**At a Closed Meeting and Work Session of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on February 04, 2025, at 6:00 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.

At 6:00 PM, On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board entered into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation. The subject matter is Samuels Public Library Board of Trustees v. Warren County Board of Supervisors & Warren County, Virginia, CL25000097-00.

Additionally, the Board entered into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for the purpose of the provision of legal advice regarding specific legal matters requiring such advice. The subject matter is the providing of library services.

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

At 6:50 PM, on a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board certified to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Sections 2.2-3711(A)(7), and (8) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.

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

**At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on February 04, 2025, 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; Janice Shanks, Treasurer; Zachary Henderson, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence.

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

On a motion by Mr. Stanmeyer, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the Board adopted the Agenda as presented.

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

**All Points Broadband Progress Update:**

Mr. Richard Schollmann gave a presentation on All Points Broadband including project status, undergrounding costs, project schedules, locations, availability, pre-launch marketing, project pricing and plans etc.

Ms. Cullers expressed concern regarding a timeline for their workers to be by July of this year given their current location in Augusta County with Rockingham County next. Mr. Schollmann stated that July is still the expected date, and they are currently operating in six counties.

**Warren Heritage Society Letter of Support:**

Mr. Joe Petty stated that the Heritage Society is seeking a letter of support for $750,000 in direct funding to address critical preservation work on multiple historic properties to ensure they remain in our community and to highlight these significant buildings during the 250th celebrations. The support from the Commonwealth, by both awareness and financial, will allow the WHS to complete critical maintenance, restoration, and improvements to multiple historic buildings in Warren County. He also emphasized that no financial support from the County is needed.

**Investment and Reporting on County Funds:**

Ms. Shanks, along with representatives from the Atlantic Union Bank, provided the Board of Supervisors with a Fixed Income Investment Review that included an overview of accounts, collected interest, monthly account reconciliations, municipal investment options, etc.

**Samuel's Public Library Semi-Annual Report:**

Ms. Erin Rooney provided the Semi-Annual Report presentation that detailed Samuel's Public Library's 6-month statistics, a general update on services, programs from July through December, financial information regarding their FY2024 audit, income breakdowns, my year expenses, etc.

**Public Comment Period – Agenda Items:** ***(below is a list of citizens who spoke at the Public Comment Period):***

1. **John Jenkins:** Emphasized the transparency and accountability portion of Warren County's mission statement and commented that none of the investment information that was just presented has been made available to the public. Additionally, the Board urged to provide information to the public on why the audit is not complete and what future steps are being taken to address future spending.
2. **Samantha Good:** spoke as a representative of the save Samuel's Library Political Action Committee and spoke out in opposition of the proposed Public Relations firm and questioned the Board's true motives with the library and their use of taxpayer dollars.
3. **Aileen Dierig:** Called for the Board to rescind the proposal to spend taxpayer dollars for the public relations firm, emphasizing that the funds should be utilized for more needed purposes.
4. **Rebecca Altizer:** questioned the Board's true motives regarding the public relations firm, suggesting that is was "revenge."
5. **Ivar Cederholm:** regarding County investments, he stated that the 4.9% interest rate for 2025 is not a good return and emphasized the possibility of expanding that for 2025 and how that will be properly invested.
6. **Lewis Motten:** Commented on the digitization of historic documents as mentioned by Mr. Petty and urged the Board to take greater interest in the material. Additionally, he commented on the price of Broadband, emphasizing the $200 installment fee.
7. **Sydney Patton:** Urged the Board to consider library staff, the hard work they do, and an underlining concern they have about the future of their positions.
8. **Nancy Smith:** voiced her concern about the Warren County Library Board and questioned what their tangible role is in the community or their intent moving forward.

<u>**Board Reports:**</u>

- **Ms. Cook reported the following:**
  - Attended the RSW Regional board meeting.
  - Spoke on her role as alternate on the I.T. Committee and participated in a lot of conversations with department heads regarding transparency with constituents.
  - Attended the first meeting of the Warren County Library Board and stated that the next one will be at the community center on February 5th.

