At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County held in the Warren County Government Center on February 17th, 2026, at 5:00 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, Dr. J. David Martin, Interim County Administrator; Jason Ham, County Attorney; Alisa Scott, Finance Director; Todd Jones, Director of Technology; and Zach Henderson, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

Work Session:

FY 27 Budget Presentation - Friends of the Shenandoah River:

Ms. Karen Anderson, laboratory and program director with the Friends of the Shenandoah River, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of $15,000 and the services they provide for Warren County.

FY 27 Budget Presentation - Blue Ridge Legal Services:

Ms. Jennifer Locke, the Winchester office Managing Attorney for Blue Ridge Legal Services, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of $10,364 and the services they provide for Warren County and their residents.

FY 27 Budget Presentation - Blue Ridge Opportunities:

Ms. Cathy Wolfe, the executive director of Blue Ridge Opportunities, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of $33,000 and the services they provide for Warren County and their residents.

FY 27 Budget Presentation - Access Independence:

Ms. Lynn Wiley, Board of Directors member for Access Independence, provided their budget request to the Board of Supervisors in the amount of $5,000, and the services they provide for Warren County and their residents

Regular Meeting

Call to Order:

Ms. Cullers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Adoption of Agenda:

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

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

Public Comment Period:

1. **Christopher Pangle** – spoke as a representative with the local Fireman's association and asked the Board to support the Chief and emphasized the issue of lacking proper tools and manpower. He then stated that for years in Warren County, Fire and Rescue has worked with minimal staffing and every person is stretched daily to ensure Warren County is protected, but that is no longer good enough and Fire and Rescue is in a clear need of personnel and positions.
2. **John Jenkins –** stated that he does not want his taxes to be increased and that the Finance Committee may need to stay in place given the ongoing audit delays. Additionally, he commented on P-Card purchases

being used for parties and food for staff and questioned why taxpayer dollars are used to pay for it, and commented on legal fees with the library issue, the severance for the former administrator etc.

3. **Lewis Moten –** stated that he appreciated the County has started bringing older documents from prior years into the modern age and have made them available, and emphasized that he got familiar with the FOIA systems and spoke highly of it and the transparency that is now being seen from the outside looking in.
4. **George Lewis –** commented on Chester Gap VFD and emphasized that he came from a firehouse that had eight members, to a firehouse that had two, which resulted in an empty station when a call is run. He then discussed the issue with a lack of manpower and the safety being against NFPA standards and urged for increased funding for Chester Gap VFD to increase the overall manpower.
5. **Jeff Stoner -** commented on Chester Gap VFD and the probability of losing EMS service in Chester Gap and emphasized that it was comforting to know that Fire and EMS services were ready nearby, but if Rappahannock takes them back to Flint Hill, then the response time will increase substantially.
6. **Kathleen Mancini –** requested to have an item put on the agenda to have an ordinance that a building permit cannot be issued unless there is proper infrastructure in place such as roads and water, and commented on the issue with High Top Road as well as other areas in the County and an ordinance is the only way to address these issues.
7. **Melady Hotek –** expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Library's Board of Trustees for placing the Ordinance to repeal chapter 7 and the amendment to reallocate funding for the library to the current agenda. She then thanked the people of Warren County and emphasized that it is the desire of the citizens that the County return to a stable partnership.
8. **Jason Rufner –** commented on Chester Gap VFD and asked the Board to return to their original arrangement to what it was prior to last October and emphasized the 16 square miles that Chester Gap protects and how the response times will be critically increased and could be the difference between life and death.
9. **Camden Whitacre –** spoke as the president of the local 3588 regarding Chester Gap VFD and the staffing needs for the department and urged the Board to take meaningful action in supporting safe standards by increasing personnel to meet the needs identified in the Staffing Study and strive towards recognized benchmarks such as NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720.
10. **Lisa Jenkins –** invited the Board to a Scottish Ceilidh at the library on March 6th from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM with music provided by an award-winning vocalist and fiddler, and tickets are $50.00.
11. **Scott Jenkins –** commented on Chester Gap VFD and EMS and his concerns on a lack of a funding agreement with Rappahannock, and emphasized that if there is no resolution soon then Rappahannock has indicated they will be their EMS back to Flint Hill and that will significantly degrade the services that Chester Gap, Lake Front Royal, and Remount Road are experiencing.
12. **George Cline –** voiced his support for Fire and Rescue and the Sheriff's Department but emphasized that the School Board in the last three years have received flat funding and encouraged everyone to attend the school board public hearing on the next night to listen to the needs of the schools.

