

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 6:30 PM, in the Giles County Administration Office, 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present unless noted absent:

Jeff Morris	Chair (Central District)
Richard McCoy	Vice-Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
Larry Jay Williams	Eastern District
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Western District
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Rhonda Tickle	Finance Director
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. Morris called the meeting to order, and Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the May 2, 2018, minutes as presented. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Williams

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kristen Corboy - Ms. Corboy expressed concerns with about inadequate funding of schools, health insurance costs, and losing teachers to other localities. She related some school staff cannot afford to insure spouses or children and stated these issues are an infrastructure issue. Ms. Corboy explained the schools desperately the staff to build a solid foundation and related how many teachers donate supplies, money, clothing and more to the students in need. She related various programs within the schools to assist students and families, noting these programs depend heavily on staff. Ms. Corboy indicated all school staff work to reach and serve each child who comes through the doors, and that they are all answerable to the students, families and communities. She stated the county deserves a strong school system.

Ms. Sonya Meekins – Ms. Meekins related the GEA has had several meetings since she had last addressed the Board and stated she remains committed to increase all school employee salaries by 12 percent to make them more in line with surrounding localities. She expressed concern to the impact on students and the lack of student resources. Ms. Meekins stated staff could not continue to be expected to do more and more with less and less. She requested increases on the vehicle assessment, an added meal tax, an increase of property taxes by 16 cents, and an increase in business taxes all to be earmarked for school staff salaries. Ms. Meekins requested members make a decision to increase revenue or go through the process of a referendum if

needed, noting the schools cannot continue with the way things are. She also requested members move the regular meeting to a later time in order to accommodate school staff work schedules allowing them to attend.

Mr. Baker related he had requested an increase in the gas tax in 2002 from Senator Edwards and nothing had been done. Ms. Meekins stated they should be voted out if they are not doing what they need to do. She stated the VEA is meeting with the state in Abingdon soon on a state issue.

Ms. Meekins questioned the pipeline use of Cascades Industrial Park and the amount paid. Mr. McKlarney stated the county will receive \$260,000 per year on the lease, and Ms. Meekins stated the amount should have been doubled and all should go toward school staff raises. She also questioned the amount that will be received from the pipeline once completed. Mr. McKlarney stated the amount will be set by the state but the estimate is \$1.1 million per year. Ms. Meekins stated all the revenues should go toward school staff raises. Mr. McKlarney related there are many different agencies within the county that also need funding. Mr. Morris related the revenue from the pipeline would be a year or so down the road, and the Board has tried continually to give raises.

Mr. McKlarney related he had been in touch with the school superintendent to try to set up a compensation committee. The committee would work to develop a plan that will get school staff salaries to where they need to be. He related the committee would include school staff representatives. Ms. Meekins referenced raises teachers received in Arizona and West Virginia. Mr. McCoy explained the states funded those raises, not the localities. Ms. Meekins expressed concern that less people are going into the teaching field and many are going to surrounding localities.

NEW BUSINESS

VDOT LAND USE RESOLUTION

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution relating to county land use of VDOT property. He explained the county is required to adopt a resolution in lieu of taking out a \$10,000 bond and recommended approval.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the VDOT Land Use Resolution as presented. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Williams

MOUNTAINS OF MISERY ROAD USE

Mr. McKlarney related a request had been received for road use on May 27, 2018, for the annual Mountains of Misery race, which would travel up to Mountain Lake. He indicated he had received no complaints from the activity in the past. Mr. Williams related he was not aware of any problems with this event.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve road use for the Mountains of Misery race as requested. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Williams

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$685,331.57. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris and Mr. Williams

SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve \$2,283,819.50 for June 2018 School Board Appropriations and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris and Mr. Williams

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Williams motioned to approve \$0 for Social Services for June 2018. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris and Mr. Williams

WORKFORCE

Mr. Williams related the workforce group had met and approved its budget for the following year.

RECESS

Mr. Morris noted it would be several minutes before time for public hearings and called a short recess.

Mr. Morris reconvened the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Morris opened the public hearings. Mr. Leon Law, Planning Commission Chair, called the Planning Commission to order. The following Planning Commission members were in attendance: Mr. Law, Mr. R. Browning, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Berckman, Mr. Baker, and Mr. B. Browning.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – MOUNTAIN LAKE LODGE

Mr. Ross stated he received a request for the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to section 802.04 and 601.05-21 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a Shooting Range, specifically to allow for a five-stand clays range as part of an existing hotel and recreation property, Mountain Lake Lodge. The property associated with this request is identified as tax parcel 31-1, is owned by Mary Moody Northern Endowment, Mountain Lake LLC, is located near 680 Golf Links Lane, Pembroke, Virginia which is the former Mountain Lake Golf Course, and is located in the C-1 Zoning District. He indicated Heidi Stone is acting as agent for this request and is available for questions. Ms. Stone introduced herself and stated that Mountain Lake has done very well for the past five years, and they are looking for additional means to increase their growth.

