Long (appearing as substitute for Kimberly Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant/ Deputy Clerk)

ABSENT: Jonathon Weakley, County Administrator
Kimberly Turner, Executive Administrative Assistant/ Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Jackson called the Board to order. The pledge was given, followed by a moment of silence.

DETERMINE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Jackson advised that a quorum was present. Chairman Jackson if there was anything that needed to be added to the agenda. There being nothing, Supervisor Dawson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Jewett, *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0)*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eleanor Montgomery, Malvern, said she wanted to thank the Board and the Planning Commission for doing their due diligence when it came to the solar facility. She said she was not sure that the County Planner did.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES & ORGANIZATIONS

Jerry Carpenter of Parks & Rec said Madison Day was a huge success. He thanked Troy Coppedge and Karen Coppedge for organizing it. Mr. Carpenter said there were 200-300 faculty, students, and staff from Woodberry Forest spreading mulch, putting in posts, pouring concrete, t-boxes for Frisbee golf, signposts. Mr. Carpenter thanked Woodbury for funding these projects. He also thanked Weaver Works, Jesse Lynch and Clay Jackson for bringing tractors and skid steers, and moving concrete. He thanked Allied Concrete for waiving a fee of \$1500.00

and to everyone that let them borrow rakes, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, and other hand tools. Mr. Carpenter said that the next big event planned is May 20 is the Tour de Madison. The first music-in-the-Park is with Crawford & Power on June 3. Mr. Carpenter said they have opened for Alabama, Willie Nelson, Travis Tritt, and numerous other Country music acts. Mr. Carpenter said the summer camp is 95% full, with availability in the first and last weeks.

Ligon Webb, County Planner said there will be three big public hearings in June 2023:

- Pathworks Center on Seville Road sold to new buyer (a doctor) who plans to create a substance abuse center with the property. Mr. Webb said he is going out to the property tomorrow to walk around the site with the new owner to get an idea of the plans;
- Cell Tower planned for Etlan community; and
- Community solar facility. Mr. Webb said there are a lot of moving parts for this.

Mr. Webb said after that things will “calm down” and he will continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan.

➤ *Chairman Jackson asked if there will be a Comp Plan meeting on Thursday.*

Mr. Webb said yes, that is the monthly Comp Plan meeting and everyone is welcome to attend that meeting or watch online.

➤ *Supervisor Yowell said that all three of those applications with public hearings in June will go through a Planning Commission workshop on May 17 at 6:30 p.m.*

Sheriff Erick Weaver said there are three people in school who will be graduating in two weeks, and hopefully the department will be fully staffed by July 1. Sheriff Weaver said a recent transport required 2 officers to travel 10 hours to Bristol. Sheriff Weaver asked to Board to keep this use of department resources in mind.

Celene Pumphrey, Department of Social Services (speaking on behalf of Valerie Ward). Ms. Pumphrey reported of shortfalls in funding since the Covid benefits have expired. Many people who had received financial assistance that was badly needed no longer have access to those funds. Running short for food at the end of the month. Although there are some resources in Madison County, there still are people who are food-insecure. Their goal is to end food insecurity in Madison County.

Gavin L. Helme, Emergency Management Coordinator said they are still waiting to hear back on the upgrade grant for the shelter generator. He said it was supposed to be announced by March 30, but has been delayed. Mr. Helme said regarding the 2023 SHSB Grant they are still waiting for that to be formally announced. Mr. Helme said this is the grant centered towards terrorism and mitigating terrorism. Mr. Helme said there are plenty of opportunities within the County for this grant, and he said we can put in for as many grants as we need. He said the only restriction is a minimum of \$10,000 each. There are national priorities and the best chance to receive a grant is to include those national priorities. He said these are 100% grants, so there is nothing out of our “own” pocket. Mr. Helme said that he is talking with Mr. Gordon, 911 coordinator, and they are discussing ideas that we might get funded under this grant. Mr. Helme said the REC event at Graves Mountain Lodge was successful. He said it was a good, safe event, and provided a good opportunity to meet them and see what they do. Mr. Helme said REC wants to look for ways that they can help accomplish some of the things we need in the County too. The next event upcoming is the Tractor Pull this weekend. EMS, law enforcement, and fire will all be there.