<u>Public Hearings</u>

CUP2024-12-02 – Rural Resort Center - (0) Rivermont Drive (TM #27--------19):

Mr. Henry announced that he had done work on this property before and may do so again in the future and therefore will abstain from this vote.

Mr. Lenz stated that the applicant is requesting a conditional use permit for a rural resort center. The applicant would like to establish the rural resort center on her property adjacent to her vineyard, farm winery, and rural events facility to allow for additional lodging units in the future as her properties are developed. The adjacent property, lot 21, is currently approved for up to 20 lodging units under the conditional use permit issued for a rural events facility for the property in 2020. The subject property, lot 19, currently includes the tasting room facility for her farm winery.

Ms. Cullers opened the public hearing and Mr. Stanmeyer asked if the maps that were included in the packet are the most up to date given that the description is locked in and outdated. Mr. Lenz stated that the maps were the most up to date as well as his staff report and the applicant had submitted an updated application statement.

There were no further comments from the Board or public, and the hearing was then closed.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved the conditional use permit #2024-12-02 for a rural resort center with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission and staff.

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

Z2025-09-01 - Zoning Text Amendments for Backyard Beekeeping:

Ms. Wahl stated that the Board received a draft ordinance to enact subsection 180-22C(7) to make backyard beekeeping permissible by right as an accessory use in the Residential-One (R-1) zoning district and to enact section 180- 35.3 to add supplementary regulations for backyard beekeeping. These text amendments were requested by Alexander Khmurets, who wishes to pursue this land use in conjunction with the principal dwelling for his property zoned Residential-One (R-1).

The proposed supplementary regulations include a statement of intent, a requirement for the acquisition of honeybees and beehive construction and maintenance in accordance with Title 3.2, Chapter 44 of the Code of VA, a zoning permit requirement to be reviewed annually, and certain physical requirements.

The proposed permit requirements include a limit of no more than two beehives per one-quarter acre, with a maximum of 6 beehives per one acre lot, or no limit on the number of beehives if all beehives are placed at least 200 feet from all property lines, beehives shall be located in the side or rear yards only, and shall be located a minimum of 10 feet from all property lines, a restriction on the onsite sale of goods or services relating to the honeybees, a flyway barrier requirement for beehives that are less than 40 feet from a property line that is no less than six (6) feet in height and is located between the beehive and the property line or elevate the hive entrance no less than six (6) feet above the property line and should be of sufficient density, length, and height. The proposed limitations on number of beehives and setback/barrier requirements are consistent with the best management practices for the keeping of honeybees recommended by the state administrative code under 2VAC5-319-30. A copy of 2VAC5-319-30 has been included in the agenda packet under this item.

<u>Public Speakers:</u>

1. **Lewis Moten –** added his support for allowing responsible backyard beekeeping but expressed a concern about the 200-foot setback that allows for an unlimited number of beehives, and suggested limiting them to approximately 12-18 given the R-1 zoning, and further stated that if anyone wanted to professional, they should get a property that is more in line with that zoning.
2. **Kathleen Mancini –** stated that she knows people who could die from a bee sting and asked the Board if they have considered how they would deal with that situation if there were residence with that condition.
3. **John Jenkins –** asked the board, in regard to the 200-foot setback and quarter acre lots, what would happen when the houses are that close and there are children playing beside the hives and something happens where the child is stung or swarmed. He emphasized the danger of multiple stings and would be opposed to it and wouldn’t want them close to his house.

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

Mr. Henry stated that he has spoken to someone who has bees and their lot is over an acre, however, because of the topography and the house location, they really don't have much of a backyard and all of the hives are in the front yard. He then asked if the Board would consider, for lots on an acre or more, if the hives could go in the front yard, and supported the barrier regardless of the distance off the property line.

Ms. Wahl stated that all beehives that are less than 40-feet from a property line behind a barrier that is no less than six-feet in height and is located between the beehive and the property line, or to elevate the hive entrance, no less than six-feet above the property line. And then there needs to be sufficient density length and height to establish bee flyways six feet or higher above ground level.

Mr. Ham emphasized that per the ordinance, hives shall be located on the side or rear yard, so while it says Backyard Beekeeping, they are allowed on the side as well. Mr. Henry stated that he has someone that has no backyard and no real side yard due to where the house is located. Therefore, he was trying to allow it in the front as well for an acre or more. He then expressed a concern that if this was passed as is, then this property would no longer be in compliance because of where their hives are located. Mr. Lenz stated that it would then be considered an accessory structure and Planning would have to change other parts of the ordinance to allow for that, and they would need a variance without changing the overall rule on accessory buildings not being permissible in a front yard.