COMMENTS

Mr. Williams inquired about the hours of operation, and Ms. Stone stated seven days a week from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mr. Ross indicated that he received two letters of concern and one office visit by someone checking to see how close it would be to his property. Mr. Ross stated adjacent letters went out to the surrounding neighbors some of which were a mile away from this property.

Jeff Thomas - Mr. Thomas voiced concerns on behalf of his mother regarding traffic. Ms. Stone explained that everyone would be shuttled from the hotel; therefore, the traffic to the range would not increase. Mr. Thomas also had a concern with noise, and Mr. Baker explained the noise should not reach his mother's home. Mr. Thomas contended it cannot be proven if the noise would reach her home at this point and inquired about a contingency plan if it becomes a factor. He also questioned why the range would be open on Sundays. Mr. Baker indicated that hunting is allowed in the state of Virginia on Sunday.

Elizabeth Meredith - Ms. Meredith spoke in regards to safety issues. She asked if there would be supervision at all times at the shooting range, and Ms. Stone stated there would be trained staff at all times. She indicated they will have trained and experienced individuals coming in to train her staff and there will also be safety materials used at the range.

Roger Balarzs - Mr. Balarzs read a letter aloud regarding Mountain Lake Lodge's request to establish a shooting range on their former golf course, which is adjacent to his property. Mr. Balarzs explained after reviewing the packet of information he has several concerns. The first concern was the effect the shooting will have on the wildlife in the surrounding area. The second concern was in regard to noise level. Mr. Balarzs third question was regarding hunting season and if the shooting range would continue to remain open during that part of the period. His final concern is the use of alcohol while people are shooting. He feels that Mountain Lake has put in a lot of time and effort to cover all bases, and he wished them good success in their new venture.

Mr. Ross reiterated that all copies of written concerns were given to the Board of Supervisors as well as the Planning Commission for their consideration. With no further comments, Mr. Morris closed that portion of the public hearing and stated the subject will be forwarded back to the Planning Commission for further recommendations.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GILES COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE – SECTION 715 URBAN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Ross stated this is a proposed amendment to the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to add a new Section 715 “Urban Agriculture”. The proposed amendment would allow the keeping of up to six female chickens and keeping of honeybees in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4 zoning districts. Mr. Ross stated these must be as an accessory to a single-family dwelling. There would be a limitation of six hens with no roosters and up to two bee hives on any lot. On lots greater than a quarter of an acre, you may have additional hives provided that there is an additional 2,500 square feet of area per hive. With no further comments, Mr. Morris closed that portion of the public hearing and stated the subject will be forwarded back to the Planning Commission for further recommendations.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GILES COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE – SECTION 714.01 SHORT TERM DWELLING CLARIFICATION

Mr. Ross explained this is a proposed amendment to section 714.01 Giles County Zoning Ordinance to clarify what type of dwelling unit may be rented short term for less than 30 days. Mr. Ross stated this would add verbiage to the current definition. The addition would read as follows: “The type of dwelling unit to be rented must also be a legal (permitted use, approved conditional use, or existing non-conforming use) use in the district within which it is located.” With no further comments, Mr. Morris closed the public hearing and stated the subject will be forwarded back to the Planning Commission for further recommendations.

Mr. Law adjourned the Planning Commission. Mr. Ross related the next Planning Commission meeting to be held on May 22, 2018, at 5:00 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows:

Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris and Mr. Williams

Mr. McCoy motioned to return to open session and he certified that in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information act cited in that motion. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows:

Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris and Mr. Williams

BUDGET SESSION/TAX RATE DISCUSSION

Mr. McKlarney related members would need to meet prior to June 1, 2018, to discuss tax rates and the upcoming budget as well as the need for a public hearing. Members discussed various options.

Mr. Baker made a motion to advertise the public hearing keeping tax rates level with the exception of the tool tax to be set at \$1.98 with a 55 percent assessment. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Morris expressed concern with the need to keep pulling from reserve funds, noting \$400,00 for this year and at least that for the following year with a level tax rate. Members discussed anticipated revenue increases and the difficulty of developing a budget without a state budget. Mr. McCoy indicated levels should be about par against projections and the state needs to hold to its obligations.

The motion was approved 4-1 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, and Mr. Williams; Voting No: Mr. Morris

Members discussed the need to get the tax rates to the Treasurer's Office and indicated the due date would need to be moved to the end of June. They also discussed the need to get the public hearing notice to the paper to advertise the rates as well as the budget. Mr. Morris inquired about the need for HVAC work at the schools. Members discussed a study to be done, noting an RFP has not yet been issued.

Mr. McKlarney inquired about the wish of the Board regarding budget projections. Members discussed options and concurred the projections should be level funded. Ms. Tickle indicated there would need to be a few adjustments made.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. McCoy made a motion to hold a budget work session on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, beginning at 5:30 PM. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Williams

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors work session will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at 5:30 PM. The session will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk

May 17, 2018