

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, November 6, 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)
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. Baker moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2013. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

VDOT REPORT – CHRIS PRICE

Mr. Price reported that VDOT had done some resurfacing work on Route 219 as well as the bridge on that route. In addition, VDOT had filled potholes in several locations. Mr. Price related that the brush cutting project was progressing well and mowing is wrapping up for the season. Mr. Price reported that grading work had been completed on River Road in Eggleston. He also reported that a work crew had cleaned out some box culverts and has a couple more culverts to clean out in the area around Celanese. Mr. Price related that VDOT had approved the naming of the Route 61 Bridge in Narrows to the Randall W. Fletcher Memorial Bridge. He further related that some survey work was in process on Spring Street near Mr. Dean Reed's property. Mr. Price stated that the county project is expected to be advertised in December and to begin in the spring or early summer of 2014. Mr. Price reported that changes to the speed limit on Route 460 should be completed by next month. The changes will make the speed more consistent through the county.

Ms. Hobbs expressed concern regarding the lane closures on Ripplemead Bridge. Mr. Price explained that there has been progress on the bridge but it has been a slow process. He related that damaged joints had to be fabricated. Ms. Hobbs also expressed concern that VDOT had not found it necessary to reduce the speed limit on Route 100 in the two-lane section and asked who needed to be contacted in order to dispute the ruling. Mr. Price stated he would check to see what the proper procedure is for that issue. Ms. Hobbs also expressed concern with wrong way traffic on the four-lane section of Route 100.

Mr. Dunn reported a large pothole on Route 460 West in the bluffs that needs additional attention and inquired about his request to pave Route 61 from the bridge down to the traffic light and out to the Narrows Park. He also requested some patchwork on Route 219 stating that the shoulders are crumbling. Mr. Price stated he would check into the paving schedule. Mr. Dunn requested that reopening Old Wolf Creek Road be readdressed. In addition, he asked that a letter be sent to VDOT requesting a portion of some funding that had been recently sent down to the agency to assist with the Penvir Bridge project.

Mr. Williams inquired about the status of Sky View. Mr. McKlarney stated the survey needs to be completed prior to the project moving forward. Mr. Williams stated he would like the Board of Road Viewers to look at others to get them ranked on the list. There was some discussion regarding the ranking of the rural additions list. Ms. Hobbs stated that Whitt was only set aside because funding was depleted. Mr. Williams stated it was removed due to the inability to obtain a right of way. Ms. Hobbs did not agree. Mr. Williams asked for balances on funding available for the county. Mr. Price stated that the increases in funding would not begin until 2015 but will get balances on the funding that was allocated for this year. Ms. Hobbs requested that reporting be continued on a monthly basis regarding the 6-year plan. Mr. Price stated that the total allocation for FY 2014 was \$63,000. Mr. McKlarney stated that the county has \$176,000 for rural additions.

Mr. Williams also asked who should be contacted for brush cutting. Mr. McKlarney indicated that the requests that have been received have been passed on to Deputy Leon Meredith who is over the crew. Requests for the crew can also be made through the Sheriff's Office. In addition, Mr. Williams related that River Road had not been built up with millings completely through and there needed to be some work done on Dry Branch. He also related there were several places in the Pembroke area where line painting had not been completed including the deceleration lanes on Route 460 at the industrial park and Bostic's as well as on Route 605. Mr. Williams inquired about the status of the deceleration lane at Route 635. Mr. Price stated it had just been added to the 6-year plan. The project will start to move forward once the funding is allocated.

Mr. McCoy reported that Kow Kamp is in need of some work and Route 460 at Hoges Chapel needs potholes fixed. He suggested that VDOT take a look at that section of road prior to winter setting in. Mr. Baker asked for the status of the drainage issue on Spring Street. Mr. Price related the drainage engineer had been to the location and will be bringing back a recommendation. He estimated the project will be underway next summer. Mr. Baker also expressed concern about the wrong way traffic that has been occurring on Route 100 in the Wilburn Valley area. He stated that there needs to be some arrows painted on the road in that area before someone is killed in an accident. Mr. Baker requested that potholes be fixed on Route 100 in the Poplar Hill area as well as in the Ripplemead area on Route 460 stating that nothing had been done to them except to put out some barrels. He also expressed concern that the drain work done by VDOT in the Trigg area was covered back with gravel and is causing damage to vehicles. Additionally, Mr. Baker expressed displeasure with the application fee that would be charged to the county to install Watch for Children signs. He indicated that VDOT changed the policy for these signs, including the burden to the county to purchase the signs, and then requires the county to pay a fee. Mr. Baker stated he had a printout showing the cost to VDOT to install a sign is \$850. Mr. Baker also stated that the county would not pay to put up signs and indicated that VDOT should contact the county if

there was an issue with that decision. Ms. Hobbs requested that VDOT check on the dirt roads in Central District including Prospectdale and Eatons Chapel roads. Mr. Price stated he would look into them to make sure they have been worked on.

