

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on April 01, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Present – Warren County Board of Supervisors and County Staff: Jerome K. Butler, Chair (Happy Creek District); John W. Stanmeyer, Vice Chair (Shenandoah District); Cheryl L. Cullers, Chair (South River District); Victoria L. Cook, (Fork District); Richard A. Jamieson, (North River District); also, Jason J. Ham, County Attorney; Edwin C. Daley, County Administrator; Kelly Wahl, Planner; Matt Wendling, Planning Director; Zachary Henderson, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Call to Order:

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with an opening prayer from Pastor Marc Roberson

Adoption of the Agenda:

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the agenda as amended to strike Item G-6 from the Consent Agenda.

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

Public Comment Period for Items on the Agenda:

1. **Lewis Moten** – Thanked the Board for removing Item G-6, addressing his concerns with the treatment of administrative issues with Fire Departments. Expressed his concerns regarding County Social media policies, emphasizing deleted comments and citizens being blocked from accounts that are created by a public body. Lastly, stated that some of the Hangar lease applications were missing whiteness signatures and suggested corrections for the sake of clarity.
2. **Lee Meadows** – stated that she appreciated the Board’s efforts while seeing the County through the ongoing reassessment and was encouraged by the Board’s recent discussion with schools regarding their budgetary needs and hopes the Board will establish a rate that will allow the County to have its needed resources.

Board Reports:

- **Ms. Cullers reported the following:**
 - On March 20th, met with Chief Bonzano and Assistant Chief Maiatico to discuss the proposed Fire and Rescue Fiscal Policy.
 - On March 22nd, attended a fundraising event at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club to benefit local girls Softball Teams
 - On March 23rd, attended a ladies tea event at Samuel’s Public Library where Colleen Snyder gave a presentation on the history and growth library itself.
 - Attended a Spaghetti Dinner at north warren fire department
 - Congratulated Joe Petty on his appointment as Town Manager
 - On March 25th, toured various schools with Dr. Ballenger and met with teachers and staff to discuss their needs.
 - On March 26th, attended the Joint County & School Board Building Committee meeting to discuss ongoing projects and accomplishments.
 - On March 29th, attended the Canoe races that were put on by the Heritage Society and Down River Canoe Company.
 - Responded to a constituent from social media answering the following questions: “Why are each and every one of you a BOS, What are you supposed to be doing while holding that title, who do you represent, Are you working for the better of our community, and Are you committed to being good stewards with our tax money paid to the County?”
- **Mr. Stanmeyer reported the following:**

- Met with Mr. Ballentine and Dr. Ballenger regarding the Public School's budget
- **Mr. Butler reported the following:**
 - Discussed the meeting with the schools and Dr. Ballenger regarding their budget and the funding challenges regarding educational, funding, and cultural issues.
 - Voiced his appreciation for constituent decorum regarding public comments and encouraged everyone on the Board and public to give the same courtesy
- **Dr. Jamieson reported the following:**
 - Attended an I.T. meeting with Ms. Cook and Mr. Jones and discussed performance reports regarding SolarWinds system and met their new Network Engineer.
 - Attended a School Building Committee meeting and commented on the real possibility of roof replacements with current fiscal year funds.
 - Submitted a letter to the Northern Virginia Daily in Support of the Shenandoah Rail Trail and provided a presentation with links encouraging people to complete the VDOT Survey as well as the website itself and emphasized the VDOT public meeting date on April 10th.
- **Ms. Cook had no report**
- **Dr. Daley reported the following:**
 - Stated that the Finance Department has prepared the draft RFP for Library services that will be effective July 1st. The goal is to have it issued on Friday April 4th and proposals will be due back to the Finance department on April 15th.
- **Mr. Ham had no report**

Approval of Minutes – March 18th, 2025:

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved the minutes for March 18th as presented.

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

Public Hearings:

Warren County Comprehensive Plan:

Ms. Wahl stated that Since the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Comprehensive Plan, planning staff has met with each member of the Board of Supervisors to discuss their concerns and proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Planning staff were made aware of several changes that the Board of Supervisors may wish to make to the Comprehensive Plan. Staff have also prepared and advertised two additional options for the Proposed Future Land Use Map and Proposed Rte. 340/522 Corridor Future Land Use Maps that could be included in the Comprehensive Plan. These changes include but are not limited to those affecting Slate Run Farm, LLC. The Board can approve the Comprehensive Plan as certified by the Planning Commission or can amend the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Wahl then presented a PowerPoint that summarized the requested changes from the Board of Supervisors, such as the implications of Cluster Development. Ms. Cullers expressed a concern about encouraging cluster development in more rural areas where water and septic needs may not be viable long term. Mr. Wendling stated that the first priority is to direct development through urban area developments because of the public sewer and water, and emphasized that Cluster developments are a state requirement to have in the Comprehensive Plan.

Additional changes included the removal of bonus densities for affordable housing to direct toward urban development in the town, and the removal of references to the exploration of housing funding. Further updates also included additional bike paths, charts and graphs readability, proposed road improvements, map changes etc.

The Board was then given two options for the proposed route 340/522 corridor Future Land Use. Option #1 is to change to the Slate Run properties west of Route 522 removing the Agricultural buffer from Slate Run Farm LLC

owned properties and revised to be entirely industrial. Tax map 4, lot 44 has been changed from Commercial to Industrial. In terms of option #2, it is exactly the same as option 1 with the only difference being the removal of the option to extend the highway corridor overlay district and utilize that lot as commercial.

