

September 11, 2023

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: C. McGarry  
Re: Report for September 11, 2023 Board Meeting

- A. Comprehensive Plan:** The project website is [www.Nelson2042.com](http://www.Nelson2042.com). A Public Open House on the latest full draft plan was held on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm – 9pm at the Nelson Center in Lovingston. The County is still gathering public feedback on this draft to be considered at a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Comments may be left by completing a form on the [nelson2042.com](http://nelson2042.com) homepage or on the idea wall or by contacting County staff and Supervisors.
- B. Virginia Outdoors Foundation PTF Grant – Sturt Park:** Jerry West met with resident citizens in the vicinity of the Sturt property who expressed some concerns regarding public utilization of the property. Main themes of their concerns were: seclusion of the property and park security, timely EMS response to the property, hunting around the property, increased traffic, property management, cost/benefit to Norwood/Wingina citizens and the County of developing the property into a public nature preserve/park. These concerns should be taken into consideration and addressed to the extent possible in the ongoing planning process.
- C. Piney River Solar, LLC Special Exception 2023-369 – Amherst County:** On August 17<sup>th</sup>, Amherst County held a public hearing on a special exception request for a revised utility scale solar energy system by Piney River Solar, LLC located at 2508 Patrick Henry Highway which is adjacent to the Piney River trail and it was referred back to their Planning Commission for consideration in September.
- D. FY24 State Budget:** The General Assembly passed a budget agreement on September 6<sup>th</sup> with local impacts still to be determined. Of particular note is the State’s intent to provide a 2% salary increase for K-12 education - SOQ recognized positions beginning January 1, 2024. Additionally, state supported local employees will receive an increase of 2% in their base salary effective December 1, 2023 and certain Constitutional Officers will see an unspecified increase in compensation. We will need to see the specific budget language in order to evaluate the County’s obligation in providing for these increases. Of local interest is an allocation of \$200,000 for the Nelson Heritage Center and I have inquired as to the inclusion or not of the State’s provision of 25% funding for the Regional Jail Authority’s renovation project, which is currently unknown.
- E. Opioid Abatement Authority Grants:** In August, the County was notified that the Cooperative Partnership Grants submitted by Albemarle County (Acting Fiscal Agent) on behalf of them, Nelson, Louisa, Greene, Fluvanna, and the City of Charlottesville in partnership with Region Ten CSB were approved: \$834,974 for CITAC expansion and addition of 23-hour crises response and \$448,500 for Blue Ridge Center Community Response and addition of Community Drop In. There is no local match for these grants and Albemarle County will be responsible for grant acceptance and management for the performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
- F. Route 151 Corridor Study Update:** VDOT and their consultant is still working on updating the study which will include the dissemination of a public survey and an in-person meeting to be scheduled for mid to late October with recommendations and cost estimates to be finalized by the end of November and subsequent VDOT presentation to the Board of Supervisors. This schedule flows well with that of the Comprehensive Plan; allowing for its consideration and inclusion in the final draft to be presented for public hearings in winter 2023.
- G. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study:** FEMA has issued preliminary copies of these for Nelson County and they have been circulated to the Board and other community stakeholders for review and comment. This period provides an opportunity for reviewers to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information contained therein, such as road names, stream names etc. A link to the digital copies is available through the FEMA map service center at <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/> and will be added to the County’s website. Adoption of these maps is a multiyear process that includes public engagement, public notification, a 90-day appeal period, issuance by FEMA of a Letter of Determination, and six-month period to adopt or amend its floodplain ordinance to reference the date and title of the new FIRM and FIS report. More detailed information on the process will be provided in the coming months.

**H. DSS Building/Calohill Site: (No Change)** PMA has provided the final geotechnical report from Timmons which confirms the site conditions that were presented to the Board. Staff and PMA are working towards finalization of space needs and PMA is drafting a proposal for the Board's authorization to proceed into the conceptual/preliminary and schematic design phase of the project. Estimates will be able to be further nailed down during this phase. Mr. Burdette is checking with the State DSS to see if they can provide any increase in the reimbursement amount for the new facility. Staff is working with Davenport on timing of a future financing and proposing consideration of a reimbursement resolution at the same time the design phase is authorized. An update of the Debt Capacity analysis will be forthcoming once some project costs are more solid and FY23 end of year financial status is analyzed.

**I. Staff Reports:** Department and office reports for May have been provided.