SECONDARY SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. McKlarney stated that the secondary system construction program estimated allocations for FY 2014 is \$26,222 plus a tele-fee of \$36,671 for a total of \$62,893. For subsequent years totals will be as follows:

FY 2015 – \$257,789

FY 2016 - \$370,000

FY 2017 - \$472,000

FY 2018 - \$485,000

FY 2019 - \$499,000

Total in 6-Year Plan - \$2,149,521

Ms. Hobbs questioned the effects of the Sky View project on the remaining funds for this year. Mr. Price stated that rural additions are 5% of the secondary money. Mr. McKlarney stated it would be 5% of \$62,893 for FY 2014, which equates to approximately \$3,100. There was some discussion regarding the limited amount of funds available for 2014.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the projections for the VDOT Secondary System Construction Program. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT – TERRY ARBOGAST

Dr. Arbogast reported that attendance is currently at 2,451, which is a decrease of 7 from September and the same as this time last year. Dr. Arbogast provided members with a listing of activities planned for November. He reported that parent teacher conferences are scheduled for November 7th and 8th with a tow-hour early release on the 7th, and the second six-week period ends on November 20th. Dr. Arbogast also reported that NHS will be conducting an extension of the summer food program on November 26th at 6:00 pm. The meal will be provided free of charge to Narrows students, and parents may purchase a meal for \$2.00. Narrows High School was named as a rising school by the U.S. News and World Report. Eastern Elementary/Middle School had a Career Day on November 1st for grades 5-7. Many members of the community came out to speak to the students about careers and the importance of staying in school. On October 28th, Colin Dalton placed first and Rachael Ingram placed second in the talent show. Both will go on to a regional talent show on November 23rd. Dr. Arbogast also reported that a tour was conducted at New River Community College today for the members of the School Board and Board of Supervisors. The advancements in the programs were impressive. He looks forward to moving ahead with the CCAP program. Dr. Arbogast reported that the roof at Narrows Elementary and Middle School was complete. He has asked the engineer to come back to look at the cost for each school. He will gather energy and cost data on NEMS and compare it to the year before the installation. Mr. Williams asked what the capacity was for each high school. Dr. Arbogast stated he would have to get the numbers and send them later.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Williams inquired about the status of the capital improvement plan. Mr. McKlarney indicated the procurement process has started and RFPs are due on November 15th. Ms. Hobbs felt it was a good idea to have a plan in place to take care of infrastructure in the county.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Summer Youth Program – Jeff Dinger

Mr. Jeff Dinger presented information to members regarding the summer youth program. The program was designed to help the rising workforce in the county gain experience and soft skills in a real work setting. In the program, youth could work for up to 32 hours a week for 32 weeks for a training incentive rate of \$7.25 an hour. Mr. Dinger felt it was a great community collaboration with many businesses willing to participate. He reported that every effort was made to ensure that the youth and their parents understood the expectations of the program. In addition, staff made every effort to ensure that each participating youth had an opportunity to successfully complete the program. Mr. Dinger stated that the completion rate of the program was 65%, when you eliminate youth from the numbers that did not show up on the first day or withdrew prior the program start. Staff worked with the businesses and youth to solve any issues that arose. Mr. Dinger reported that Nanosonic would like several youth next summer if the program is repeated. Mr. Dinger related several success stories of the program and encouraged members to consider funding the program for another year.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ross presented the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the special exception requested by NEON, Inc. within the C-1 (Conservation) District to Section 701.03 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to modify the maximum height restriction for an accessory structure from 35 feet to 94 feet to allow for a meteorological tower with the following conditions: the tower be painted an acceptable color; and the tower be removed once it is no longer in use with the period of use not to exceed ten years. Mr. Williams asked if the tower would be in the same location as previously stated. Mr. Ross indicated it would but the tower will be 1,500 feet from Mr. Dolinger's property line.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the special exception from NEON, Inc. within the C-1 District to Section 701.03 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to modify the height restriction from 34 feet to 94 feet to allow for installation of a meteorological tower. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. Ross presented the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the special exception request by Twin States Properties to operate a campground within the RRA-1 (Rural Residential/Agricultural) Zoning District pursuant to Section 603.03-3 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance. Approval is for the existing 34 sites and a conditional approval of the 8 proposed sites upon the approval of the Town of Narrows utility department in addition to all other applicable regulations. Ms. Hobbs expressed concern about campers being all over the river.

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the special exception request by Twin States Properties to operate a campground within the RRA-1 Zoning District pursuant to Section 603.03-3 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. Reed presented the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the proposed amendment to Section 4-1 (Plat Required – Approval Before Sale) of the Giles County Subdivision Ordinance as advertised. He explained that the change was only a housekeeping item to change the language and there had been no comments at the public hearing.

