

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 6:30 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
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

### **CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION**

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

Ms. Hobbs announced that citizens may sign up with the secretary to speak during the public comment section of the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2014. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

### **VDOT REVENUE SHARING**

Mr. McKlarney reported VDOT Revenue Sharing applications are due by the end of the next week and he needs to submit roads in order to obtain funding. He related VDOT staff had made recommendations and Mr. Dunn would like to submit for Penvir Bridge. Members were in agreement a list would need to be made and discussed the possibility of a work session.

### **ACCE PROGRAM**

Mr. McKlarney related an informational and fund raising session had been recently held for the Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program. He stated attendance was good and donations are anticipated to be at an adequate level.

### **ROAD VIEWERS**

Mr. McKlarney related the Board of Road Viewers would be meeting in the near future. He will present more information at a future meeting.

### **DJJ REQUEST TO RETURN FUNDS**

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice to return the unused balance of \$4,248 from FY14. Members discussed the specific purpose of the funds and reasons why they are not being used.

***Mr. Baker moved to return the unused balance of DJJ funds from FY14 in the amount of \$4,248. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

### **BUS STOP WARNING SIGNS**

Mr. McKlarney informed members of a request from the school system for installation of school bus warning signs on Route 219 before McKenzie Lumber, at the intersection of Thorn Street and State Line Road, before the curve on State Line Road near the church, and at 8266 Virginia Avenue in Newport.

***Mr. Baker moved to have bus stop warning signs installed as requested by the school system. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

### **BULK WATER**

Mr. McKlarney related that bulk water obtained at the water plant is currently being billed at \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons. With many bills being mailed out for 75 cents or less, he would recommend raising the rate to \$5.00 per 1,000. Members discussed options.

***Mr. Baker moved to hold a public hearing at the November recess meeting regarding raising the bulk water rate. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

### **MOUNTAIN VALLEY GAS LINE**

Mr. McKlarney reported he and other staff had met with representatives of EQT regarding the proposed Mountain Valley Gas Line. He related handouts from that meeting were provided for the members as well as the public, which included a copy of the presentation, notes from the meeting and a FERC booklet. Mr. McKlarney stated he is not sure the gas line is coming through the proposed corridor as the Federal government will have to approve or disapprove the route. The route can change drastically before it is finalized due to many factors. He related much more information is forthcoming, and the company is willing to make a presentation to the Board if they desire. Members discussed the possibility of a presentation. Mr. McKlarney related the representatives stated that it will be possible for companies to tap into the gas line. The cost to tap into the line would be approximately \$50,000 - \$100,000 during construction but would go up significantly after it is completed. Mr. McKlarney stated the company is in the process of meeting with industries in the area to inquire about the need for natural gas. He related the proposed route is shown to be contiguous with an existing American Electric Power right of way. Members were in agreement to have the company come make a presentation at the November recess meeting with the meeting to be held at Giles High School.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Stephen Legge – Mr. Legge stated he is not opposed to the line but has numerous concerns including the impact on property values, landowner compensation. He stated the gas line could obliterate property values.

James Stafford – Mr. Stafford stated is his in opposition of the gas line and asked that members pass a resolution in opposition to the pipeline, which he provided. He related the gas line will come near to his property and does not believe it is a good idea to place a gas line near an electrical line. He expressed concerns with diminished property values and lack of benefit to Giles County.

Elizabeth McCommon – Ms. McCommon related she is a member of Preserve the New River Valley, which is a group in opposition of the gas line. The group is attempting to bring together all counties affected by the gas line. She requested to be on the agenda at the next meeting to provide more information to members. Ms. McCommon expressed concerns with the safety of the pipeline and the cost of explosions. She asked that members look very carefully at the proposed pipeline.

Tom Hoffman – Mr. Hoffman expressed concerns with the gas line, including the areas of the proposed route, explosions that have occurred, and emergency response if an explosion happened in the county.

Donna Pitt – Ms. Pitt presented statistics for members regarding significant incidents that have occurred from gas lines. She expressed concern with the lack of oversight after completion and the possibility of the line developing weak spots at the joints.

Perry Martin – Mr. Martin related the gas line was one of the ugliest things that could happen to the county and appealed to members to stand with the residents in opposition of the line. He related the line would go through the ball park at Newport with the proposed route where more than 70 children participated in sports this year and expressed concern for the future of the county.

