



**Minutes of the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors
Meeting: November 22, 2022, 7:00 pm**

The Board of Supervisors met in the Board Meeting Room, 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia on November 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were in attendance: Chairman Karl Roulston, Vice Chairman Dennis Morris, Supervisor Brad Pollack, Supervisor Josh Stephens and Supervisor Steve Baker. Supervisor Tim Taylor was absent.

Administrative Staff members in attendance: Mr. Evan Vass, County Administrator, Ms. Mandy Belyea, Deputy County Administrator, Ms. Amy Dill, Director of Finance, Mr. Jason Ham, County Attorney, Ms. Allie Fauber, Administrative Assistant.

Chairman Roulston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Vice Chairman Morris led an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda:

Supervisor Stephens made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pollack to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Taylor	absent	Mr. Roulston	aye
Mr. Pollack	aye	Mr. Stephens	aye
Mr. Morris	aye	Mr. Baker	aye

Special Presentations:

1. Presentation from Family Promise of Shenandoah County – Ms. Sherry Arey, Executive Director.

Ms. Sherry Arey stated that Family Promise has been in operation for six years and that they have been constantly expanding and adapting. She said their mission has grown from helping homeless families find shelter to also helping low-income families find and maintain housing. Ms. Arey led the Board members in an activity to simulate budgeting finances as a low-income family. She noted that in 2018 it was estimated that a household of four with two children in daycare would need \$70,000 to survive in Shenandoah County. She explained that in their first few years of operation, Family Promise used a rotation shelter model that provided a place for families to have dinner, recreation, and a place to sleep. Ms. Arey said that many churches in the area converted spaces within their churches to help with this program and that local campgrounds provided cabins. She said that the rotation model came to a stop with the start of the 2020 pandemic and that they quickly moved their families into apartments and motels. Ms. Arey stated that currently Family Promise is able to provide more services than ever before including helping families stay housed, helping them handle their resources, adding a food pantry, and a supply closet of items not eligible to be purchased with SNAP benefits. Ms. Arey explained that they now use a scattered site program model which includes sites that Family Promise leases and allows families to live in. She said that the family pays a program fee, and this fee is used to work on paying rent and practice budgeting skills. Ms. Arey stated that they work together with Response and Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter to help the local families in

need. She added that Family Promise would like to be considered for funds from the remaining ARPA funds to continue their work. Chairman Roulston asked about Family Promise working with Response and the Alliance and Ms. Arey explained that they each understand what the other can do and provide so they work together to fill in the holes for families. Chairman Roulston asked about the rentals and Ms. Arey said sometimes they have long term stays and some are used for short term stays. Supervisor Pollack asked for a breakdown of the types of rentals they are currently using, and Ms. Arey provided current numbers. Ms. Arey explained that they try to help the families use their own resources effectively before moving them into one of their spaces and that they will also help monitor the family's resources and budgeting skills before releasing them to live on their own again. Supervisor Pollack asked for an example of a family who recently graduated from their program and Ms. Arey said that they had a young family that did not feel ready to move out and they worked them through each step of the process and now they have been in their own apartment for six months. Ms. Arey stated that a lot of families stay in touch with the program. Supervisor Stephens said that he appreciates that they work with the people to manage their finances and make life changes.

Consideration of Non-Action Items:

1. Discussion and consideration of possible amendments to the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Tax Exemption.

Mr. Jason Ham presented a model for adjusting the senior citizens and disabled persons tax exemption. He stated that if this change is to be in effect for 2023, the Board will need to decide on what to advertise at the current meeting and to have a public hearing and vote in December. Supervisor Stephens said that he likes that there are less tiers in this model. Chairman Roulston asked if everyone was okay with raising the maximum income to \$40,000. Supervisor Pollack asked for Ms. Kathy Black's perspective on the matter. She responded that she had spoken to Mr. Ham and she would like it to be set at \$40,000. She added that there is little fraud and dishonesty with this program. She said that she does not think an adjustment on assets is needed and that she likes having a cap on the total amount being given but the current \$1,000 cap could be raised. Supervisor Pollack commented that Ms. Black would have the best idea of who should qualify and who should not and that he wants to know what her thoughts are. Ms. Black said that she liked what Mr. Ham had presented and that it contained her initial thoughts on changes that were needed. She added that her office staff has also looked at the suggested changes and agreed that the model was okay. Chairman Roulston said he would like to raise the cap on the total given to \$1,500. Supervisor Stephens asked if this would alleviate those who qualified last year from paying additional taxes and Ms. Black said yes, all but one from last year. Supervisor Pollack asked how citizens find out about this program and Ms. Black said they advertise and send out flyers. She said that they could add what changes were made to this program to the County website, the newspaper, and possibly a news station. She stated that this tends to spread by word of mouth also. Ms. Black said that the applications will be mailed out the first week of January. Vice Chairman Morris asked what the surrounding county's do concerning a cap on a relief amount and Ms. Black said only a few have a cap. Supervisor Baker and Vice Chairman Morris agreed that the cap should be \$1,500 and Mr. Ham said that is what they will advertise for. Chairman Roulston asked Ms. Black to bring this back to the Board whenever it needs to be adjusted.