    - Spoke with constituents regarding tax reassessments and urged the Board to work to balance the budget and live within its means to keep taxes from being raised.
- **Dr. Jamieson reported the following:**
    - Visited and spoke with the Planning Department about the Comprehensive Plan with a focus on keeping density housing from spreading to rural areas and the ability to increase housing stock.
    - Took several calls and emails from constituents about their reassessments appeals and encouraged everyone to make a formal appeal.
    - Commented on the litigation that Samuel's Library entered against the County, emphasizing monopolies, taxpayer funds for private contractors, avoidance of the competitive process and alternatives, and the role of the Library Board to pursue information about possible cost saving measures.
- **Mr. Butler reported the following:**
    - On January 22nd met with a constituent regarding ideas for route 619
    - On January the 24th and 25th attended a training course in Richmond concerning being Chair of the Board of Supervisors.
    - Visited and spoke with the Planning Department about the Comprehensive Plan.
    - On January 29th, met with Mr. Brian Foley concerning the Emergency Management System.
    - On January 30th, attended a training in Staunton for Emergency Management System.
- **Mr. Stanmeyer reported the following:**
    - Attended Town/County Liaison Committee meeting on January 30th.
    - Visited and spoke with the Planning Department about the Comprehensive Plan.
    - Also met with the residence about the reassessment appeal process and concerns.
    - Reached out to the Commissioner of Revenue to get reporting on the overall reassessment percentage changes etc.
- **Ms. Cullers reported the following:**
    - Attended Town/County Liaison Committee meeting on January 30th.
    - Attended a Wild Hawks fundraiser for the high school baseball teams on February 1st.
    - Met with residents regarding reassessment concerns and echoed a lot of their struggles urging for more simplicity in the reassessment process.
- **Dr. Daley reported the following:**
    - Reminded the Board about the reassessment process. Including the appeal contact information, the Board of Equalization appointments, how to view the values of other properties, when the suspected time is for Equalization appointments etc.
    - Summarized the plan for the next few meetings, which include a special meeting on the 6th as well as budget work sessions.
    - Responded to Jamieson's question about the Audit and gave some Audit Numbers
- **Mr. Ham reported the following:**
    - No Report

**Approval of Minutes – January 21st Regular Meeting:**

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the minutes for the January 21st Regular Meeting as presented.

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

**Public Hearings:**

**Resolution – Concerning Financing Life Saving Equipment from Stryker Sales LLC:**

Mr. Ham stated that the reason a Public Hearing is being held is because it's a payment plan over time to Stryker on the equipment.

Mr. Butler opened the public hearing but there were no comments from the public or Board and the hearing was then closed.

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Ms. Cullers, and the following vote, the Boarded adopt the Resolution Concerning Financing Life Saving Equipment from Stryker Sales LLC.

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

**New Business:**

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing - Warren County Comprehensive Plan Revisions **(struck)**
2. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar NW Storage to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
3. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B2 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
4. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B8 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
5. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B6 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
6. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B1 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
7. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B5 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
8. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B4 to Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.
9. Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar A12 to Sean Roe
10. Citizen Appointment - Michelle Scheutzow to the Warren County Social Services Advisory Board - North River District
11. Economic Development and Tourism Manager Job Description and Grade Placement
12. Letter of Support - Warren County Heritage Society
13. Job Description - Fire and Rescue Lieutenant
14. Job Description - Fire and Rescue Captain
15. Request for Quotes for a Communications Consultant **(removed for discussion)**

Ms. Cullers asked to strike item #1 Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing - Warren County Comprehensive Plan and table it until after the work session on March 11th, and to remove item #15 Request for Quotes for a Communications Consultant for discussion.

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

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

**Request for Quotes for a Communications Consultant:**

Ms. Cullers stated that she feels this is a “waste of taxpayer’s money” and that this is not needed, emphasizing a lack of public trust and the current taxpayer burden.

Dr. Jamieson stated that professional communication support will help the Board provide accurate and timely information to citizens about essential matters such as property assessments, tax rate decisions, comprehensive plan changes, tourism and economic efforts, library information etc. This will ensure that taxpayers have access to factual information about local government activities and decisions.

Ms. Cook stated that despite the tentative $50,000 that has been discussed, there still is no tangible budget or specific price for this and it is still uncertain where in the County the costs will be absorbed for this fiscal year. Additionally, Ms. Cook emphasized that this is not a Public Relations position but is really a communications Consultant, and this approval is just granting permission to seek proposals.

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the Board solicited quotes for a Communications Consultant.

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

**Additional New Business:**

Ms. Cullers commented on the total amount spent on the library issue is nearing $100,000.

**General Public Comment Period –** There were no individuals who spoke during this time.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. Stanmeyer, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.