➤ *Chairman Jackson what the County is getting for the anti-terrorism grant.*

Mr. Helme said they have not put in for anything on that yet, but that there are a lot of different ways they can go with this. One thing Mr. Helme is researching now is message boards for controlling traffic, traffic flow. He is also looking at ways to get messages out to the public. Mr. Helme said that they can usually get message boards from VDOT, but the Sheriff informed him that there only certain times of year when those are available. Mr. Helme said if we can get something like that under a grant, then we have a bank of those that anybody can use when needed. Mr. Helme said it could also be something as simple as Jersey barriers that protect our parades and street festivals. Mr. Helme said it could be cyber-security, so working with Bruce is in play and there are items they are looking at there as well. He said there are a lot of things that are out there. Mr. Helme said there is a training aspect too for mitigation.

Noah Hillstrom, Emergency Medical Services, said that April was busy for this department, with 169 calls and a 10-minute response time. Mr. Hillstrom said they are continuing to support Greene County. Mr. Hillstrom said thank you to Supervisor Dawson for an electrical outlet change that permitted a microwave installation. Mr. Hillstrom said they are recruiting for one EMS Lieutenant; otherwise they are at full staff. Mr. Hillstrom said they are doing a good job with recruiting part-time help to cover standby and reduce overtime. Mr. Hillstrom said Charles Fridley is the newest hire as a Full-time Paramedic. Mr. Hillstrom said the department provided support as EMS Standby for three events in April. He announced that National EMS week is May 21-27.

Bruce Livingston, IT, said the new ticketing system is up-and-running. They have sold 196 tickets. He said next month he will have a report of the ticketing system with details. Mr. Livingston said they are close to getting the Tyler database integrated; this is the industry standard for database systems. He announced a network outage for the 414 building for tomorrow. Mr. Livingston said his department is running cabling in-house. Mr. Livingston said REC is close on getting the poles ready for fiber: "any day now". He said Verizon is different and they are not as responsive on this. Mr. Livingston said Administrator Weakley is the contact for Verizon.

Alan Berry, Technology, spoke about the County Website. Mr. Berry said the bare-bones site is running now. He said the Website will be fully functional in one month. Training will be provided for everyone one week before that. Mr. Berry the installation of an app has been completed at the Commonwealth Attorney's office.

➤ *Chairman Jackson asked how long they have been working on this website.*

Mr. Berry said he thought they had been approved last October and we have worked with department heads since that time.

Tracey Gardner, Tourism and Economic Development, commended the Board and the County planner for working to get the two projects approved at the last meeting. She announced the Lions Club award banquet on May 16 recognizing Nan Coppedge and Fay Utz; and open houses at Salsa Street and Blue Ridge Coffee Roasters are also on May 16th. Ms. Gardner said the Chamber Business Appreciation Dinner is on May 22, and the Business Expo is on May 25th. Ms. Gardner said there is a ribbon-cutting at Shear Perfection Beauty Bar on May 27th. Ms. Gardner apologized for being absent (on vacation) from the joint meeting to help address the public concerns about the two approved projects. She said the glamping project "checked all the boxes" and were definitely part of our niche—AgriTourism. She said as for losing some traveler dollars to Culpeper and Orange, yes, but not as much with a restaurant; we definitely need a restaurant. She said it is a clean industry, 99% of these people will drive slower than our residents, they will be better stewards of the land. For many of them, this will be their final

destination. Ms. Gardner also is supportive of the new planned use for the former Pathways Center.