Mr. McCoy moved to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the proposed amendment to Section 4-1 (Plat Required – Approval Before Sale) of the Giles County Subdivision Ordinance as advertised. Second by Mr. Williams. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

E & S – STORMWATER GRANT

Mr. Reed updated members regarding a grant for E & S Stormwater implementation. The grant was awarded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$19,721.60. Mr. Reed related that the grant has proven to be more consuming of staff time with reporting than the county would get from it. He stated that the most recent report required for reimbursement of \$300 for legal fees would have cost the county more in staff time than the \$300 reimbursement. Mr. Reed has been in contact with the agency to find out if there was a possibility of the county purchasing a vehicle for use in the E&S program. The answer he received was that the funds could not be spent on equipment. Mr. Reed stated there were two options at this point. One option was to catch up the reports through September; the second is to no longer seek reimbursement from the grant. He also stated that the down side to option two was that it could possibly impact the county's ability to get DEQ funding in the future. There was some discussion on options but all those offered were not allowable under the grant. Mr. Williams asked if advertisement was required for implementation of the program. Mr. Reed stated it would be more cost effective to pay for an ad in the Virginian Leader than to jump through the hoops required to get reimbursement for an ad. Mr. McKlarney stated the paperwork requirements for the program are ridiculous and recommended that members no longer seek reimbursement through the grant.

Mr. Baker moved that administrative staff take the necessary steps to opt out of the E & S Stormwater grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Mr. McKlarney reported that negotiations had been completed with Wampler-Eanes for the upcoming tax reassessment. The final cost is \$16.75 per parcel with approximately 14,000 parcels with structures for an approximate cost of \$250,000. Mr. McKlarney stated the company will do a sales study and issue a manual. Mr. Williams asked if the reassessment had to be done, stating that some jurisdictions only had to have one every eight years. Mr.

McKlarney related that he had checked on it and it is required. A penalty is imposed if the reassessment is not conducted as required. Mr. McCoy stated the assessments should come down, so people might feel they are getting a better rate. Mr. McKlarney stated that public information and communication are important. Mr. McKlarney expects the sales ratio to come down and stated that the sales study will cover different areas of the county and assessments will be based on neighborhoods. Mr. Williams suggested the Board look at hiring an assessor. Ms. Hobbs did not feel there would be many people willing to take the job as it proves to be difficult to conduct tax assessments while living in the county.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the tax reassessment contract with Wampler-Eanes. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

SOFTWARE CONTRACT

Mr. McKlarney presented information regarding a contract with Edmunds to replace the current Brights software. The final cost of the project will be \$105,650. Mr. McKlarney related this is the first Virginia contract for the company and he expects a lot of attention from the company to make sure the county gets what it needs. The module for the Commissioner of the Revenue has not yet been built; therefore, the Brights software will be kept in place until that module is completed and installed. The software is PC-based and will be installed on a server.

Mr. Baker moved to approve the software contract with Edmunds. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

PEPPERS FERRY SEPTAGE

Mr. McKlarney presented information to members for the renewal of the Peppers Ferry Septage MOU. He related it has not changed from previous years.

Mr. McCoy moved to approve the Peppers Ferry Septage MOU. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

2013 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Mr. McKlarney informed members that the Emergency Operations Plan had been updated with only a few minor updates. He commended Ms. Gina Franklin on the effort and job she does to update the plan.

Mr. McCoy moved to adopt the 2013 Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

COMBINED SERVICES POLICY

Mr. Williams inquired about the status of the combined services policy for personnel. Mr. McKlarney related that staff does not have final information on insurance and the Federal regulations have not yet been written. With the regulations the way they are currently, the PSA cannot join with another entity without being subject to taxation.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$808,825.19 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCoy moved to reappoint Mr. Paul Baker to the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. Dunn. Approved (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy. Abstaining: Mr. Baker.

Mr. Dunn moved to appoint Mr. Alton Thompson to the Board of Road Viewers, pending there is no issue with legal counsel. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Mr. McCoy moved to reappoint Mr. Billy Henderson to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy moved to go into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711A(30)Contracts. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0 by roll call vote). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, 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. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

DRY HYDRANTS

Mr. Williams requested the members allow the installation of dry hydrants in the Eggleston area indicating it would be the same cost to get 15 as to get one. He would like for the Board to get permits and install the hydrants at a later date. The permit is good for two years. Mr. Williams suggested that members think of places dry hydrants are needed and talk about it at the next meeting.

ALPINE VILLAGE WATER

Mr. Williams reported that only three houses could be hooked to public water in the Alpine Village area unless a pump station was built. He stated residents of three houses would like an estimate to see how much it would cost. Ms. Hobbs suggested getting a firm price and going to them to see who is willing to pay and how much they are willing to pay, and a decision can be made after that. Members were in agreement.

SHOOTING COMPLAINT

Ms. Hobbs informed members she had received a complaint about a shooting range in the Cover Hollow area. Members related information they knew about a shooting club there that charged a fee. Ms. Hobbs stated that people in that area do not wish to make the owner mad, but a business should be paying taxes and have permits. She stated she had advised the person to come in to see John Ross to make a formal complaint and he could take it from there.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting until the recess meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 6:30 PM in the General District Courtroom.

APPROVED:

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clerk