

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on August 06, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Present: Cheryl L. Cullers, Chair (South River District); Jerome K. Butler, Vice Chair (Happy Creek District); Victoria L. Cook, (Fork District); Richard A. Jamieson (North River District); John W. Stanmeyer, (Shenandoah District), also, Jason J. Ham, County Attorney; Edwin C. Daley, County Administrator; James Bonzano, Fire Chief; Jon Martz, Social Services Director; Alisa Scott, Finance Director; Zach Henderson, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Call to order:

Ms. Cullers called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with an opening prayer from Pastor DeSantis.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Ms. Cullers removed item #7 from the Consent Agenda, "Resolution: Requesting Additional Maternity and Women's Health Care Providers and Services for Warren County" for discussion as Item N.

Mr. Butler added a presentation from Valley Health representatives prior to the Public Comment Period

On a motion by Mr. Butler, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the Board adopted the agenda as amended.

Ms. Cook, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Fire and Rescue – Staff Introduction:

Chief Bonzano and Lieutenant Feldhauser introduced the 9 new members to the Fire & Rescue Department to the Board of Supervisors.

Social Services – CSA Director Introduction:

Mr. Martz introduced Geneal Clark as the new director of the Children's Services Act (CSA) to the Board of Supervisors.

Presentation from Valley Health:

The Vice President of Operations and Administrator of Warren Memorial Hospital, Jennifer Coello, spoke to the Board to address misinformation from a recent Board of Supervisors meeting and subsequent news articles. She affirmed that Warren Memorial is not a "Band-Aid Station" and emphasized that Warren Memorial is one of the state's newest and most technologically advanced hospitals and addressed the various services and staff specialties. Additionally, she addressed the criticism of the availability of Women's Services and emphasized that while she was not present when the decision was made to move the maternity services to Winchester, she stated that Valley Health will not seek to provide any care that cannot be done safely, and that Maternity Services is one such service.

One of Vice Presidents of Winchester Medical, Chris Rucker spoke to the Board and addressed the "destructive" comments made during the recent Work Session referring to Warren Memorial as a "Band-Aid Station" and referring to the leaders as "fat cats and jerks" calling these comments demoralizing. He then asked the Board to consider an official apology and to consider their role in remedying the situation. Additionally, he commented on the free and reduced cost care that Valley Health provides to the community.

Public Comment Period: *(below is a list of citizens who spoke at the public comment period)*

- **Holly Goode** – expressed her concerns about affordable housing and health care services for senior citizens
- **Jennifer Coello** – waived as part of the Valley Health Presentation
- **Delores Gehr** - waived as part of the Valley Health Presentation
- **Chris Rucker** - waived as part of the Valley Health Presentation
- **Bill Owirk** - waived as part of the Valley Health Presentation

- **John Jenkins** – expressed his concerns about the proposed shooting range, emphasizing the noise issues and the alternate locations that he believes have not been investigated properly.
- **Drew Baggarly** - expressed his concerns about the proposed shooting range, emphasizing the proximity to the property and that he did a decibel reading that showed 119 decibels.
- **Martha Sadlick** – expressed her difficulties with the City of Winchester regarding erosion on her support walls on her property in conjunction with Winchester’s water treatment plant and asked the Board for assistance and advice.
- **Jeff Baggarly** – expressed his concerns about the proposed shooting range, emphasizing the noise and the close proximity to his property.
- **Steve Young** – spoke to the Board as a representative of the Knight of Columbus regarding Agenda item C-1 and summarized the request and gave a brief history of the organization.

Board Reports:

- Mr. Stanmeyer reported the following:
 - *No Report Presented*
- Mr. Butler reported the following:
 - Commented on the new Fire and Rescue equipment and was impressed by the recent demonstration of the newest Fire Truck
- Ms. Cullers reported the following:
 - Attended a meeting with the Library Executive Board
 - Attended a meeting at the Browntown Community Center
 - Commented on the new Fire and Rescue Equipment
 - Attended an Emergency Management Regional Commission meeting
 - Attended a CPMT meeting where she met Ms. Clark of CSA.
 - Addressed her comments from the Work Session regarding Valley Health and apologized for her choice of words but emphasized the importance of and need for additional services.
- Dr. Jamieson reported the following:
 - *No Report Presented*
- Ms. Cook reported the following:
 - Emphasized that she was not at the work session the previous week and that the opinions of Valley Health that were expressed at that meeting were not her own.
- Dr. Daley reported the following:
 - Referred to Matt Smith of VDOT who provided an update on various mowing and road projects throughout the County.
 - Commented that Mr. Dan Lenz has retired and commended him for his duty as the Parks and Recreation Director for 38 years, and appointed Jane Meadows as interim until a permanent replacement begins work in September.
- Mr. Ham reported the following:
 - Stated that item M-5, “Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification” is missing the signature page and various federal government requirements regarding funds obtained through cooperative law enforcement. He has reviewed the missing info and there are no issues.

