

PRESENT: T. Cole, Chairman
E. Shipplett, Vice Chairman
J. Curd
C. Foschini
K. Shiflett
R.L. Earhart, Senior Planner and Secretary

ABSENT: K. Leonard
T. Fitzgerald, Director of Community Development

VIRGINIA: At the Worksession Meeting of the Augusta County Planning Commission held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Augusta County Government Center, Verona, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cole, Chairman.

Mrs. Earhart introduced Mr. Patrick Coffield, County Administrator, who gave a presentation on the Capital Improvement Plan for Augusta County. Mrs. Earhart reminded the Commission they are asked to review the CIP annually and make any comments back to the Board on the CIP as an implementation tool of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Coffield stated the idea of the Comp Plan is to focus growth in areas where the public services can be provided most cost-effectively. He challenged the Commissioners to focus on the Capital Improvement Plan needs while making revisions to the Comp Plan and remind the Board of Supervisors of the financial needs associated with implementing the Comp Plan.

Mr. Coffield talked about how difficult it is to balance the budget and provide funding for the various county agencies and departments. The real estate tax rate is being advertised with a \$.05 per \$100 value increase in order to help provide the needed operational and capital funds for these agencies and departments.

Mr. Shipplett asked how much income would be generated each year by increasing the tax rate by \$.05.

Mr. Coffield stated each cent brings in \$697,000 each year.

Mr. Coffield said when the tax rate was dropped to \$.48, money was taken from the capital budget for operating expenses. We have been a "pay as you go" county putting away money for capital projects like fire trucks, etc., so that when the time comes, the money is available to cover the costs. If the money isn't there, if the project is to be done, it will have to be bonded.

Mr. Coffield continued to address the financial challenges within the County and stated there are \$17,000,000 worth of projects that are not in the CIP. The County needs to have a Capital Improvement Plan that matches the Comprehensive Plan in terms of adequate funding for capital projects.

Mr. Shipplett asked if there are items in the operating budget the County should not be funding.

Mr. Coffield stated no, he is in agreement with everything being funded within the budget- schools, fire and rescue, and law enforcement.

Mr. Shipplett asked if there has been any discussion with the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro to consolidate services.

Mr. Coffield stated there are already some services in place that are shared with the two cities such as the landfill, Verona sewage treatment plant, and the jail. He offered to send Mr. Shipplett a complete list of the joint services.

In closing, Mr. Coffield reminded the Commissioners to take opportunities to discuss with the Board of Supervisors the capital project needs necessary to implement the goals and objectives contained within the Comprehensive Plan.

There being no further discussion, the Planning Commission traveled to Fishersville to view parcels being considered for Planning Policy Area/Future Land Use map changes.

Chairman

Secretary