At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County Administration Building located at 315 N. Main Street, Pearisburg, the following members were present unless noted absent.

Richard McCoy    Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
Paul “Chappy” Baker   Vice-Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
Jeff Morris      Central District
Perry Martin    Eastern District
John C. Lawson, Jr.   Western District
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 March 18, 2021, 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 with VDOT gave an update on maintenance work in the county. He noted patching on the turn lane on Route 460 at Newport, surfacing completed on the footbridge at Newport, work done on Goodwin’s Ferry, pipe and ditching done on Mutter Lane, pipework on Brickyard Road, and litter pick up. Mr. Clarke reported work being done on the school bus turn around at Cave Hill. He stated he had a call in to the Salem office to get paperwork and environmental done on Skyview in order for the project to be locally administered. Mr. Clarke indicated he had ridden on Hiram Jones trying to think of what can be done on the road. He suggested there could be some spot widening that might be possible as was done on Hilltop Road. Mr. Martin indicated landowners were willing to work with VDOT along Hiram Jones. Mr. Clarke stated the paving schedule has been completed and will send it out, and said some patching had been done on Route 635, however, there was still some work to do there.

Mr. Baker stated Route 635 is rough near White Rocks, and requested shoulder repair on Stateline Road. He reiterated the issue on Penvir Road at the Albert residence and noted potholes on Route 61 all the way to the Bland County line. Mr. Morris inquired about tree work on Hilltop. Mr. Clarke advised he had talked to the tree guy, which has one on Hilltop and another on New Zion. Mr. Baker reported a red oak that is coming across the road on Wilburn Valley. Mr. Lawson reported potholes on Route 675 and the pavement pulling away from the bridge as well as potholes on the paved part of Penvir
Road. He also stated he had received a call from Mr. Pennington and did not know what else could be done on Glory Lane.

Mr. Martin expressed appreciation for the work done on the foot bridge and school bus sign and reported the potholes on Route 460 and in the turning lane are a continued concern. He inquired about paving on Eggleston Road, and Mr. Clarke advised paving would be done on Eggleston Road from Route 460 for approximately 5.5 miles. Mr. Martin reported culvert issues on Cascade Drive, Bluegrass Trail and Orchard Hill as well as a drain issue on Virginia Avenue. He reported bicyclists riding on Route 42 to Mill Dam and asked for any kind of safety efforts to alert drivers. Mr. McCoy inquired if Route 460 is on the paving schedule. Mr. Clarke indicated it is not on the upcoming schedule. Mr. McCoy advised the road is only going to get worse and needs to be paved from Route 42 through to Maybrook. Mr. Clarke advised there is not a lot of room for change the way the schedule works. Mr. McKlarney inquired if the crossover at Rich Creek could be paved while the crew is there. Mr. Clarke stated it is not on the schedule for this round but would get done. Mr. McKlarney reported a culvert issue on Route 61 at Penvir Road.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,235 students, which a decrease of 5 from last year. He indicated there are 522 students attending school virtually full time, and the estimated ADM number was at 2,230 but was yet to be submitted. Mr. McCoy inquired about the ADM number used for the current year. Dr. Arbogast state he thought it was somewhere around 2,261.

Dr. Arbogast recognized Tech Center students for honors received at the HOSA leadership conference as well as the swim team and other sports teams in alternate seasons. He indicated the school system was pleased to have Governor Northam come to the area recently to visit the schools.

NEW BUSINESS

APRIL RECESS MEETING

Mr. McKlarney stated the recess meeting as scheduled would be held the following week and recommended to move the meeting date to April 22nd. He also indicated a draft budget has been prepared and suggested having a budget session either before or following the recess meeting.

Mr. Morris made a motion to move the recess meeting to April 22, 2021, with a budget work session to be held starting at 4:00 PM prior to the meeting. 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
LOANS

Mr. McKlarney advised loans are at historic lows and anticipates there could be cost savings to pursue new bonds. He requested members allow him to start the process of working with Davenport and indicated the bonds would be looked at with the same terms but at a lower rate.

Mr. Baker made a motion to allow Davenport to prepare a debt analysis report. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of $1,319,900.41, 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

SUPPLEMENTS

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve FY 2021 supplements in the amount of $452,600.74, and Mr. Baker seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. McCoy inquired about the tourism reimbursement. Ms. Ballard indicated the funds had come in from other localities. Mr. McKlarney indicated the grant was being done on a regional basis.

The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy, and Mr. Morris

A copy of the supplements is attached at the end of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT

Mr. McKlarney reported Montgomery County has requested the business resiliency grant be opened up to the Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford and indicated DHCD had no issues with expanding to include them. Member concurred they had no issue with including them in the grant.

CLENDENNIN WATER

Mr. Kevin Belcher provided six options for running waterline on Clendennin and outlined potential connection to existing water lines. He went over scenarios and cost as well as some costs he thought had been estimated too high. Mr. Belcher requested members allow him to talk to funding agencies, such as FCAP and DHCD, and allow for the use of force account. Mr. McCoy inquired how far the line would go. Mr. Belcher related the water would be run almost to Pocahontas Road and expansion could be considered if there was interest shown in the future. Members concurred to seek funding.

April 7, 2021
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (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

SIX YEAR PLAN

Mr. Martin inquired when the public hearing for the six-year plan would be held. Mr. McKlarney stated he thought it was May 20th but would check to make sure.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 6:30 PM, with a budget work session to be held beginning at 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

______________________________
Chair

ATTEST:

______________________________
Clerk

April 7, 2021
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