Appropriations and Transfers:

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Butler, and the following vote, the Board approved the Appropriations and Transfers as presented.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Ms. Cullers, No; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cook, Aye

Approval of the Accounts:

Ms. Cook confirmed that the documents that were emailed to the Board containing updated Expenditures and Revenue were meant to replace the ones currently published, and thanked Ms. Scott and her staff for putting in the extra work in the variance reports and explanations.

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the Board approved the Accounts as presented.

Ms. Cook, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, No; Mr. Butler, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Approval of Minutes – August 6th, 2024:

On a motion by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the Minutes for August 6th, 2024, as presented.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cook, Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lease with Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging:

Ms. Meadows stated that in the previous week, the Board had a work session to go through some of the nuances of the lease as a follow-up to the public hearing, and tonight they are requesting the official vote.

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved and authorized the County Administrator to execute a lease for the designated area of the Health and Human Services Complex with the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging. Beginning on the date of the final signatures and continuing, if not otherwise terminated or extended, for a term of one year.

Ms. Cook, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Ordinance to add Warren County Code Article XXIV in Chapter 160 to impose a Cigarette Tax:

Ms. Scott showed the Board a presentation that included projected revenue from other localities, the need for the increase to diversify the taxes, information on the tax itself including the levy and how it is imposed, estimated revenue for the County etc.

Mr. Butler asked if there was any data on the demographics that would show the groups that this tax would have the highest impact on. Dr. Daley stated that the County hasn't seen any specific data, but it goes across all age brackets and income. Additionally, this is intended to reduce the impact of any potential real estate and personal property taxes.

Mr. Stanmeyer stated that he did find demographic data from the Virginia Department of Health in 2020, and per that report, the socioeconomic groups that are more likely to be smokers are typically poorer.

Ms. Cook stated that her concerns are rooted in the budget and stated that she does not feel that she has all the data to determine that the County needs this increase in revenue and would feel more confident with a completed audit and complete Expenditures, and suggested to table this item.

Mr. Butler emphasized that this is not a tax increase, and this is more of a tax shift from personal property to the proposed Cigarette Tax.

Dr. Jamieson stated that his concerns are both financially related and non-financially related, emphasizing his belief that the research indicates that this is a regressive tax and that the issue of addiction comes into mind. Furthermore, the rise in tax would take from already limited income but acknowledged the complexity of addiction and is struggling with the idea that there's a narrow demographic that this tax could specifically target.

Ms. Cullers emphasized the point that this is ultimately a choice for the individual citing the current prices of cigarettes and cartons, but also acknowledged the difficulties of addiction.

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, a vote was cast to table this item

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Butler, No; Ms. Cullers, No; Dr. Jamieson, No; Ms. Cook, Aye

The motion then failed

On a follow up motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, a vote was cast to deny the Ordinance to adopt a new Article Twenty-Four within Chapter 160 of the Warren County Code to impose a Cigarette Tax.

Ms. Cook, No; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, No; Mr. Butler, No; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

The motion then failed

On a follow up motion by Mr. Butler, seconded by Ms. Cullers, and the following vote, a vote was cast to approve

The Ordinance to adopt a new Article Twenty-Four within Chapter 160 of the Warren County Code to impose a Cigarette Tax.

Mr. Stanmeyer, No; Mr. Butler, Yes; Ms. Cullers, Yes; Dr. Jamieson, No; Ms. Cook, No

The motion then failed and therefore the Ordinance was not adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consent Agenda:

1. Use of Courthouse Grounds – Knights of Columbus Banner Permission
2. Award Recommendation: Asset Replacement Vehicles for Sheriff's Department
3. Award Recommendation: In-Car Video Cameras for Sheriff's Department
4. New Road Naming Request for properties accessed off of Liberty Hall Road
5. Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification
6. Resolution: Fiscal Agency Termination for the Economic Development Authority
7. Resolution: Requesting Additional Maternity and Women's Health Care Providers and Services for Warren County (**removed for discussion**)

On a motion by Mr. Butler, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved the Consent agenda as previously amended.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cook, Aye

Resolution: Requesting Additional Maternity and Women's Health Care Providers and Services for Warren County

Ms. Cook stated that she was unaware of this Resolution until yesterday, and that her interpretation is that the Board wants to make a statement that we as a community need additional maternity and women's healthcare providers. Additionally, her support of this Resolution has nothing to do with anything negative toward Valley Health.

Mr. Butler acknowledged that Valley Health is "between a rock and a hard place" but that he believes in the hospital and their ability to find a way to have the support needed to cater to these requested services.

Mr. Stanmeyer emphasized that the County needs a birthing center, citing the ever-growing population and acknowledged the possible costs to Valley Health.

Dr. Jamieson stated that the message is that the County is ready to ease and facilitate service providers if Valley Health can figure out how but acknowledged that it may not be viable for them at this time. Additionally, Dr. Jamieson commented that two things can be true at once, Valley Health and Warren memorial can have large variety services they do and do well, while simultaneously having areas that could be improved on.

Ms. Cullers commented on the good past providers but emphasized the extra mileage to go to Winchester and stated there have been several births in route that puts added pressure on Fire and Rescue.

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board adopted the Women's Healthcare Resolution

Ms. Cook, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Adjournment:

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM

Ms. Cook, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Butler, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye