

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present:

Barbara Hobbs	Chair (Central District)
Scott Dunn	Vice Chair (Western District) - Absent
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Larry Jay Williams	Eastern District
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Richard Chidester	County Attorney - Absent
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order. Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Hobbs invited anyone interested in speaking to the board during the public comments to sign up and give the form to the secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of June 5, 2013. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2013. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Ms. Hobbs called for constitutional officers. Hearing none, she moved on to the next agenda item.

VDOT REPORT – DAVID CLARKE

Mr. Clarke reported that VDOT was currently working on some shoulder work on Route 460 in the Pembroke area as well as some of the worst places on Route 460 with problems such as drainage. VDOT is scheduled to start on the safety improvements on Route 100 next week. Mr. Clarke also reported that mowing would be finished by the end of the week, and some spot brush cutting is taking place around the county. He indicated that some ditching work was getting ready to start on Sadler Mountain Road, and some signs were going up on Route 616. In addition, pipe was ordered for Route 655 and Bear Springs. Mr. Clarke informed members that VDOT workers are using some asphalt millings to make improvements to River Road. Care must be taken where the millings are placed, as environmental approval is being obtained prior to use. Work on Route 729 (Patterson Fork Road) continues to progress as well.

Mr. McKlarney told members that he had a recent meeting with VDOT staff where they discussed some issues. He related that only the first three-tenths of a mile could be added to rural addition on Skyview Lane. This is due to the fact that the road must exist prior to the subdivision being built. In addition, Mr. McKlarney informed members that the utilities for the road will need to be moved, and VDOT funds cannot be used for that part of the project. The county has a total of \$176,838 in rural addition funds. Mr. McKlarney further informed members that the right of way for the road will need to be looked at. More information will be gathered and brought back to the Board. Mr. Williams stated that he thought Old Stage Road would qualify for rural addition. Ms. Hobbs stated that she had some roads in the Central District that would qualify as well.

Mr. McKlarney reported that some speed limits would be changed on Route 460. The changes will be as follows:

- Glen Lyn to Route 219 – 55 mph
- Ripplemead to Thunder Road – 55 mph

Ms. Hobbs asked if VDOT had looked at the two-lane section of Route 100. Mr. Clarke indicated that section seems to be covered all the way through with the maximum safe speed signs. Mr. Williams asked if VDOT had looked at the east end of Pembroke. Mr. Clark indicated that study had been done for all of Route 460 in the county, but the only recommendations for changes were those given previously.

Mr. McKlarney stated that he had discussed the possibility of contracting with VDOT for the county to do brush cutting. The plan is to get a contract in place and utilize the inmate work crew for the labor. He will work on developing a proposal and bring information back to the Board at a later time. Mr. McKlarney reported that alternative funding is being searched for in order to improve the intersection at Route 635 instead of waiting for funding from the 6-Year Plan. Mr. Clarke related that the members only have control of the secondary road funds, so he is attempting to find out if those funds could be used for a turn lane from Route 460 with primary funds used as well. Mr. Clarke also indicated that the estimated cost for the project would be around \$200,000.

Mr. McKlarney stated that VDOT is going to gather more information on the repair of Chaney Bridge to look at alternative to Penvir Bridge. He also indicated that the intersection at Cascades Drive in Pembroke is moving forward. The current recommendation is a turning lane with no traffic light. Mr. McKlarney suggested that a letter from the Board to VDOT traffic engineers might be helpful in helping to determine the correct approach to the plan development. Members expressed concerns over the idea of a traffic light being located at the intersection. They felt it would cause more issues than it would resolve.

Mr. McCoy moved to draft a letter to VDOT in support of the plan to build a turning lane at the intersection of Route 460 and Cascade Drive in Pembroke. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. McKlarney informed members that the Hilltop Road project would go out for bids in December. Additionally, Mr. McKlarney reported that the estimate for completing the Route 100 two-lane section in 2001 was \$53 million. This was due to the rough terrain that would the construction would have to get through. The current safety project is at a cost of \$2 million. Ms. Hobbs expressed concern over the fact that the road would still be a bottleneck even after the safety improvements are done. She questioned why VDOT could do that on a major roadway but would not allow it on a secondary road. Mr. Clarke related that the problem is cash flow, which is causing all projects to have to be done in a piecemeal fashion.

Mr. Williams reported that the painting had not been done on the deceleration lanes where the crews repainted 460 and requested that they be repainted as well. He also asked if a route number had been assigned to the road leading into Cascade Industrial Park. Mr. Clarke said that he would check to see if that had been completed.

Mr. Baker requested that the ditches be cleaned out on Cow Camp Road. He also asked for some "Watch for Children" signs on Linden Street in Ripplemead. Mr. Clarke indicated that a new policy is in place and the county is now responsible for getting and maintaining those signs. Mr. McKlarney stated that he would look into it. Mr. Baker also requested that some brush be cut on Birch Street as residents are having a difficult time seeing at the intersection to pull out on Route 636. In addition, Mr. Baker reported that there is a large drop off on Route 635 before Cole's Dam where guardrails are needed.

Ms. Hobbs inquired how to get more of Patterson Ford into state maintenance, since maintenance only goes to the end of the bridge. Mr. Clarke related that it would need to be put into rural addition with a 40 foot right of way obtained and brought up to VDOT standards.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT – TERRY ARBOGAST

Dr. Arbogast reported that the Department of Education had begun to release some SOL scores. He anticipates that all five schools will be fully accredited. Dr. Arbogast stated that construction at Narrows Elementary/Middle School was going well and was ahead of schedule. He invited members to come visit the school to see the progress that has been made. Dr. Arbogast also presented some information regarding the Opening School Conference to be held on August 22nd and handed out updated contact information for the schools. The speakers for the conference will be students from each school. Members were invited to attend.