Mr. Stanmeyer asked what the current compliance situation is given that if this ordinance is passed, then they would not be complying. Mr. Lenz stated that they are already not in compliance because beekeeping in general is not allowed in R-1.

Ms. Cullers asked about the barrier and if the flyway was meant to elevate the bees but not a structure around them to keep them from being tipped over and further emphasized that she doesn't think it's very well defined in the ordinance, then asked if the Board thinks this may need additional work.

Mr. Carter asked how this ordinance came about and stated that he is leaning toward adopting the ordinance as written and then Planning can take a deeper look at a later date.

On a motion by Mr. Stanmeyer, seconded by Mr. Carter, and the following vote, the Board approved the proposed amendments.

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

CUP2025-12-02 - Short-Term Tourist Rental - 3151 Freezeland Road:

Mr. Lenz stated that the applicants are requesting a conditional use permit for a short-term tourist rental for the property they purchased in August of 2021. The owners would like to make the property available for short-term lodging for tourists and visitors of the Warren County area when not using the property as an escape from the hustle and bustle of Washington, DC. The applicants will serve as the primary property manager with assistance from a local property manager and local cleaner and handyman.

<u>Public Speakers:</u>

1. **John Jenkins –** stated that he is opposed to all Short-Term tourist rentals, emphasizing that they do not belong in residential areas and considers them to be a commercial business and further stated that they contribute to increasing rent prices, a loss in community & cultural identity, and heightened stress and anxiety from neighbors.

Aaron Goldstein, one of the owners, stated that they have a detailed plan and provide their partners with revenue or employment and emphasized the revenue for the County that will be generated.

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

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved the conditional use permit #2025-12-02 for a short-term tourist rental with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission and staff.

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

CUP2025-12-03 - Building Service Establishment - 0 Strasburg Road (TM #10L--2-----2):

Mr. Lenz stated that the applicant is requesting a conditional use permit for a building service establishment for the property he purchased in April of 2024. The applicant, the president of a residential telecommunication installation company, Multitec, LLC, would like to use the property as a materials and equipment storage and staging area for when his business has work in the area. The business has a principal base of operations in Manassas, but the applicant indicated they frequently have work in the Strasburg area and would like to work in the Warren County area in the future. If the conditional use permit is approved, the applicant has agreed to install a solid fence along the rear of the storage area to connect the existing fence along the property lines and he has agreed to maintain the existing tree line along Strasburg Road as a buffer and screening from the roadway.

Public Speakers:

1. **Frank Welsh –** spoke out against the permit stating that he lives right next to the property at 73 Cedar Crossing Lane and had recently observed activity with more vehicles being brought onto the property as resent as the night prior. Additionally, he commented that public safety is not being considered with deteriorating vehicles on the lot that will cause well water contamination and impact the value of his home.
2. **Patty Callihan –** spoke out against the permit and emphasized that an HOA was established that has guidelines and bylaws that are received by every purchaser at closing. The applicant has been notified of his violations that were never responded to and emphasized that the property is not being cared for.
3. **Beth Fox -** spoke out against the permit stating that the applicant has not been forthcoming and there is suspicious activity (coming in late at night, people living there, grandchildren safety etc.)

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

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the conditional use permit #2025-12-03 for a building service establishment with the conditions as recommended by Planning staff. Mr. Carter then stated that he is against this application and motioned to approve it to avoid any confusion of yes meaning no, and to make it cleaner. Mr. Henry seconded and the motion was denied with the following vote.

Dr. Jamieson, No; Mr. Henry, No; Ms. Cullers, No; Mr. Carter, No; Mr. Stanmeyer, No

CUP2025-12-04 - Short-Term Tourist Rental - 48 Pineview Drive:

Ms. Wahl stated that the applicant is requesting a conditional use permit for a short-term tourist rental for the property she purchased in August of 2024. The owner would like to make the property available for short-term lodging as a peaceful retreat for tourists and visitors of the Warren County area seeking to engage with the Shenandoah River and enjoy the abundant recreational opportunities the area has to offer. The applicant will serve as the primary property manager with assistance from a local property manager.

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

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board approved the conditional use permit #2025-12-04 for a short-term tourist rental with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission and staff.