Doug Martin – Mr. Martin presented information to members regarding the history of Newport and earthquake statistics in the county.

Darlene Cunningham – Ms. Cunningham stated the gas company has a very good sales pitch and will tell people what they want to hear. She expressed concerns with the proposed route and charges against EQT for water pollution and stream disturbance. Ms. Cunningham also expressed concerns for lack of benefit to citizens of the county and jobs that would only be temporary. She stated there were still too many questions and not enough answers.

Tod Whitehurst – Mr. Whitehurst expressed concern with the effects of the gas line on his property values and opposed the pipeline. He also expressed concerns with the effects on the water quality and asked members to pass a resolution in opposition to the gas line.

Victoria Stone – Ms. Stone expressed concern with the route going through a National Historic District in Newport and related the many structures and sites that would be put in jeopardy. She also expressed concern with the impact the line would have on tourism and asked members to adopt a resolution prohibiting the gas line.

James McGrath – Mr. McGrath stated he is very opposed to the gas line. He related this type of industry is not a good idea, and after data is gathered, he would like members to make a public statement.

Kirk Bowers – Mr. Bowers, a representative from the Sierra Club, stated he was in opposition to all pipelines in the state. He presented photos of line construction and a gas line explosion to members and related there will be no jobs for local people. He expressed concerns about the topography of the area as well as the loss of property values, which will cause a loss of tax revenues.

Tina Badger – Ms. Badger stated, while the Board has no legal option, there are other options that could be considered to stop the gas line. She stated all affected areas need to stand together as a community to look at the gas line as a southwest Virginia issue. She expressed concern with the line destroying the beauty of the area and the lack of forthrightness from EQT. She asked members to support tourism instead of the pipeline.

Christy Porterfield – Ms. Porterfield expressed concern with the impact on Virginia Tech as well as sites within the county. She stated the line would be a threat to the citizens, animals and water in the county and expressed concern with the close proximity to a public school. Ms. Porterfield also expressed concern regarding the impact on the scenery and the cave systems as well as the decrease in property values. She stated the company will not use local workers but will bring in labor from elsewhere that have the skill sets necessary for the job and the line would not benefit the area.

Elizabeth Hahn – Ms. Hahn expressed concern for the entire region and urged members to be skeptical. She related information on gas line explosions and related the gas company cannot be trusted. She expressed concern with the environmental costs and land being taken by eminent domain if land owners do not agree with selling a right of way through their property.

Doug Chancey – Mr. Chancey expressed concerns with projects being forced on people and the need to move toward alternate energy sources. He expressed support for the Virginia Hemp Coalition and the need for legalization. Mr. Chancey also expressed concern with the effects of the gas line on the mountains and water.

## **RECESS**

Ms. Hobbs called a ten minute recess. She then reconvened the meeting.

## **PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$652,682.85 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Baker.***

Mr. Williams questioned a high cell phone bill for Animal Control. Mr. McKlarney related he would find more information and provide it to members.

***Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

#### **SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,160,084 for the school board for November, 2014. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION**

***Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$225,000 for Social Services and \$100,000 for CSA for November, 2014. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (4-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.***

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. McKlarney provided information to members regarding the Wish You Well community showing, the quarterly intergovernmental meeting, and the Agricultural Lab dedication.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Mr. McCoy moved to go into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711, A(1) personnel, and A(30) contracts. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (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.***

#### **GAS LINE**

Mr. McKlarney recommended members wait until more information, including the economic impact study, is in hand prior to issuing an invitation to EQT to make a presentation at a Board meeting. Members discussed and will consider the recommendation.

#### **OLD HOSPITAL ROOF**

Mr. McKlarney presented information to members regarding a leak in the roof at the old hospital and will gather information for a return on investment statement. Members discussed options and decided to look at estimates on different types of roofing.

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

Mr. McKlarney related the public safety building is going to be a tremendous expense and will set back the ability to do many other projects. Mr. McCoy inquired about the cost for dispatch only, which would be significantly less. Members discussed state cuts with an increase of 7.6 percent in revenues at the state level.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 3:00 PM in the General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, Virginia.

APPROVED:

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Clerk