

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County Administration Office, located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present unless noted absent.

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

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. McCoy 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 July 16, 2020, minutes as presented. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported maintenance performed by VDOT staff. He related dust control had been done on many roads that had been reported, and mowing on primary roads has been completed. Mr. Clarke indicated brush had been cut in several areas, and a pipe was replaced on Arch Eaton Road. He advised patching overlay and paving were being done on Route 460 west bound, and stated the upper lanes through the bluffs would be closed until the paving was done. VDOT will be keeping an eye on the outer edge to ensure nothing shifts, and it will continue to be a one lane when opened. Mr. Clarke requested a public hearing for the VDOT Six-Year Plan at the upcoming recess meeting, and advised Penvir Road is next on the plan, but the rest of the order could be changed if members so desired.

Mr. Baker reported brush cutting was needed on Apache Road and the Virginia Heights area, and a drain piped need cleaned out on Penvir Road near the old school. He also reported potholes on Big Stony Creek Road, and along Route 460 from Newport to Glen Lyn, noting a large one near Ripplemead. Mr. Lawson thanked VDOT for getting the brush cutting started and inquired about the rough spot on Route 460. Mr. Clarke indicated they are looking at it and are not sure of the cause yet. Mr. Martin related a drain pipe issue on Cascade Drive, and one on Orchard Hill Lane as well. Mr. McCoy stated a good job was done on cleaning the drain pipes out on Route 605 and inquired

about Route 460 only having one lane open through the bluffs. Mr. Clarke indicated it was to make sure there is no settling, and it will be closed again if it starts to settle and another solution would be found. He advised the wall would need time, and the geotech people are concerned. Mr. McCoy stated that is a major way through the county, and he cannot imagine going through there with one lane. He advised it needs to be fixed, and the closing hurts travel through the county. Mr. Clarke indicated VDOT is looking for a long-term solution.

Members of the audience expressed their desire to have speed bumps installed on Woodland Drive and Mercer Road in Rich Creek. They related information on people traveling through at a high rate of speed using the street as a through fare into Peterstown, which put residents and children at risk of injury or death. Mr. Clarke related various ways in which VDOT can instill traffic calming in an area, and it is up to law enforcement to enforce the posted speed, or it is up to people to follow the speed limit. He indicated the speed bumps would be a hinderance to snow removal, and such an installation would come out of the county's secondary budget. Mr. Baker inquired what Mr. Clarke recommended. Mr. Clarke stated he advised stronger enforcement. Members of the audience requested a speed limit lowered to 15 miles per hour if speed bumps could not be installed, and related one officer could not be on that road at all times. Mr. Clarke explained VDOT does not post any speed limits under 15 miles per hour unless it is for safe speed through curves. Members of the audience suggested speed bumps that could be removed in the winter months. Mr. Clarke outlined the procedure for traffic calming, and related there would need to be a study and a public hearing. He reiterated the money would have to come out of the county's secondary funds. Members discussed options. People from the audience stated there is another way to if the people in the area agree. Mr. Clarke stated the procedure requires a study and a public hearing. Mr. McCoy advised the county could not tell VDOT to put speed bumps in as the road belongs to them, and the Board would have to receive a recommendation from VDOT. Members discussed more options. Mr. McKlarney inquired if safe speed signs could be posted in the curves. Mr. Clarke indicated he would get signs installed in the curves.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to move forward with a study on Woodland Drive. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

Mr. Baker reported there is rock getting near the road on Route 42 in the White Gate area near the old fire department, and gravel is needed on Curve Road near where the last culvert was installed. Mr. McKlarney thanked Mr. Clarke with his help on the getting approval on the crossover on Route 460 and his help with getting the trees cut. Mr. Reed reported a resident getting a lot of runoff on Carrie Lane.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast stated he could not give much of an update, but they are making plans for the upcoming year, with students to start on August 24th and teachers on August 17th.

He advised the return to learning plan was sent in last Thursday, and there is a School Board meeting in the evening with Dr. Noelle Bissell to attend from the New River Health District. Dr. Arbogast related this was the last day for the school feeding program, serving 278,840 meals, and commended staff for their work on the program. Mr. McCoy inquired about when the A/B schedule would be posted. Dr. Arbogast anticipates it will be posted by Friday. Mr. McCoy inquired if the scheduling could be changed if needed. He related he is hearing concerns that grandparents are keeping children that might not reside in the same household, and it could cause scheduling issues. Dr. Arbogast indicated parents would have to contact the principal of the school, but it might not be easy to change. Mr. McCoy inquired about computers, adding he would really like to get them to students that need them. Dr. Arbogast related devices would be picked up the week of August 17th.

OLD BUSINESS

RIVER CLEAN UP

Mr. McKlarney reported the county would like to go ahead with the annual river clean up on August 29th, but the volunteers would be limited to 80 people on the water. He advised the clean up would start at Hale's Landing and go to Camp Success, and bagged lunches would be provided. Mr. McKlarney indicated social distancing would be maintained on the buses, and staff contact with volunteers would be limited. He related there would also be a virtual aspect to the clean up and outlined some of the details.

