

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on February 3rd, 2026, at 12:00 PM

Present – Warren County Board of Supervisors and County Staff: Cheryl L. Cullers, (South River District); Tony F. Carter (Happy Creek District); John W. Stanmeyer, (Shenandoah District) Hugh B. Henry, (Fork); Richard A. Jamieson, (North River District); also, Jane E. Meadows, Deputy County Administrator; Jason Ham, County Attorney; Mike Berry, Public Works Director; Todd Jones, Director of Technology; and Zach Henderson, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

Closed Session:

At 12:02 PM, on a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Henry, and the following vote, the Board entered into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefing by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation. The subject matter is Axalta Coating Systems U.S.A., LLC, v. Warren County, Virginia. Additionally, the Board entered into a closed meeting under Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of the resignation of the County Administrator, and the discussion of prospective candidates for the position of County Administrator and interim County Administrator. The subject matter is the recent resignation of the County Administrator and the County Administrator position.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye.

Mr. Stanmeyer was not present for this vote and arrived at 12:16 PM.

At 1:05 PM, on a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Henry, 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 Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) and (1) 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.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye

Call to Order:

Ms. Cullers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM with opening prayer from Pastor Randy DeSantis.

Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Carter suggested deleting item I-1 Consideration of the Warren County Finance / Audit Committee because when the Board decided to have day meetings, they were intended only to include straight forward items and various reports from staff and partners and not include more involved items asked for the item in question to be moved to another date.

Ms. Cullers added a discussion from Berkely Group to the work session after the regular meeting concluded.

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board adopted the agenda as amended.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Presentation - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT):

Mr. Edwin Carter provided a report from VDOT that detailed:

- Tree trimming operations on Route 611 - Long Meadow, 617 – Ridgeway, etc. and continue trimming on 604 Harmony Hollow, 624 Morgan Ford, and 611 Long Meadow along 55 west.
- Shoulder repairs on 619 Mountain and Rivermont, 617 Ridgeway, 615 Wakeman Stokes, and on 649 Browntown.

- A significant amount of time spent in January mobilizing and addressing weather events with the recent snow and ice storm.
- Began construction on the flooding rehab for Rocky Hollow Road, the goal was to have completed by the end of February but due to the weather and environmental concerns that is now in question.
- Shenandoah Shores emergency access currently making its way through the process
- A safety review of the Rockland Road area about lowering the speed limit on Ashton Station Road to 35 miles per hour and other concerns.

Mr. Carter asked for a brief synopsis about the South Street project. Mr. Edwin Carter stated that when a project like this is done, the engineer looks at it from the elimination of conflict points, and potential places where accidents can happen while at the same time looking at what needs to be done to accommodate an area that has a lot of pedestrians. A public hearing was held and there was a lot of concerns about the ability to make left hand turns into the Royal Plaza shopping center with one of the key issues being when there are turns and pedestrians close together as it currently is at the light at 522, and then back up heading toward the first left turn into Royal Plaza, the goal is to eliminate those conflicts.

Mr. Carter then asked about rumble strips on High Knob as well as warning lights when coming from the east and that somebody had mentioned they do not always work. Mr. Edwin Carter stated that he had received a complaint about it not working and when technicians went to the location, they appeared to be working like normal and emphasized that they are not supposed to activate until somebody is stopped making that turn. In terms of the rumble strips, they can be replaced when the weather permits it. Additionally, the turn lane project at that location is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Mr. Stanmeyer thanked Mr. Edwin Carter and his team for the work they have done in Rockland and looks forward to hearing any additional recommendations that come up from the Traffic Engineering review. Additionally, he thanked him for the VDOT speed study on Shenandoah Shores Road back in the subdivision and for making him aware of the limits in what the POA can do in terms of signage on VDOT roads versus self-maintained roads. He then discussed the possibility, based on a VDOT idea, of obtaining a flashing speed recorder from the C.O.S.I (County Operational Safety Improvement) at a potential cost of \$3,000 and recommended that it be a topic on an upcoming Transportation and Infrastructure meeting.

Mr. Henry stated that there were some shoulder concerns in his district but is unable to photograph them properly due to the weather. Dr. Jamieson commented on repairs done to Reliance Road last summer and mentioned and there are lines that still need to be painted. Mr. Edwin Carter stated that it is on his list for completion.

Ms. Cullers said she appreciated the work VDOT has done during the snowstorm and for the ongoing work being done at Rocky Hollow. She then commented on the smart scale project from 619 up to Rocky Lane and that it is on the same approximate schedule as High Knob. Mr. Edwin Carter stated that it is scheduled to be advertised and awarded with construction slated to begin this fall.