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

Z2025-12-01 - Zoning Text Amendments to Modify Front Setback Requirements in the Residential-One (R-1) and Residential-Two (R-2) Zoning Districts:

Mr. Lenz stated that a draft ordinance has been provided that will amend Chapter 180 of the Warren County Code to amend the yard requirements for corner lots and accessory structures and to amend the zoning district regulations for the Residential-One (R-1) and Residential-Two (R-2) zoning districts to modify the front yard setback requirements. These amendments are being requested by Planning staff at the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Evaluating the potential reduction of the front yard setback requirement in the Residential-One (R-1) zoning district is a Board of Supervisors goal for this year.

The Planning Commission held a work session for this item on October 8th, 2025, where Planning staff presented a potential text amendment to change the front yard setback requirement for structures in the Residential-One (R-1) zoning district from 50 feet to 35 feet. The Planning Commission identified there are several VDOT-maintained roadways, like Howellsville Road and Strasburg Road, with higher speed limits where a setback of 50 feet is more appropriate. From this discussion, Planning staff drafted a text amendment proposing a front yard setback of 50 feet from state routes and 35 feet from non-state routes. Planning staff also incorporated the same front yard setback format for the Residential-Two (R-2) zoning district, since the statement of intent indicates a higher density of residential development than the Residential-One (R-1) district, and it would not make sense for a higher-density zoning district to have more restrictive setback requirements.

The amendments also modify existing language to the yard requirements for corner lots and a provision to allow for an accessory structure in the front yard for lots affected by severe elevation change. These subsections specifically identify a front setback requirement of 50 feet, and the proposed amendments change the specific setback requirements to more general language, "applicable front yard setback requirement." With these amendments, the front yard setback requirement for corner lots and the accessory structure provision, would defer to the front yard setback requirement specified in the zoning district regulations set forth in Article IV of the zoning ordinance.

Mr. Carter asked what brought this to the Board's attention and if there had been any issues prior. Mr. Lenz stated that Planning was directed by Administration to do this because it was a Board goal, and the overall problem is that a lot of subdivisions that were built in more sloped areas have been built out on all of the easier lots to build on. This amendment would allow for less buildable lots to become more buildable with them being closer to the front yard line.

Ms. Cullers asked about the term Accessory Dwelling, and if that could be in the front area and what all that applied to. Mr. Lenz stated that the code says that accessory buildings shall be located in the rear or in the side yards only. Additionally, there's a list of exceptions to allow for a certain number based on the property acreage that are applicable to just the agricultural zoning district and those are unaffected front setback and agricultural is 50 feet and that's not changing. The only difference is crossing out where it says 50 and saying whatever the applicable zoning district is. Therefore, you're not adding a provision, you're just modifying it so that it points to the district regulations to pull the setback instead of saying it's 50 across the board.

Mr. Stanmeyer asked about the zoning on High Top Road. Mr. Lez stated that the Shenandoah Farms subdivisions in those sections off High Top Road are in zoned Residential – One and would be affected by it as it they're not state maintained roads.

Public Speakers:

1. **Kathleen Mancini –** stated that she thinks the goal of this is to be able to build houses on smaller lots and expressed a concern that if this is passed and the setback is reduced, then that does not allow for roads to be widened at any point in the future, and suggested setting limits on the amount of houses that are able to be built on these rural roads.
2. **Jim Barnes –** spoke in opposition to this change and stated that it doesn't sound like there is a clear understanding of why this is being presented and is suspicious that this will open the door for increased building on lots that aren't suitable.

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

Mr. Henry stated that the typical limiting factors are well to well, and well to septic and what was used to soften the property density. The intent is not to create new lots but to finish what's left. Additionally, from a safety standpoint keeping the house closer to the road on a private subdivision gives fire and rescue an opportunity to work 35 feet off the road, and furthermore, the setback is not off the edge of the road but off the right of way.

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Dr. Jamieson, and the following vote, the Board denied the proposed amendments.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, No; Mr. Carter, No; Mr. Stanmeyer, No

Sale of County-Owned Real Property located at 0 Hillidge Street, Front Royal, VA 22630:

The County has determined that its vacant property located at 0 Hillidge Street, Front Royal, VA 22630, further identified as tax map number 20A8 1 2 16 is surplus property, or of excess need. The potential revenue to be derived from the sale of the property is better use of public funds than to maintain or improve the property. The County has received an offer of $60,000 from Allie Nichole LLC.

Public Speakers:

1. **Lewis Moten –** stated that he has a problem with the pricing and emphasized that the $60,000 offer is 21% below the 2024 value, and 31% above the 2025 value. And further expressed an adjacency concern with the buyer being next door and asked if there was a fair market value appraisal.