2. Discussion and consideration of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar.

Ms. Belyea presented the tentative budget calendar and said that they can update it as needed. She noted that the outside agencies presentations were moved to the week after Mr. Vass's initial presentation and the school board presentation is dependent on their schedule also. Ms. Belyea said that the public hearing for the budget will be the first week of April as usual. She added that they have also spoken to Ms. Black and Ms. Cindy George to make sure these dates will work for the Commissioner of Revenue's office and the Treasurer's office. Chairman Roulston asked about the budget work session as needed after the public hearing falling on the same day as a regular Board meeting. Ms. Belyea suggested it could be moved to Thursday of that week.

Public Comment (other than matters for which a public hearing has been or will be held):

There were no public comments at the November 22, 2022, regular meeting.

Consideration of Consent Agenda Items:

1. Consideration of meeting minutes of the November 9, 2022 regular meeting.
2. Consideration of the reappointment of Ms. Kelly Watkinson to serve on the Shenandoah County Conservation Easement Authority.

Supervisor Stephens made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Morris to approve the meeting minutes of the November 9, 2022, regular meeting and the appointment of Kelly Watkinson. The motion was approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Taylor	absent	Mr. Roulston	aye
Mr. Pollack	aye	Mr. Stephens	aye
Mr. Morris	aye	Mr. Baker	aye

Public Hearing(s):

There were no public hearings scheduled for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Old Business:

1. Consideration of a Concurring Resolution Regarding Financing by the Northwestern Community Services Board.

Vice Chairman Morris made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Stephens to approve the resolution regarding financing by the Northwestern Community Services Board. The motion was approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Taylor	absent	Mr. Roulston	aye
Mr. Pollack	aye	Mr. Stephens	aye
Mr. Morris	aye	Mr. Baker	aye

Consideration of Planning Commission Items:

There were no Planning Commission Items at the November 22, 2022, regular meeting.

New Business:

1. Consideration of a Resolution Changing the Time of the Shenandoah County, Virginia December Regular Meeting.

Supervisor Stephens made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pollack to approve the resolution. The motion was approved by a roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Taylor	absent	Mr. Roulston	aye
Mr. Pollack	aye	Mr. Stephens	aye
Mr. Morris	aye	Mr. Baker	aye

County Attorney Comments:

Mr. Ham wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Board Member Comments:

Vice Chairman Morris said that the Alliance for Shelter had their annual Empty Bowl fundraiser the past weekend and that it was very successful. He also wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Supervisor Baker said he is thankful for the Thanksgiving season and recognized there a lot of people with hardships and that we are blessed to live here.

Supervisor Pollack wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Supervisor Stephens said he is blessed to represent district one and he enjoys working with this group. He also announced that New Market Town Manager Todd Walters plans to retire soon and that he wishes him the best.

Chairman Roulston wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked them for all of their hard work.

County Administrator's Comments:

Mr. Vass wished everyone Happy Thanksgiving and said that Shenandoah County is made up of special people.

Ms. Belyea said that Shenandoah County was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the annual comprehensive financial report for fiscal year ended 2021. She said this is the tenth year they have received this award and that the finance team do a lot of hard work to put this together. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Other Business:

There was no other business for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Closed Session(s):


There was no closed session scheduled for the November 22, 2022 meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



ATTEST: _____
Evan Vass, Clerk of the Board


Karl Roulston, Chairman