Public Comment Period:

1. **Vicky Cook** – stated that this is her third time speaking on the FY 23-24 and FY 24-25 audit delays, then emphasized that she wished to correct her comments that she made on January 8th. She commented on the 23-24 audit being delayed for the 4th time making it 15 months late while the 24-25 audit is now six months late. Additionally, there is approximately \$2.7 million in uncleared checks dating back to 2014. Her correction is that on the 5th she may have stated \$7,000, where it should have been \$700,000, and requested again for the County to have a forensic audit
2. **John Lundberg** – commented on Ms. Cullers' announcement on January 28th regarding Ms. Gotshall's resignation calling it deceitful and involuntary, and made only four months on the job. He then emphasized that the majority of the Finance Committee believe that he had done a superb job and should not have been made to resign. He then went over five questions that he stated every taxpayer of Warren County should be demanding answers for.

3. **John Jenkins** – commented on the comprehensive expense report that details expenses from County staff, and would like to know, regarding the partner agency budget requests soon to be presented, if the Board receives money reports detailing actual expenditures from these organizations
4. **Linda McDonough** – commented on the ongoing water issue in Warren County regarding private wells and infrastructure for large scale businesses, emphasizing one that was passed for construction near the Fairgrounds with no mention on how the water will be supplied. And further emphasized that people are running out of water and urged the Board to take greater action in resolving this issue because it affects everyone.
5. **Charlese Backstrom** - also commented on the ongoing water issue in Warren County, emphasizing that she has never had a water issue in the 26 years that she has lived on the mountain, but that was now in question with the new construction on High Top Road and Lee road, and further suggested the possibility of a water impact fee for new construction

Approval of Minutes – January 20th:

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the Minutes for January 20th, 2026, as presented.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye

Consent Agenda:

1. Ratification of Declaration of Local Emergency
2. Appointment of an Interim County Administrator – **pulled for discussion**

Mr. Carter stated that he would like to pull item #2 (Appointment of an Interim County Administrator) for discussion.

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the consent agenda as amended.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Appointment of an Interim County Administrator:

Mr. Carter stated that this includes a temporary 10% increase in Ms. Meadows' salary because of the increased duties.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board appointed Jane Meadows as acting County Administrator with an increase of salary to \$153,612.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, Aye

New Business:

Consideration of the Warren County Finance / Audit Committee – Deleted

Board Reports

- **Dr. Jamieson reported the following:**
 - Addressed Mr. Gotshall's resignation stating that he was frustrated by this and believes that this matter was improperly handled and has sought to make the public aware of it. He emphasized that given the importance of the position, that the full Board should have been involved to deliberate any matters of shortcomings or performance deficiencies. He further stated that Mr. Gotshall had been told by the County Attorney and Chairman Cullers, that a majority of the Supervisors would ask for his resignation, if he did not do so.

- During these comments, Mr. Ham stated that he is ethically required to assert the County's Attorney - Client Privilege, so that it is not waived.
- **Mr. Henry reported the following:**
 - Stated that he did support Mr. Gotshall's resignation and emphasized that there are falsehoods being spread on social media and encouraged citizens to not post statements if they are unsure if they are factual.
 - Commented on the well water issue, emphasizing that he will reach out to the Health Department Officials, and stated they retain the right to write permits, and that it is a State agency that the County does not have any enforcement, jurisdiction, or authority over, but he will speak to them on possible cost saving measures for citizens.
 - Then talked about the issue of wells and what can be done about it with mediation and permit processes and so forth.
- **Ms. Cullers reported the following:**
 - Thanked VDOT, Public Works, Fire and Rescue, and the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Social Services etc. for their work during the snowstorm.
 - Thanked Sam Cheshire from I.T. for coming with an emergency communication system for areas where landlines may go down and do not have a way to contact emergency services.
 - Commented on Mr. Gotshall's resignation and emphasized that this is a personnel matter and should be confidential and has an expectation, and she would not provide any information that breaches that. She further stated that every decision she makes is made after much due diligence, fact finding, and deliberation and what is in the best interest of Warren County and its residents.
 - Commented on Dr. Jamieson's recent social media statements regarding the resignation and there is an expectation of employee confidentiality, and without consent from the entire Board, it is a breach of confidentiality, emphasizing that information was supplied to the Northern Virginia Daily, and the Royal Examiner without consent from fellow Board members and is a breach of client attorney privilege. She then stated that he does not have her permission to release this type of information and asked the Board for their thoughts on this matter.
 - Mr. Carter stated that he is not in favor of it and that is a violation of attorney-client privilege and opens the door for potential lawsuits.
 - Mr. Henry stated that he would not support anything that would put the County at risk of litigation and would refer to the Attorney's expertise and advice as a margin of safety.
 - Mr. Stanmeyer stated that he is not prepared to make a pledge and has not had time to properly think the issue through.
- **Mr. Carter reported the following:**
 - Regarding the County Administrator, he stated that he wishes him the best and it was time to move on.
 - Expressed his concerns with some of the information that has been let out, emphasizing that the issue with the County Administrator is a personnel matter and does not want to do anything that would impinge upon the Board's reputation. And when somebody puts out something to the public and signs with supervisor, that does not mean the whole board is represented, and he commented on the costs of potential lawsuits; if a lawsuit is brought on because of one board member avoiding client privilege, it may be on them, but the whole Board becomes involved.
- **Mr. Stanmeyer reported the following:**
 - Stated that he was not pleased with how Mr. Gotshall's resignation unfolded and did not have concerns about his performance and wished him well and urged unity in the Board with finding his replacement.
 - Thanked VDOT and Public works for their ongoing snow removal work in the County.
 - Commented on the citizen correspondence with the High-Top Road situation and emphasized the limitations to what the County can do with homes that already plotted, as well as the feasibility of potential solutions and reliefs.