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

Mr. Carter stated that when the property was purchased, the intent was that they knew they were going to need additional spaces for possibly school parking etc. At this point, he does not believe the County will need that land in the future and somebody may have better use for it and is unsure if it is worthwhile putting it on the market and does not see that being conducive to anybody else given its location and proximity to the proposed buyer.

Mr. Henry agreed that if the County is not going to be used then he would rather see it back in the tax base but acknowledged that a residential lot or a town building lot will most likely get more value than the proposed offer. He would be willing to table it but if it's not buildable given the size, then $60,000 is a fair offer.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Henry, and the following vote, the Board tabled this item to the March 17th Regular Meeting.

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

Ordinance Repealing Chapter 7 for the formation of a Warren County Library Board

Ms. Cullers stated that on December 10th, 2024, the Warren County Board of Supervisors adopted an Ordinance adding Chapter 7 for the formation of a Warren County Library Board as an addition to the Warren County Code of Ordinances, which created a County Library Board, consisting of five members appointed by the Warren County Board of Supervisors. The Board now desires to consider repealing Chapter 7.

Public Speakers:

1. **Lewis Moten –** stated that the Warren County Library Board was created to provide a new governance structure for library services and initially adopted bylaws and participated in discussion about a future direction. Since those bylaws were adopted, it has not publicly held a meeting and the transition it was connected to did not materialize, and the board currently has no functioning active body governing.
2. **James Barnes –** commented on Dr. Jamieson's report that recounted the events surrounding the library and the issue of the Library Board and the issue of funding vs defunding. He then emphasized the public hearing on December 10th, 2024, where approximately 90% of the public comments were opposed to the creation of the Library Board then reminded the Board of their duty to represent the wishes of the citizens.
3. **Bethany O'Neil –** thanked Ms. Cullers for her ongoing support for the library and hopes the other supervisors will support the library as well and will vote to repeal chapter 7 and restore their full funding.
4. **Samantha Good –** voiced her gratitude for the dedication of the community members who are present for the meeting tonight and emphasized the members who have been showing up at the meetings and voicing their support for Samuel's over the last three years. Additionally, she voiced her disapproval for the Library Board and urged the board to repeal chapter 7 and move to repair the partnership between the County and Samuel's.
5. **Amy Ratliff –** thanked Ms. Cullers for her ongoing support for Samuel's, thanked Mr. Henry and Mr. Carter for recognizing library's value to the community in their campaigns, and to Samantha Good for her work and leadership in supporting Samuel's.
6. **Cara Young –** voiced her support for Samuel's and supports getting rid of the Library Board and urged for fully restoring County funding for the library.
7. **John Jenkins –** supported repealing the Library Board stating that it was a long time coming and emphasized the division it created in the community and the anger that it has caused and apologized for any past comments that may have been out of line.
8. **Jarred Hill –** voiced his support for Samuel's and for repealing chapter 7, emphasizing freedom of speech, freedom to read, and heritage, and that his faith has been renewed by the community response and coming together for a common cause.
9. **Kris Nelson –** voiced his support for Samuel's and for repealing chapter 7 and commented on the board's actions toward certain books and the attempts to use the power of an elected office to go after the library's content and their funding, using taxpayer dollars to do it. And further commented on the community support for the library by coming to meetings and speaking month after month.
10. **John Cermak –** stated that he hopes that the County and the library can work together tonight and that his representative, Mr. Stanmeyer, will vote to support the library.
11. **Kathleen Mancini –** stated that one of the main arguments she heard for having the Library Board was because taxpayers should be making decisions on the funding of the library, but she spoke with the library and everyone on their board is a Warren County Taxpayer as well as the Board of Supervisors.
12. **Stevie Hubbard –** stated that she hopes everyone tonight will be doing the right thing and do what they were elected to do in repealing chapter 7 and emphasized that she is proud of the County for the amount of people who came together to support Samuel's.

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

Mr. Carter stated that he fully supports dissolving the Library Board. Regarding the finances, he stated that the Supervisors need to have a better relationship with Samuel's and their leadership and spoke on their transparency with them being audited and always willing to tell the Board where the money goes and anything that is requested. He then emphasized that it was time to move on and there has been too much emphasis on this issue while there are a lot of other issues in the County that need attention.

Mr. Henry stated that he always felt that any Board Committee should have a district representative from his or her district like the Planning Commission or the BZA, and that term limits should coincide with the Board member that helped appoint them. He then stated that during his door knocking campaign, it was the number one topic and that the voters spoke, and he supports the removal of it.

Mr. Stanmeyer stated that his intent with the library board was in tandem with Mr. Carter's comments that there were a lot of other things in the County that needed attention and was looking at it as a way to move forward with it off of his plate. Additionally, he stated that his motives from the beginning have been mischaracterized and that he has never come from a place of hate or bigotry and mentioned that 95% of municipalities in Virginia have a library board, and that he is conflicted but realistic and stated that he will abstain and count that as a middle of the way vote.

Dr. Jamieson provided a statement regarding his intentions and putting several things on record before a vote is cast. This statement detailed:

- **An Acknowledgment that this is long overdue:**
  - Dr. Jamieson acknowledged the citizens who served on the Library Board (Eric Belk, Dean Jacques, Veronica Ranieri, Vicky Cook, and Frank Gresham) and voiced his gratitude for their service in stepping forward to serve on a lawfully created board despite ongoing organized attacks that bore no relationship to the what these individuals actually did.
- **What We Were Actually Arguing About:**
  - Warren County taxpayers provide more than 70 percent of Samuel's Library's operating revenue directly. Total public funding reaches roughly 90 percent of every dollar spent running this institution. The county owns the building. In exchange for all of that, Warren County has held one seat on a sixteen-member Samuels board. One seat. On ninety cents of every dollar. In 2023, the Board of Supervisors proposed a modest adjustment: five trustee seats, one per district. Samuels refused that proposal. With the same taxpayer representation goals in mind, the 2024 Board of Supervisors established the Warren County Library Board, an oversight structure contemplated by Virginia statute. We were applying a straightforward standard seen in virtually every County in the state and the US, to an institution receiving public funds at a ratio that would raise immediate accountability questions in any other context. That was the governance question. It was not and is not, granted, the most emotionally compelling question in local government. It doesn't lend itself naturally to rally signs or political action committee activism.
- **The Book Question – What Actually Happened:**
  - In the spring of 2023, community concerns were raised about sexually themed materials accessible to children. At that time, the Board of Supervisors exercised its financial leverage to secure a response from Samuels Library. On July 10, 2023, Samuels Library resolved the matter on their own terms: a new library card policy, a new adult section, and the relocation of more than 800 titles. The Board accepted that resolution in July 2023. From the point of view of the Supervisors, the books matter was concluded. Everything that followed - every action that Board took, every budget negotiation in the fall of 2023, every proposal for district trustee representation, then the later creation of the Warren County Library Board, every hearing we held through 2024 -was about taxpayer representation and financial oversight.

- **One Number the New Majority Should Sit With:**
  - Samuels has submitted a budget request for a 24 percent increase in county funding. Last year their position was that competitive service alternatives offered no meaningful cost savings over their operation. They were, in their own assessment, excellent value. This year, with the political question settled in their favor, they are raising their funding request significantly. The new majority ran on the promise that this was the right library arrangement for Warren County. I hope that they can secure from Samuels a willingness to use their fund-raising capabilities to carry their share of the partnership. For example, covering building maintenance expenses as detailed in the 2008 lease agreement that grants them a $1 per year lease, and as another example, standing by their 2011 statement that the funds from the sale of the Villa Avenue building to the county would be used for capital improvements to the new Criser Road facility.
- **Closing:**
  - Dr. Jamieson then stated that he believes the principle of public oversight of public services is sound and a public library board is a rational response to bring the taxpayer funding and the taxpayer oversight of Samuels into alignment following the 2023 refusal to grant more than one representative. Additionally, he emphasized that elections have consequences, one of them being that his policy preference will not prevail and has accepted that despite some expressed suspicions about the use of parliamentary rules to foil the course of the current action or funding for Samuel's Library, and his intentions are to accept this outcome and let the matter rest.

Ms. Cullers stated that for the last two years she has never been a part of such a dysfunctional system and wanted this to move forward in a positive direction after tonight, and emphasized that if individuals are not here to do good and to bring positive improvements to the people that their money is funding, they why be part of this board. She then thanked the people who came together and the support that they gave her throughout. She then commented on the library staff, emphasizing that not one day did she go into the library that she didn't see smiles on the face of people that worked there despite not knowing if they would have a job the next day.

On a motion by Ms. Cullers, seconded by Mr. Carter, and the following vote, the Board adopted the Ordinance Repealing Chapter 7 from the Warren County Code of Ordinances.