Dr. Arbogast informed members of 26 school personnel recently hired. He indicated the personnel were replacements for staff that had left employment. In addition, Dr. Arbogast reported that the first day of school for new teachers would be on August 15th, all teachers will report on August 19th, and school will be back in session on August 26th.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Kevin Belcher for Public Works - Mr. Belcher presented a department report to members. Mr. Belcher reported a 16% water loss that was not charged for and looks for the numbers to improve due to some line repairs that have recently been made. With over 100 miles of line, it is felt that is an excellent percentage. Ms. Hobbs asked if they knew where the water was

being lost. Mr. Belcher responded that half of the loss was in the Newport area. Mr. Belcher explained that the last leak found in that area was a small hole in a copper line. This one hole was losing approximately four gallons a minute, which would be 5,600 gallons a day.

Mr. Belcher also stated there were still some issues with fire hydrants being used and not closed properly causing water loss. Ms. Hobbs questioned if a policy was needed for usage of the hydrants in regard to reporting to the department. Mr. Belcher related that some other options were being looked at in an attempt to resolve the hydrant issue. Mr. McCoy related that some training had been done with the fire departments in the past on how to properly shut off the hydrants. Hydrants not shut down properly might leak a fair amount of water. Ms. Hobbs asked if the hydrants could be locked where only fire departments can access them. Mr. Belcher stated that a pattern develops over time, and personnel are able to check on where the problem areas are located. Mr. McCoy commended the department for the work they had done to get the water loss rate so low. Mr. McKlarney stated that the water loss for July was down to 13%. He stated that the department had done an outstanding job and was very proud of the work they had accomplished.

Mr. Belcher reported that a new radio system is being implemented for PSA to monitor and get away from landline usage. This system will be a more stable platform for operators to use to see and control operation of the system. Mr. Belcher related there are a significant amount of additional sites that could benefit from the installation of the radio system. However, these sites were not included in the proposal due to a lack of funding. The cost to add more sites in the future will be \$10,000 each. Mr. Williams and Mr. McCoy expressed concern that all the sites were not included in the project. Mr. Belcher explained that there are two systems in place that are currently being used by the PSA. With the upgrade, there will continue to be two systems in place. However, many options to expand the system will be available. Mr. Belcher related that there are 37 additional sites that could be connected to the new system at \$10,000 each, but that would have to be at some time in the future. Mr. McCoy stated that the most important thing was to attempt to not have any landline usage for monitoring sites, and it is possible the additional sites could be added three to four at a time.

Mr. Belcher reported that the department had repaired a leak on a chlorination line on the Ram Wayside system. This repair had cut the water usage in half for that system. Mr. Williams commended Mr. Belcher on his efforts.

Mr. Adam Harman for Castle Rock/Wellness Center – Mr. Harman presented information to the members regarding the operations at Castle Rock and the Wellness Center. He informed members that revenue was down for both sites. It seems that rain has been a determining factor for Castle Rock, and attendance is normally down in the summer months at the Wellness Center. Mr. Harman reported that memberships are up, as are cart fees, and green fees had dropped from the previous month. Overall, the season had been good. Mr. Harman also reported that some repairs on equipment and carpet replacement had been completed at the Wellness Center. He stated that an adjustment in rates would help with improvements and purchases to replace broken equipment. An increase of \$1.50 per month is recommended. Ms. Hobbs stated the members would consider the recommendation and make a determination at a later time. Mr. Williams asked if the center was still having trouble

with the well. Mr. McKlarney stated the well continues to be a problem and only a small amount at a time can be drawn down. Occasionally, water has to be hauled to meet demand. Mr. Williams suggested that Celanese be contacted again to see if they could help with the issue. Mr. McKlarney stated he would contact them. Members had some discussion over the amount of delinquent dues for Castle Rock. Mr. Harman stated that some he had talked to did not realize they were behind or stated they were not aware that a written notice was required to no longer be a member. Members recommended that Castle Rock staff attempt to make contact with the delinquent members in order to reconcile the accounts. Members also discussed the cost of running Castle Rock and the Wellness Center. Mr. Williams felt that something needs to be done to turn the sites around to lower the cost. Ms. Hobbs suggested that a work session be held to discuss options further. Mr. McCoy stated there was marked improvement from the previous report.

PDC INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from the New River Valley PDC for review and comments regarding the DEQ Permit for the Town of Pembroke. He related that this was a reissuance of the current permit.

Mr. Williams moved to confirm that the county finds no conflict between this project and its plans, policies and goals. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Hobbs related that Barbara Clark from NRCC had called and requested to present at the recess Board meeting on August 15th. Ms. Clark would like to present information regarding changes to the GED process as well as changes in the program. Members were in agreement to add Ms. Clark to the agenda.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$508,397.82 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McKlarney related that Dr. Webb had made a recommendation to appoint Mr. James Riffe, Jr. to the NRCC Board.

Mr. Williams moved to appoint Mr. Riffe to the New River Community College Board. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Members discussed an appointment to the New River Valley Airport Commission as Mr. Able no longer wishes to serve in that capacity. It was decided that Mr. Dunn should speak with Mr. John Lovely to determine if that would be a suitable appointment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy moved to go into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (30) Contracts. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously by roll call vote (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. McCoy moved to certify that in the closed session just concluded, the Board discussed nothing except the matters specifically identified in the motion to convene and lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously by roll call vote – Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Williams related that the Town of Pembroke and users of the ball field sent their thanks to the Board for the assistance in getting lights installed. He also reported that the Newport Fair would be held this weekend and encouraged attendance.

Mr. McKlarney reported that the tablets were in and would be set up soon in order for packets to be delivered digitally.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting until the recess meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2013, at 6:30 PM in the General District Courtroom.

APPROVED:

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clerk