Jennifer Warren, Financial Director, said her department has been busy with the budget. She wants to be ready to go live on January 1, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve the consent agenda and minutes from 4-25-23 and 5-3-23, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman, *Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0)*

SPECIAL APPEARANCES

Blue Ridge Committee/Old Rag Pilot Program, Bruce Bowman and Jim Ballard. Mr. Bowman said that the Blue Ridge Committee meets twice per year to make sure there is a good line of communication between the National Park and surrounding 8 counties. He said the next meeting is May 18, 2023 at Big Meadows with the Superintendent and the other counties. Board Supervisor Yowell is the Board representative on this committee. Mr. Bowman said the Old Rag Pilot Program went from March 1, 2022 through November 1, 2022, sold \$95,400.00 of \$1 tickets during 275 days of the pilot. They counted 86,00 hikers on Old Rag during those 275 days. Mr. Bowman said there were 20 days during that timeframe where the trail had the maximum of 800 people. Mr. Bowman said there are fewer cars on Nethers Road during the pilot. Overall, the pilot has provided safer, better parking. Mr. Bowman said the public comment period is open until May 16, 2023.

- *Chairman Jackson said that paying to buy a ticket usually brings complaints. He said he hasn't heard any complaints, so this must be going over very well.*

Mr. Bowman said he thinks it a good thing.

- *Supervisor Yowell said that he lives on Emmett Road and he asks people that stop if they have a ticket. They all say yes, and not one has complained.*
- *Chairman Jackson asked if any Board member had any problems with having the Administrator draft a letter of support to present to the Park.*
- *Chairman Jackson said he wanted to know how their Emergency Services are going.*

Mr. Bowman said he didn't know the answer but that would be a good question to ask the Superintendent when he comes before the Board in June.

- *Supervisor Jewett asked where the \$95,000 goes.*

Mr. Bowman said he didn't know for sure, but some of it goes to administrative costs. Mr. Bowman said that would be another good question to ask the Superintendent.

Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission/PIT Report, Rebecca Wareham. Ms. Wareham said her organization, Continuum of Care Coordinator and manager of the 5-County Foothills Housing Network, is responsible for conducting the annual Point-in-Time count. This count of homelessness in the region, based on one night a year (January 26, 2023), and the 10 days following. She said they were able to survey people and ask them where they spent the night of January 26th and 10 days after. This year homelessness increased in this region. Ms. Wareham's presentation summarized key findings as detailed in the report. Ms. Wareham said the McKinney Vento Act provides direction and grant money for managing this service. Ms. Wareham said Drew Eanes is the representative for this provision for Madison County. She said that the category of "children who are homeless" saw the highest increase. "Unsheltered" means living in a tent, a shed, a barn, and other places not in a shared house or apartment. Ms. Wareham said that Celene Pumphrey, Madison DSS, was instrumental in finding

homeless in Madison for the PIT count. She asked Ms. Pumphrey to comment on her findings. Ms. Pumphrey said while we don't have kids on the street, we do have homeless children in Madison. Ms. Wareham said she can't say enough about Madison County: even though it is a small county, citizen support for helping is huge when it comes to housing. Madison DSS finds funding from various sources to help. Ms. Wareham said they are looking at policies or procedures that might address from the preventive side before they get into the system. There are a large number of veterans in the PIT count. Ms. Wareham said the report says that Madison has 14 homeless during the study period. This number is composed of 9 unsheltered individuals and 5 individuals sheltered with family or friends. She said Madison's number increased from last year, which may be due in part to better investigation. Ms. Wareham showed the list of questions that each person was asked. She said that 7 of 14 individuals in Madison said it was the first time they experienced homelessness. Ms. Wareham said they provided phone calls, referrals for rapid rehousing, targeted prevention, and diversion efforts (to avoid people going into homelessness). Ms. Wareham said 15 emergency vouchers (during Covid) were received in Madison County; not all could be used in Madison County.

- *Supervisor Jewett asked about homeless individuals suffering from substance abuse or mental illness—do these individuals find a lack of services in this region?*

Ms. Wareham said Yes.

- *Supervisor Jewett asked if some homeless had refused shelter and/or care.*

Ms. Wareham said Yes.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked if the Foothills Housing Network or the RRRC provide case management services to these homeless individuals.*

Ms. Wareham said this is a many-layered response, with different approaches by different agencies providing various services with some overlap. Some agencies contract with outside services if they don't have the ability to provide services in-house. The Emergency Housing vouchers came with a little bit of money for supportive services; RRCS is the holder of the vouchers.