Dr. Jamieson, No; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Abstain

Appropriations and Transfers:

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board approved the Appropriations and Transfers as presented.

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

Approval of Accounts:

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Carter, and the following vote, the Board approved the Accounts as presented.

Dr. Jamieson, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Ms. Cullers, No; Mr. Carter, Aye; Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye

Approval of Minutes – January 28th Special Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Carter, and the following vote, the Board approved the minutes for the January 28th Special Meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Minutes – February 3rd Regular Meeting & Work Session

On a motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Carter, and the following vote, the Board approved the minutes for the February 3rd Regular Meeting and Work Session as presented.

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

Consent Agenda:

1. 2026 Emergency Medical Care and Transport Fee Schedule Changes
2. Appointment of an Interim Planning Director
3. Appointment of an Interim County Administrator
4. Axalta Confidential Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release
5. Citizen Appointment - Sean Newman to the Warren County Board of Zoning Appeals, Fork District
6. Designation of Floodplain Administrator - Kelly Wahl
7. Designation of Zoning Administrator - Kelly Wahl
8. **Purchase of 68 Desktops and 54 Laptop Computers (removed for discussion)**
9. **Resolution - Amending Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Appropriating funds to Samuel's Library, Incorporated (removed for discussion)**
10. Resolution - Ending Local Emergency
11. Resolution(s) — Opposition to Proposed House Bill 1374 & 1377
12. Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing - CUP2026-01-02 - Accessory Dwelling Unit (Detached) - 82 Pilgrims Way
13. Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing - CUP2026-01-01 - Short-Term Tourist Rental - 927 Bowling Green Road

Ms. Cullers pulled item #8 Purchase of 68 Desktops and 54 Laptop Computers for discussion, and Mr. Carter pulled item #9, Resolution - Amending Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Appropriating funds to Samuel's Library, Incorporated for discussion.

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

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

Purchase of 68 Desktops and 54 Laptop Computers:

Mr. Jones stated that his department has been going through the process and gained quotes from HP Computer systems, Dell Computers, and Lenovo Computer systems. The initial recommendation was to purchase Lenovo Computers based solely on the price and the initial quote received from Dell was approximately $11,000 higher than the Lenovo quote. There is now an updated Dell Quote that I.T. received today is within $500 of the Lenovo quote and stated that he would like to change his recommendation to Dell Computer systems given the ongoing issues with Lenovo and the change in price.

Mr. Ham stated that he had sent an email to the Board with a revised motion that said, "I move that $150,000 in FY 25-26 Contingency Funds be transferred to the Information Technology Department to facilitate the purchase of computers prior to the increased pricing taking effect." A small portion of the remaining contingency funds would be spent on that.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board accepted the Dell Quote for $154,122, and that $150,000 from the Fiscal Year 26 Contingency funds be transferred to the Information Technology Department to facilitate the purchase of computers prior to the increased pricing taking effect.

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

Resolution - Amending Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Appropriating funds to Samuel's Library, Incorporated:

Mr. Carter stated that this is to help Samuel's Library Incorporated, finishing up their fiscal year.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Henry, the Board approved the Resolution Amending Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget and Appropriating funds to Samuel's Library Incorporated.

Mr. Stanmeyer, Aye; Mr. Carter, Aye; Ms. Cullers, Aye; Mr. Henry, Aye; Dr. Jamieson, No

New Business

Consideration of the Warren County Finance / Audit Committee:

Ms. Cullers stated that with the conversations with those who have attended and with the amount of work that needs to be done to get the audit completed, she would like to halt the committee and reorganize it but not do away with it. This will give the Finance Department more time to concentrate and work on the audit.

Mr. Carter agreed that getting through the audit should be a priority and thinks that the Finance Department and Treasurer have been making good progress, and that should be the number one job given the involvement and preparation of the committee meetings etc. Additionally, this will give the Board time to revisit the structure and bylaws of the committee.

Mr. Henry stated that he would probably add similar language for the Library Board with each district term limits match that of the Board member and agrees that Finance staff are working very hard to help the Treasurer Department get caught up. Additionally, he commented that there was some confusion amongst the committee members about what exactly they should or shouldn't be doing. He then stated that he is amenable to either suspending or dissolving but would want it re-written so that committee members are appointed more fairly to represent each district and the bylaws and tasks made clearer.

Dr. Jamieson stated that he has no real issue with the pause but would have objected to a dissolution. In regard to re-writing bylaws or to make them clearer, they need to be done in reference to what they already say, and a lot of time was spent in the previous meeting going over them.

Mr. Stanmeyer asked if the goal is to suspend the committee until both the 24 and 25 audits are completed, or just the 24, and prefers to suspend until the FY 24 Audit is complete and then revisit the issue. His hopes are that with the process improvements that are being made and having a baseline to start FY 25, it will go a lot faster.

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Stanmeyer, and the following vote, the Board suspended the Finance Committee until the 2024 Audit is complete.

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

Board Reports:

- Dr. Jamieson reported the following
  - Had a meeting with the developer of the Rushmark property and stated that they would like to propose a data center, not only on Rushmark but also queuing up for a few sites. He then characterized the conversation as wanting to hear and to listen, with one of the aspects about their proposal being low water use in anticipation of that being a constraint. Additionally, he spent most the time speaking to him about what else could go there because their approval is a shell of a building with water up to 4,500 gallons a day.

  - In correlation to the Rushmark proposal, he commented on the Economic Development position that has not been filled for over a year, and mentioned the proposal that was brought to the table approximately 6-months ago with bringing in an Economic Development Consultant, and working with the Executive Director of the EDA, and emphasized that the County does not have anybody going out and looking for those job producing types of light manufacturing that may find a home here.
  - Read for the record something concerning accusations made about him during the February 3rd Board reports. He repudiated any accusation that he breached the confidentiality of personnel information, and the materials that he disclosed to the press were County Attorney emails containing contract terms, statutory citations, and descriptions of governance procedures, not employee performance records or confidential personnel data. Additionally, he repudiated the claim that he violated attorney claim privilege and the assertion remains unsubstantiated. He emphasized that he requested legal justification from the County Attorney on February 3rd before any public accusations were made against him, and no such justification has been provided.
- Mr. Henry reported the following
  - Welcomed Dr. Martin and is excited about his help and guidance to get the County back in a direction that is good for everyone.
  - Agreed that the County needs a functional EDA and emphasized that the County has not had one in a long time, and consequently, no new revenue in the last two years.
  - He met with Mr. Rob MacDougall and emphasized the information that is put out that other localities are offering and the businesses they like to being in their community, and have round table meetings with no Warren County participants.
  - With regard to data centers, he stated that he is not all in for data centers and emphasized that he would listen to any and all revenue and has not yet had a chance to meet with Rushmark but will listen to what they have to say. He acknowledged the water and electrical concerns as well as the concerns of the community and that will always go into any decision he makes.
- Ms. Cullers reported the following
  - Welcomed Dr. Martin and stated that she is looking forward to working with him for as long as he is here.
  - Recognized that February 15th was National Resource Officer Day and voiced her appreciation for the resource officers at each school in Warren County.
  - On February 4th, the Heritage Society had a planning meeting for the Virginia 250 the County is having starting on April 18th.
  - On February 6th, attended a Recovery Court meeting where Judge Funk challenged Mayor Cockrell and herself to attend at least one of the Court Proceedings.
- Mr. Carter reported the following
  - Also agreed that it is important to get Economic Development going and emphasized the discussion that took place at the recent Liaison meeting with the town and the Community Economic Development Action Committee that was started by citizens after Avtex closed that looked into the tourism and commercial industry and further agreed that the County needs to get started on this process.
  - Stated that on February 25th, there will be a webinar regarding repositioning destinations as essential systems and partnering with the Virginia Tourism Commission.
  - Attended the Chester Gap VFD meeting about the fire services and appreciated all Fire and Rescue Staff both paid and volunteer and will be continuing the conversation regarding Chester Gap's support.

    - Attended a Joint School Board work session on the budget and emphasized their needs, particularly with their leaking roofs etc.
    - Was asked to go to Richmond with the State Champion Little League Baseball team and stated that it was a delightful trip.
- Mr. Stanmeyer reported the following
    - Welcomed Dr. Martin and stated that it was good to have him here and said farewell to Mr. Lenz, who is off to bigger and better things.
    - Also met with the Rushmark developer and spoke about alternatives such as light manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution.
    - Agreed that it is important to get Economic Development staffed and get someone who can take advantage of opportunities currently passing the County by.
- Dr. Martin reported the following
    - Thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the Warren County Community again and had a meeting with the department heads and constitutional officers and talked leadership and emphasized that he had gotten the sense that staff are really committed to Warren County and only want the best.
- Mr. Ham reported the following
    - Wished Mr. Lenz well on his new endeavors and is looking forward to working with Dr. Martin.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Henry, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM with the following vote.

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