

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, February 21, 2019, 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)
Larry Jay Williams	Vice-Chair (Eastern District)
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Western District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Catherine Ballard	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 February 6, 2019, minutes 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessica Gwaltney – Ms. Gwaltney related her story of how she became to be a teacher in Giles County Schools. She indicated she had interviewed in Giles and accepted a position, then received a call from Montgomery County with a job offer. Ms. Gwaltney stated she had decided to stay with Giles as she had already accepted the position and has now taught for 18 years with 11 being in Giles. She spoke of starting a family and wanting to raise her children in a place like Giles and discussed the decrease in student numbers and state funding. Ms. Gwaltney stated she had asked questions of teachers and stated 282 answers surrounded lack of compensation, benefits, insurance and a lack of respect for the profession. She shared that she is deeply concerned for the funding of schools and that morale is low. Ms. Gwaltney asked that Giles County be competitive with 2019 salaries, and what message members wanted to send to school employees.

Mr. Sam Wright - Mr. Wright stated he is a science teacher and coach at Narrows High School and his wife is a teacher at Giles. He indicated he wanted to be part of the county because of the values and he had helped over 1,100 students to graduate, noting celebrations and accomplishments of students as well as being with them during their darkest moments. Mr. Wright recounted being with the students during a lockdown and how he is a parent figure to some of his students. He conveyed how proud he is of being a teacher and student successes but was most proud that what he had done was

with a true sense of love for the students. Mr. Wright stated the future of Giles County is the youth and teachers are training them with less and less resources. He shared information regarding high test scores of the students and asked members to show the students they have an interest in their futures. Mr. Wright noted a five percent increase allocated by the state and asked members to fill in the void by matching state funding. He spoke of the ACCE program and indicated the program could not happen without the teachers.

Ms. Kristen Corboy – Ms. Corboy stated she chose to work in Giles when she had interviewed people in Giles County while attending Radford University regarding their attachment to the land and the heart and soul of the people had impressed her. She shared that she wanted her children to have the small-town experience and hometown values and related how teaching can be a very lonely job. Ms. Corboy related she had never doubted the care of her children by coworkers and also related the sense of being a team within the schools. She assured members other teachers had felt that as well but were still compelled to go elsewhere for work and stated she was worried the children would not have qualified teachers.

Ms. Kelley Ribbe – Ms. Ribbe stated she has been in Giles County for 19 years. She spoke of how much better the atmosphere is in Giles schools compared to others and how she believed the teachers here would make the same decisions for her children that she would make. Ms. Ribbe explained she had started teaching for \$31,000 per year and had one step increase since she started due to pay freezes as well as one year that teachers sacrificed an increase in order for teacher aides to receive an increase. She related how many of her students have a better standard of living and requested that members consider funding an increase for teachers.

OLD BUSINESS

EXTENSION REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney inquired if members had considered the request from the Extension Office for a summer intern. He reported the funds could be paid after the start of the new fiscal year and could be added into the budget.

Mr. Williams motioned to approve the request from the Extension Office to fund half of a summer intern position. 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

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 603.02-13 LIVESTOCK SALES

Mr. Morris opened the public hearing, and Mr. Leon Law, Chair, called the Planning Commission to order. The following Planning Commission members were in attendance: Mr. Law, Mr. Taylor, Mr. R. Browning, Mr. Snider, Mr. Pitzer, Mr. Berkman and Mr. Baker.

Mr. Ross stated the purpose of the public hearing is for a proposed amendment to the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to remove section 603.02-13 Livestock Sales from the list of permitted uses in the RRA-1 zoning district. Mr. Ross indicated that “Livestock Market” would be listed under the conditional use permit section in the RRA-1 zoning district.

Mr. Lawson wanted to confirm that the Narrows Livestock Market had been notified of the change. Mr. Ross stated it had not, but he would notify them.

With no further questions or comments, Mr. Morris closed the public hearing and stated it would be returned to the Commission for further recommendations. Mr. Law adjourned the Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW RIVER HEALTH DISTRICT

Dr. Noelle Bissett from the New River Health District updated members on two current health efforts. She reported one in two will contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI) by the age of 25, and related the United States leads industrialized nations in STIs at a cost of \$16 billion. Dr. Bissett related statistics on various infections and indicated all are treatable with most being curable. She reported the agency is making a big push for awareness and testing, noting many more are getting tested but not in Giles County.

Dr. Bissett also related information on addiction and stated everyone has been affected in one way or another. She reported addiction is a disease not a failing and indicated the agency has started a campaign titled “Addiction is Mine”. Dr. Bissett explained addiction often starts with tobacco and vaping use with some adding marijuana to those products, which increases the risk for moving on to other drugs. She reported methamphetamines are cheap and readily available in the area. Dr. Bissett spoke in favor of medically assisted treatment options and related information regarding harm reduction and the availability of naloxone for overdose treatment. She stated addiction is a crisis, costing the country \$500 million annually. Dr. Bissett stated the agency would like to get everyone together to have a conversation in May or June.

Mr. Williams inquired if the agency is working in the schools. Dr. Bissett indicated they are working in the schools, and the youth are affected and need help. Mr. McKlarney thanked Dr. Bissett for her support on the FOCUS team.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chidester reported the Agriculture Committee had met about the possibility of an ordinance regarding livestock running at large. He noted the committee would rather not have anything but is agreeable to the ordinance as provided. Mr. Chidester cited statute and related the penalties listed in the amendment, including a written warning, and civil penalties.

Mr. Williams made a motion to hold a public hearing in relation to the proposed ordinance to control livestock running at large as presented at the March 21, 2019 meeting. 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

FOSTER CARE

Mr. McKlarney reported the Community Policy Management Team subcommittee on foster care had met with a Montgomery County DSS representative. Montgomery County DSS Director, Larry Lindsey, has offered to share the agency foster care position to assist in the training and monitoring of Giles County foster families for the next year at a cost of \$5,000. Mr. McKlarney indicated significant potential savings with having local foster families and related Montgomery County has recently started the foster family process with seven Giles County families. Mr. Williams reported Montgomery County has 34 foster children, and only 2 are outside of their county.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve \$5,000 be paid to Montgomery County DSS to train and monitor Giles County foster families. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,626,864.33. 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

Mr. Williams inquired if the amount shown to Celanese would be the final one. Mr. McKlarney related it is the final year for the payment related to the Governor's Opportunity Fund agreement.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve \$2,369,951.67 for March 2019 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 \$123,000 for Social Services for March 2019. 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel, and (30) Contracts. 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

WATER

Mr. Williams reported bad water in the Clendennin area as well as Songer Town and other areas. He requested Mr. Kevin Belcher be allowed to search for funding in order to possibly expand water into other areas. Members discussed options on finding funding and various routes. Members concurred to allow Mr. Belcher to seek funding opportunities for water expansion.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk

February 21, 2019