- *Supervisor Yowell said Housing Choice Voucher Program is held by RRCS for Culpeper County.*

Ms. Wareham said they are the holder for the whole region.

- *Supervisor Yowell said Skyline CAP holds some of those vouchers.*

Ms. Wareham said some of them overlap. Skyline may have 5 counties, and one of them is also Madison.

- *Supervisor Yowell said the Skyline CAP should work with the Community Services Board.*

Ms. Wareham said Skyline CAP is a little luckier in that can work with anybody. They could do a MOU or a contract with another agency to provide the services because they don't have the ability in-house.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Simon Fiscus, Skyline CAP Executive Director, to comment on this.*

Mr. Fiscus said the difference in dealing for Emergency Services Vouchers is the purpose of the vouchers. Our vouchers are not necessarily for dealing with homelessness; they could be, but that is the specific purpose.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Celene Pumphrey, DSS, if she had anything to add.*

Ms. Pumphrey had nothing to add.

PUBLIC HEARING

Fiscal Year 2024-2029 Secondary Six Year Road Plan, Ms. Carrie Shephard.

Ms. Shephard began with a summary of the Quarterly report. She said the project at Shelby is moving forward. It is still in Right-of-Way now, and we have had to move the ad date due to the ROW negotiations. We expect that to be October 2023. She said regarding the 29 Business sidewalk on Main Street, that is in preliminary engineering and the expected ad date is May 2026. Ms. Shephard said the regarding the Route 707 Nethers Road Bridge replacement, they are gathering the final materials and that will be under construction at the end of May, with construction expected to be complete in Mid-October. Ms. Shephard said there will be a temporary crossing at the bridge so there will not be a need for a detour with minimal impact. Ms. Shephard said the next two bridge replacements, Route 707 Pine Hill Road and Route 749 Moon Road, are a couple years out. She said if those accelerate, she will let the Board know.

- *Chairman Jackson asked where Moon Road Bridge is.*
- *Supervisor Yowell said it is just past Nethers. He said he guessed you have to replace a bridge if it is falling down, but those two bridges have hardly any traffic on them. He asked if VDOT has determined they are dangerous and going to fall into the river.*

Ms. Shephard said VDOT has determined they have come to the end of their useful life. She described the construction activities. Ms. Shephard said in-the-works is the sidewalk replacement project near the Elementary School on Main Street is being delayed until school is out to minimize impact. Ms. Shephard said Route 606 Desert Road Phase II is underway and patching has been completed. Paving will be completed this year. Ms. Shephard said there was a request to do a speed study on Route 621 Beautiful Run Road, but after review, the traffic volumes were found to be very low and a lack of crashes indicated that no speed study warranted at this time. She said they did complete a signage review and found some missing chevrons. She said the signage has been reinstalled. Ms. Shephard said that concludes her quarterly report and she asked if there were questions before moving to the Six Year Road Plan.

- *Chairman Jackson said there was one item and that is Aylor Road and Route 231. He asked what do we need to do to get VDOT to do a safety study there. He said there have been 4 deaths in the last couple years.*

Ms. Shephard said she was aware of that. She said that anytime there is a fatality, VDOT conducts a safety study. So that is already in the works. She said nothing formal is needed from the Board of Supervisors. VDOT will look into that.

- *Chairman Jackson asked when would there be a report on that?*

Ms. Shephard said it shouldn't take too long; a couple weeks to a month.

Ms. Shephard described the Six Year Road Plan. She said this is a recap of what was presented last month. She said the first slide shows the allocations for the next six years. Ms. Shephard says the second slide shows Madison's priorities for the next six years. She said Desert Road Phase II will be fully funded this July, Emmett Road will be funded in 2025, Whippoorwill Road, which is a considerable amount, won't be fully funded for a couple years out, and Walker's Mill and Turner Drive in the outer years. On the next slide, Ms. Shephard said these projects build on the unallocated funds. She said the first six on the list were recommended by the VDOT maintenance crew and the other two came from Madison's request. We will continue

to look at these eight over the next year and provide recommendations as to whether or not they meet the criteria.

