

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, December 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) – Absent
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. Lawson 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 November 17, 2020, minutes as presented. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Mr. Martin presented a plaque and cup for the recognition of volunteer service to Mr. Larry Greene. Mr. Martin outlined the volunteer efforts of Mr. Green and thanked him for his service.

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported maintenance performed by VDOT staff. He related staff has gotten equipment ready for winter weather and reported work on mowing and secondary roads. He advised work was done on the shoulders of Big Stony Creek Road and Route 100, and a pipe was put in on Hiram Jones Road. Mr. Clarke indicated VDOT is working on the speed limits in the residential area in Rich Creek, and he is trying to have a phone call meeting with the towns but plans to meet with Pembroke separately. He stated VDOT had been in contact with Mr. Perkins a couple of times regarding the issue on Mutter Lane. Mr. Baker inquired about the suggestion for Mr. Perkins to move his fence and related the fence had cost \$23,000 to put in. He expressed his displeasure at the suggestion and advised the neighbor should have been made to put in a drain pipe just as others are required to do. Mr. Clarke stated it might have been done without a permit and will check on it, but the water would come down on someone else if it was moved to the other side. Mr. Baker told Mr. Clarke he

needs to go look at the site, and the issue at the Albert residence on Penvir Road has also not been touched.

Mr. Clarke advised materials are being obtained for the Newport bridge, and VDOT is working with property owners in relation to the Snidow Street bridge. He stated Winding Way continues to be closed, but snow will be pushed during the winter for entrances.

Mr. Martin related he had talked with the fire department and they will not take certain trucks on Hiram Jones Road due to width issues, and inquired about any small changes that could be made for the Cascades Drive intersection. He advised no one likes the flashing yellow lights. Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for the work done on Penvir Road after the recent rain storm that washed it out.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast stated there are currently 2,239 students, which is a increase of 2 from last month and a decrease of 51 from the same time last year. He advised an ADM count of 2,265 was used for the budget, and a preliminary budget from the state is expected the week of December 16th. He provided numbers on virtual students, and stated kindergarten through third grades had returned to school four days per week.

OLD BUSINESS

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

REQUESTED REZONING PARCEL 43-155 – C. HOPPER

Mr. John Ross presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission for the approval of rezoning of a portion of tax parcel 43-155, approximately 10 acres, from the B-2 (General Business) zoning district to the R-1 (Residential Limited) zoning district. This property is accessed by Green Tree Road and borders Virginia Avenue, US 460 East. Mr. Ross indicated he had received no additional comments since the public hearing.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the rezoning of the listed parcel as recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT – PARCEL 43-155

Mr. John Ross presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission for the approval of an amendment to the Giles County Comprehensive Plan to change the Future Land Use Map designation of a portion of tax parcel 43-155, approximately 10 acres, from the commercial designation to the residential designation. This property is accessed by Green Tree Road and borders Virginia Avenue, US 460 East.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the comprehensive plan amendment as recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

NEW BUSINESS

2021 COUNTY HOLIDAYS

Mr. McKlarney presented proposed holidays for 2021, noting the county used the same calendar as the state in the past. He explained the state had adopted “Juneteenth” as a holiday as well as election day, which makes it difficult with so many employees being required to work on election day.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the 2021 county holiday schedule as presented. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Lawson inquired if this would result in a policy change. Mr. McKlarney explained the employee handbook would need to be revised to reflect the new schedule. Mr. Martin inquired if the schedule would affect the schools. Mr. McKlarney explained the schools have a separate holiday schedule.

COUNTY STIPEND

Mr. McKlarney related the School Board had approved a \$1,000 stipend for all staff and outlined the cost for county employees. He recommended a \$1,000 stipend for all county employees with the exception of sworn officers and custodians, for which he recommended a \$1,500 to \$2,000 stipend.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve stipends for county employees as recommended. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Discussion: Members discussed the cost and amounts and concurred the amounts should be stated in the motion. Mr. Lawson inquired if the cost for the officers would come from CARES funds and if there would be enough savings in the budget to cover the remainder. Mr. McKlarney advised there would be enough savings and stated state comp board positions were provided a \$500 stipend through the state.

Mr. Baker amended his motion to approve a \$1,000 stipend for county employees and a \$2,000 stipend for sworn officers and custodians as recommended. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

SEPTAGE AGREEMENT

Mr. McKlarney reported a renewal had been received from Pepper's Ferry Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority for septage treatment. He advised this is the only facility in the region, and there were no proposed changes in the agreement.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the renewal of the septage agreement as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOLUTION

Mr. John Ross presented a resolution from Franklin County, which requests that DEQ reevaluate plans for MVP. He related the E&S plans had already been approved by DEQ. Members requested additional information.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,138,659.03, and Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Morris made a motion to reappoint Mr. Paul Baker to the New River Resource Authority, the Planning Commission, and as an alternate to the Public Service Authority. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Baker; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Alan Leet to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Kevin Belcher to the Fairview Homes Board. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Morris made a motion to reappoint Mr. Perry Martin to the New River/Mount Rogers Career Works Consortium. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Martin; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin stated he had someone in mind that had expressed an interest in sitting on the New River Valley Airport Commission and related information on the individual. Mr. Morris advised he would check with the individuals already serving in that capacity.

Mr. Baker made a motion to reappoint Mr. John Lawson to the Summit Place Board. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Lawson; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker made a motion to reappoint Mr. Jeff Morris to the Social Services Board. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Martin; Abstaining: Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Jay Williams to the Public Service Authority as a county representative. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Morris motioned to reappoint Mr. Richard McCoy to the NRV Regional Commission. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Members discussed the Giles Races opening, and Mr. McKlarney advised he would check to see if it was still in operation.

FEEDING AMERICA

Mr. McKlarney related a Feeding America Southwest Virginia food distribution would be conducted on December 4th beginning at 1:00 PM and invited members to attend. He indicated the Christian Mission would be involved as well.

HOSPITAL BED AVAILABILITY

Mr. Martin inquired about how the hospitals were doing with the increased COVID cases. Mr. McKlarney indicated none of the hospitals are doing good on bed availability, and related information on case numbers. He advised bed capacity is limited, but the hospitals are doing well coordinating with one another.

COMMUNITY HOTSPOTS

Mr. Larry Greene inquired about the planned installation of a hotspot at Newport. Mr. Ross related it is being worked on and should be completed soon.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Vice-Chair**ATTEST:**

Clerk