FOIA TRAINING

Prior to the meeting being called to order, a FOIA training session was conducted by the county attorney with the following members in attendance: Mr. McCoy, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Morris. The training began at 2:00 PM and concluded at 2:45 PM.

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, September 2, 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

A quorum of the Board of Supervisors was physically assembled in the Board of Supervisors meeting room. Mr. Martin participated in the meeting electronically at his request due to being out of town. His voice was able to be heard by all persons in attendance at the location of the meeting.

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 August 20, 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 culverts cleaned out, two slides cleaned, and shoulders fixed on Rocky Hollow. Mr. Clarke reported a top lane open on Route 460 through the bluffs, with brush cutting to begin at the crossover area to begin soon. He also reported brush cutting being started in anticipation of school buses, and he provided a printout of requirements for traffic calming in Rich Creek. Mr. Clarke advised it would be quite a bit to go through and signage might be a better route.

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Mr. Baker reported brush cutting was needed on Apache Road, and a drain pipe needed cleaned out on Penvir Road near the old school. He noted a good job on the patching of Route 460, and advised work needs done on Route 61 on the right shoulder. Mr. Lawson inquired about the status of the drain pipe in Narrows, and Mr. Clarke indicated he would find out. Mr. Lawson inquired about the paving on Route 460, and Mr. Clarke indicated painting still needs done adding the pavement is a latex overlay. Mr. Lawson reminded VDOT the surveying still needs to be completed on Penvir Road.

Mr. Martin requested an update on Winding Way. Mr. Clarke indicated he would be having a call on it that afternoon. Mr. Martin requested dust treatment for Orchard Hill Drive and inquired if there was a possibility of safety funds for Hiram Jones Lane. Mr. Clarke advised some maintenance work could be done to fix some of the drainage issues. He also related he would be submitting a draft resolution for consideration on the six year plan. Mr. Martin inquired about the status of the Cascade Drive intersection. Mr. Clarke reported he had a meeting with the town, and the traffic engineer is looking at what can be done. Mr. McIlrane related he had been talking with VDOT about potential options on Sky View Lane.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,244 students, this is a decrease of 22 from the budgeted number. Dr. Arbogast reported approximately 25 percent of the students are attending school completely virtual, and they are working on getting air cards out to students. He indicted teachers would be on the look out for students who might also have a need for air cards.

Mr. McCoy inquired how the schools are handling issues with Virtual Virginia or login issues. Dr. Arbogast indicated they schools will be setting up an email account designated for those issues and possibly a phone number to call that will be designated as a help line.

OLD BUSINESS

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENSION

Mr. McIlrane reported the previously adopted ordinance regarding changes to public meeting and public hearing practices is set to expire soon. He advised a public hearing would need to be set in order to extend the ordinance and suggested it be held at the upcoming recess meeting.

Mr. Baker made a motion to hold a public hearing regarding the extension of the emergency ordinance on September 17, 2020. 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

September 2, 2020
NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION FOR THE EXTENSION OF CRF DEADLINES

Mr. McKlarney presented a proposed resolution to support the extension of the expenditure deadline for the Coronavirus Relief Fund. He related all funds are required to be expended by December 30, 2020. A copy of the resolution is attached at the end of these minutes.

*Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the resolution 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*

PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. McKlarney reported there are currently five employees pending test results, and there had been an increase in numbers throughout the New River Valley. He indicated the numbers are starting to come down in Radford, and numbers are expected to return to normal in late September or early October.

Mr. McKlarney reported the business continuity team is extremely busy and has had a lot of businesses making contact. He related the receipt of $1.7 million for the business resiliency grant to be used across the New River Valley, and $550,000 received for the business continuity team, both which came through DHCD.

CASTLE ROCK/WELLNESS CENTER

Mr. McKlarney provided final FY 20 numbers for Castle Rock and the Wellness Center. Members discussed the numbers and management of Castle Rock.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Mr. McKlarney requested a meeting between the Board and the Industrial Development Authority prior to the upcoming recess meeting in order to discuss the New Market Tax Credit Program and what members would like to see happen with the project at Wheatland.

*Mr. Baker motioned to set a work session with the IDA on September 17, 2020, beginning at 5:00 PM. 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*

PERSONNEL

Mr. Chidester provided information to members on the payroll tax holiday enacted by the President. He related the program would allow for employees not to pay FICA at a
rate of 6.2 percent through the end of December. Mr. Chidester warned the employee would have to pay the taxes after the first of the year unless they are approved to be permanently forgiven, which is unknown at this time. He advised the burden would fall on the employer to collect that money after the first of the year. Members discussed options and possible issues. Members concurred that more information was needed in order to make a decision.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of $862,031.94, 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

SCHOOL MEETING

Mr. McKlarney reported on the meeting held earlier in the day with the School Board. He related there had been 2,281 students at the end of the previous school year, the schools had budgeted with 2,265 students, and the current enrollment is at 2,244. Mr. McKlarney stated the schools had lost 26 students to Jefferson Christian Academy and lost 32 students to homeschooling. He summarized some school financials, and indicated the numbers should put the county in a reasonable spot going forward. Mr. McKlarney indicated the schools would be requesting carryover to be put in a fund to add in case of shortfall in the next 16 to 18 months.

TRASH TAX

Mr. Baker inquired about the trash tax. Mr. Chidester related the item is going back to the general assembly, and there is a potential for legislation in the next session.

CLENDENNIN WATER

Mr. Kevin Belcher reported he had met with Thompson and Litton regarding the Clendennin water project. He related they are discussing options on Route 460 in the slide area.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2020, with a work session to begin at 5:00 PM and the recess meeting to begin 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 OF SUPPORT FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF)

WHEREAS, the Giles County Board of Supervisors represents the interest and has the mission to assist in addressing the needs of the residents of Giles County; and

WHEREAS, the current and ongoing public health emergency continues to inflict dire health effects and devastating economic impacts upon the residents and communities throughout Giles County; and

WHEREAS, the payments from the CRF are essential to cover the necessary expenditures incurred by local governments due to the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, there are no indications the pandemic is abating or will begin to subside in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the federally designated end date for allowable necessary expenditures is December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, S. 4318 (the American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act) relates to the CRF portion of the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protections & Schools Act and extends the CRF deadline to 90 days beyond the last day of a government’s fiscal year and expands the allowable uses of relief payments to include revenue shortfalls.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Giles County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare its support for, and strongly recommends the passage of S. 4318 the American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act and the extension of the federally designated end date for allowable necessary expenditures until 90 days after the last day of the State or government fiscal year for 2021.

FURTHERMORE, the Giles County Board of Supervisors requests S. 4318 include an allocation of increased funding for local governments and flexibility for the use of those funds to include revenue replacement and planning of long-term, high-impact projects for resiliency and recovery.

Passed on this 2nd day of September 2020.

Richard K. McCoy, Chair

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