- *Chairman Jackson asked about the second piece of Turner Drive and the potential easement. He said there is one neighbor who doesn't want to expand the road, but across the road that is supportive of granting the easement.*

Ms. Shephard said that is correct, that is the last she heard. She said the idea now is to investigate a realignment of the road. The only thing she cautions about that is that there would be a cost increase based on a realignment. At this point, Ms. Shephard said is that all VDOT asks to move forward is that the County get agreement from those property owners to donate their property.

- *Chairman Jackson said we have never done that. That is what VDOT does.*

Ms. Shephard said they have been talking with Mr. Weakley about this. She said that to pursue this project, they need the agreement from the property owners, and at that point VDOT can do the recordation and the survey.

- *Attorney Gregg said you rely on peer-pressure within the neighborhood. Because if you can't get the property owners to agree, the project doesn't get built.*
- *Chairman Jackson asked if Attorney Gregg or Hannon would talk with Mr. Weakley to get this underway.*
- *Attorney Gregg said typically this starts with a letter to all interested landowners.*
- *Supervisor Yowell asked about "tele-fee" on the second slide. Where does this money come from and how it is calculated?*

Ms. Shephard said she doesn't know how they are calculated, but they are long-standing agreements with communications companies.

- *Supervisor Yowell asked about the District Grant monies. Where do they come from?*

Ms. Shephard said that is based on the number of miles of unpaved roads in Madison.

- *Supervisor Yowell said this slide shows the entirety of the funds available to accomplish the projects on the next slide. We need to roll these funds forward. And it is not a lot of money to do all these projects.*
- *Chairman Jackson said he wanted to talk about two: Clore Road and River Road. He said he understands that Clore Road doesn't have the traffic count. And he said that River Road is real bad. Chairman Jackson opened up the public hearing.*

Ms. Kari Gaviria, said she is a resident of Clore Road. She asks the Board to consider paving Clore Road She runs a B&B at her property and would like to provide river access to her guests for a "kayaking experience" and this is difficult with the gravel road. She said she presented a petition with signatures from the neighbors on Clore Road. She said there is foot-traffic.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Ms. Shephard what needs to be done to re-run the traffic study on Clore Road.*

Ms. Shephard said, just ask.

- *Chairman Jackson said do that.*

Judd Buchanan Duet Road is a mess now, rough and unfinished.

Ms. Shephard said that Duet Road is in the process of completion; it is just patched at this time. The paving is the next step.

Russell Alger, said work needs to be done on Route 721 Woodward Hollow Road. He said in 1980's it was on the Six Year Plan, but nothing has ever been done. He says it needs work, and all the neighbors agree. The maintenance is terrible.

- *Chairman Jackson said maintenance is required for Woodward Hollow Road.*

Ms. Shephard says she's got it noted.

Eugene Weaver said that Route 721 has never appeared in the 6-year plan, and that it needed attention.

- *Chairman Jackson asked Ms. Shephard to have VDOT conduct some testing and maintenance on Route 721.*

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2023-5—Resolution to Adopt the Six Year Secondary Road Plan.

- *Supervisor Yowell made a motion to approve resolution #2023-5—Resolution to Adopt the Six Year Secondary Road Plan, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman, Aye: Jackson, Yowell, Hoffman, Dawson, Jewett. Nay: (0)*
- *Supervisor Yowell said to Ms. Shephard that the Board would like information and an update as to the progress made toward this plan. He would like update sooner than quarterly. He asked her to communicate with Mr. Weakley to include it in information and correspondence.*

DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Warren said that Public Hearings are scheduled for 5/23/23 on the Sign Ordinance Amendment, Article 4 Sec. 4.3 Amendment (3 acres per use), and the Radio Tower Easement and Lease Agreements.

- *Supervisor Yowell said that the Article 4 Sec. 4.3 Amendment (3 acres per use) will be ready to go and approve that night, as opposed to the Radio Tower Easement and Lease which will be simply discussion.*
- *Chairman Jackson said the public will have three opportunities to be heard on the Radio Tower easement and agreement: at the workshop meeting, at this public hearing, and at the joint meeting on June 7.*

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.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ADJOURN

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