- Commented on the Geological Survey report, emphasizing the age of the report (15 years old) and that it could be refreshed, and further commented on the Health Department's independent status and the challenges with not being able to test if there will be a negative impact on other homes.
- **Ms. Meadows reported the following:**
 - Stated that the February 10th work session will be located at Diversified Minds rather than the County Building.
 - On February 15th the High Mileage notices for the Commissioner of Revenue are due, and they will also be accepted on Monday the 16th given the weekend deadline.
 - Commented that a Board Advance will be scheduled soon and an email had been sent to everyone to confirm their availability and preferences.
 - Stated that the Mobile Museum from VA250 will be coming to Warren County in June.
 - Introduced Mr. Berry to give an update on Public Works projects during the snowstorm etc.
 - Mr. Berry recognized the County staff as well as VDOT for their work during the recent winter weather and the extreme cold.
 - Specifically acknowledged Travis Jones and the Sanitary District crews for their work in keeping the areas safe.
 - Thanked Mr. Brad Kresge and the Parks Maintenance crew who are still clearing sidewalks and working on parking lots in public spaces.
- **Mr. Ham had no report**

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Henry, and the following vote, the regular meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Work Session

Discussion – Berkley Group:

Ms. Kelsey Wong, Chief Operating Officer for Berkely Group, provided a presentation that detailed:

- Their business history and local government partnerships
- The services they provide regarding support, recruitment, community development, finance, human resources, public works, and public safety.
- Interim County Administrator services in identifying candidates that work best for the County, and timelines for executive recruitment.

FY 2027 Budget Presentation - Phoenix Project:

Ms. Avery Harper, the Executive Director for the Phoenix Project, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$15,000 and the services they provide for Warren County residents.

FY 2027 Budget Presentation - St. Luke Community Clinic:

Ms. Vicki Davies, the Executive Director of St. Luke Community Clinic, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$8,500 and detailed the services they provide for Warren County residents.

FY 2027 Budget Presentation - Northwestern Community Services:

Ms. Ellen Harrison, the Executive Director of Northwestern Community Services Board, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$330,000 and detailed the services they provide for Warren County residents.

FY 2027 Budget Presentation - Warren Coalition:

Ms. Christa Shifflet, the Executive Director of the Warren Coalition, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$6,750 and detailed the services they provide for Warren County residents.

Discussion — Regarding Emergency Procurement of New Computer Systems:

Mr. Jones stated that there is no emergency procurement being requested, but shared concerns regarding the price increases for computer systems. In the Information Technology budget for FY 27, there are a significant number of laptops and desktop computers that are proposed to be replaced, this is in part due to the amount of computers purchased within a year of the of the department being established, and as a result, the amount of computers that need to be replaced is seeing a spike. There is currently no funding for computer replacement, that number will most likely grow, and for FY 27 there is a proposal to replace 122 computers. A standard desktop computer is \$1,018.42, if that same machine is purchased with a needed memory increase then the price jumps to \$1,682, if those computers were replaced today, the price would be approximately be \$69,252, but if they are purchased with the higher price coming, it will jump to over \$114,000.