Ms. Cook asked why financial data is included in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Wahl stated that at the request of the Board of Supervisors, Samuel's Public Library was added to the list of nonprofits that will include all nonprofits in Warren County and will exclude financial data.

Mr. Butler opened the public hearing and below is a list of citizens who spoke on this item.

- **Lewis Moten** – agreed that finances should be removed from the Comprehensive Plan as the information was outdated and the only place that referred to it.
- **John Jenkins** – suggested waiting on making a final print of the plan until the Samuel's Public Library bid proposal process has concluded.
- **Kris Anderson** – commended the planning staff for their hard work on the final draft and support for the ideals stated in the plan including the protection of natural resources, agricultural, and striving to guide development in the community to conserve Warren County's rural character.

There were no additional comments from the public and the hearing was then closed.

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, a vote was cast to adopt a Resolution Adopting a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, and including option 2 for the proposed future land use map, this was done in error and all Board members voted no.

On a new motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the board adopted a Resolution Adopting a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, and including option 1 for the proposed future land use map.

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

New Business:

Consent Agenda:

1. **Contract Renewal - Earthdriver, LLC Contract**
2. **Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar B13 to Shane Neitzey**
3. **Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar A8 to Tom Schwietz**
4. **Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing - Sanitary District Rates for CY 2025**
5. **Amendment to Lease Agreement of Hangar C2 to RMA**
6. **Volunteer F&R Fiscal Policy (Struck)**

On a motion by Ms. Cullers, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the consent agenda as amended from the adoption of the agenda.

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

Citizen Appointment(s) to the Board of Equalization:

On a motion by Ms. Cullers, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the Board appointed Amanda Slate, Wanda Himes, and Patricia Coffelt, to the Board of Equalization.

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

FY 25-26 Tax Rates:

Dr. Daley stated that the goal is to have billings out at the beginning of April, the mailing agent has them for a week to ten days and then the Treasurer has them for a similar time frame as well as the Commissioner of Revenue. Therefore, approximately 30 days from approval to when the resident receives the bill with a due date of June 5th. With the proposed tax rates there will be an approximate increase in \$2 Million from the prior year's budget.

Mr. Stanmeyer asked about the Sanitary District rates and if Shenandoa Shores was going to be a separate approval item. Dr. Daley stated that all sanitary districts that have rate increases will be approved on April 8th during another public hearing.

Ms. Cook asked what the driving factor was for the projected \$2 Million increase. Dr. Daley stated that it is the result of how revenues are recorded but until the audit is complete then no real assumptions can be made on real numbers.

Ms. Cullers commented that a lot will have to come out of these budgets and if the rates are going to be level, a lot of the personnel will have to be removed and expressed a concern that she is not getting a clear picture of all the county finances. Dr. Daley agreed and stated that the Board needs specific scenarios to know what will be done specifically with the funding. Dr. Daley then stated that traditionally, the Board does not increase the tax rate on a reassessment year to not "add insult to injury."

Ms. Cook asked, given that if the tax rate is neutral, does that mean the department budget requests will be similar to what they were in the prior year or will additional adjustments be made. Dr. Daley stated that there will be some adjustments depending on which direction the board wishes to go with their budget. For example, "budget A" is up 15.3% whereas "budget D" is up 0.12% etc.

Mr. Butler stated that from his perspective, the number one priority in this budget is public safety but does not want to add any more tax burden to the constituents of the County, especially given the ongoing reassessments. Ms. Cook stated that her priority is to minimize the tax burden for citizens and is pleased that the County will be able to offset the reduction in the assessments in the personal property tax with new revenue coming in.

Mr. Stanmeyer commented on the importance of services with public safety as well as the concerns of the schools and emphasized the challenge of a 3% cost of living increase across the board and insurance premiums going up approximately 10%. In the long run the focus needs to be on Economic Development and increasing industrial and tourism to maximize the untapped potential there.

Ms. Cullers stated that the County should at least give the school's enough funding to keep the reading specialists and instructional assistance for reading programs and urged that those be kept in the budget. Mr. Butler agreed but suggested a resolution to ensure that funding will be used for that specifically.

On a motion by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the County and Sanitary District Tax Rates and Rates of charge as presented.

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

Public Comment Period - General Comments:

- **John Jenkins** – voiced his support for Samuel's Public Library and expressed his disappointment with the current progress with resolving the issues with the library since the appointment of the Library Board, stating that this circumvents the constitution and infringes on first amendment rights.
- **Samantha Good** – commented on Dr. Daley's statement about the Library RFP process and was critical of the time frame to submit and for the Library Board to review, suggesting that the Board already has someone in mind.
- **Gabe Tweedie** – stated that the Skyline Tennis Courts are in much need of repair, emphasizing the potential safety hazards with the cracks, and spoke to the benefits of the sport for everyone.

- **Bethany O'Neil** – commented on the Radio station advertisement promoting the Warren County Government as a place to let your voice be heard and voiced her support for Samuel's Public Library and the ongoing work they do, and how the community will suffer if they are defunded.
- **Aileen Dierig** – voiced her support for Samuel's Public Library and spoke critically of the proposed bidding process for Library services emphasizing that another entity will not be able to provide the level or quality of service that Samuel's currently provides.
- **Carmen O'Neil** – voiced her support for School funding which includes the tennis courts that are in need of repair, emphasizing the potential safety hazards.
- **Rebecca Altizer** – voiced her support for Samuel's Public Library and read from a Children's book that introduces the theme of same sex marriage.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Dr. Jamieson, seconded by Ms. Cook, and the following vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.