Mr. Morris made a motion to move forward with the annual river clean up event. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

ACCE RACE

Mr. McKlarney indicated there had been a lot of discussion regarding holding the ACCE Race, but he did not see a way that it can happen with COVID restrictions. He proposed holding a haunted trail at Castle Rock for three nights prior to Halloween, and people would pay to walk the trail, in which the students will participate. He stated the majority of the funds raised from the ACCE Race came from sponsorships and business donations; however, he hopes to generate funds through participation on the haunted trail. Mr. McKlarney advised there would also be a haunted 5K night run at Castle Rock; and with the events being outdoors, the chance of transmission is small.

Mr. Baker made a motion to move forward with the ACCE haunted trail event. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

NEW BUSINESS

PEMBROKE FESTIVAL

Mr. McKlarney advised the Town of Pembroke had sent a request for street closures during the annual festival on September 19, 2020.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve street closures for the Pembroke festival as requested. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

WATER BILLING

Mr. McKlarney related there had been a question of resuming water cut offs, and members could consider the information and decide at the next meeting.

FY 2021 FIRE FUND

Mr. McKlarney presented the proposed disbursement of FY 2021 fire program funds. He related the formula had not been changed with \$5,000 going to each three departments not associated with towns, and the remainder divided equally among all eight departments.

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve the fire fund disbursement as presented, with required audits prior to disbursement. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

CLENDENNIN WATER

Mr. McKlarney reported the LMI is going to be over 60 percent for the Clendennin water project, which will make it eligible for a DHCD grant application. He indicated the application would be strong and requested approval to move forward with having a discussion with DHCD.

Mr. Baker made a motion to move forward with discussing funding with DHCD for the Clendennin Water Project. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

MVP

Mr. Martin stated he had received information that MVP would be increasing the capacity of the gas in the pipeline using the existing pipes, and expressed his concern about the increase. He requested staff reach out to MVP for details on what this is, to include safety and impact on the communities. Mr. McKlarney related Mr. John Ross

has already started the process, and Mr. Chidester had indicated such significant changes would most likely need to be approved by FERC.

SKELTON CENTER

Mr. McCoy related he had received a request from the Skelton Center for a portion of COVID funding. He indicated the center had requested funding from surrounding localities as well, and he wanted to move it to the Board to see if they had any interest in moving some CARES Act funding. Mr. McCoy indicated Pulaski had responded with \$6,500 in funding. Members discussed the request. Mr. Martin inquired how Virginia Tech was involved with the center. Mr. McCoy advised the center falls under Virginia Tech, but the center has always served Giles County kids. Members discussed services provided by the center. Mr. Morris requested additional information.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Martin inquired how CARES Act funding tied into child care. Mr. McKlarney advised funds are available for individual agencies, and the capacity is not here to handle all the need. He stated he had spoken with a couple of agencies, and related plans of one center to expand in hopes of additional spots.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve one set of warrants in the amount of \$59,234.50, and Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

Mr. Baker motioned to approve a second set of warrants in the amount of \$1,200,418.32, and Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711, A (7) Legal Counsel, and (30) Contracts. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 by rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

Mr. Morris 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 by rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

RESOLUTION

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution in support of the New River Valley Taskforce campaign in order to have consistency across the region. A copy of the resolution is attached at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approved the resolution as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair**ATTEST:**

Clerk

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE’S COMMUNITY WELLNESS COMMITMENT

WHEREAS, the New River Public Health Task Force – comprised of officials from local health, public safety, education, and government agencies – has been working for months to provide residents and communities with effective guidance about COVID-19 and other infectious diseases;

WHEREAS, the Task Force is asking the community to pledge to continue to care for the health and well-being of others by personally adopting a Community Wellness Commitment, which reads as follows:

- We will affirm our commitment to the safety, health, and well-being of our campuses and local communities.
- We will affirm that we will support the mental well-being of all community members.
- We will wear face coverings/masks in public areas.
- We will practice physical distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from others.
- We will practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing and covering coughs or sneezes.
- We will stay home and avoid public spaces when not feeling well.
- We will contact our health care provider or an urgent care facility if we believe we are sick or have been exposed to the coronavirus.
- We will support but avoid contact with those who are sick.
- We will follow public health guidelines and medical recommendations to be tested and self-isolate as necessary.
- We will make a list of all others with whom we have had close contact, if necessary, to aid in contact-tracing efforts.

WHEREAS, the Giles County has been an active member of the New River Public Health Task Force and continues to support the Task Force’s ongoing initiatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Giles County Board of Supervisors asks all residents and businesses to consider taking the Community Wellness Commitment and to remain vigilant when it comes to the health and safety of yourself and others. Be committed. Be well.

The undersigned clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Giles, hereby certifies that the resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on August 5, 2020, by the Board of Supervisors with the following votes:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P. Baker	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
J. Lawson	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
P. Martin	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
R. McCoy	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
J. Morris	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>



 Chris McKlarney, Clerk