

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, October 6, 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 September 16, 2021, 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; Abstaining: Mr. McCoy

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on recent maintenance efforts in the county. He reported workers were getting things ready for winter, and the department would be hiring local equipment as well. Mr. Clarke related work done on various gravel roads, patching on Route 460 and Virginia Heights, and stated the paperwork is in place for the county to begin the work on Sky View. He indicated paving work was going on in the county and the crossover on Route 460 is scheduled to be paved next week.

Mr. Baker expressed appreciation for the work done on Big Stoney Creek and Virginia Heights and reported potholes coming into Pearisburg as well as on the Ripplemead ramps. Mr. Lawson thanked VDOT for the patching on Route 219 and reminded him of the lines that need repainted on Glory Lane. He inquired if everything is signed for the Sky View project. Mr. Clarke stated he would follow up to make sure. Mr. Martin reported sidewalk damage near the Subway in Pembroke and requested school bus stop signs near 494 and 463 Mountain Lake Road. He inquired about the procedure for damage done by pipeline trucks. Mr. Clarke indicated the pipeline company is working under a permit and is supposed to fix any damage. He stated he will send the permit people to take a look at the issues. Mr. Martin related he had received two complaints over heavy equipment running vehicles off the road and indicated pilot vehicles are inconsistent. He advised there should be something to keep people from coming into the area of the road where equipment is making wide turns in the curves. Mr. Martin

reiterated the need for something to be done to improve the safety at the intersection of Route 460 and Cascade Drive if the opportunity for funding comes through, and work on the ditches is needed on Orchard Hill.

Mr. Adam Robertson – Mr. Robertson stated he lives on Orchard Hill Lane and requested work done on the ditches, which he indicated are very deep, as well as a drain pipe at his neighbor's location that has never been cleaned out. He related information on the issue with vehicles passing on the road and requested widening where possible. Mr. Robertson stated the road is very dusty.

Mr. McCoy reported a hole left where a drain pipe that was installed on Route 605 near the community center, and stated there are two ash trees and a dead oak in that same area that need to be cut.

Mr. Jay Williams – Mr. Williams inquired about the brush cutting needed on Route 635. Mr. Clarke stated a crew is supposed to be working on it. Mr. Williams indicated a crew had been up there one time and has not been back. He expressed concern about understaffing in Giles County, and Giles is supposed to have 18 people according to the Salem Office, adding there are currently 13. Mr. Williams inquired if people were going to be hired. Mr. Clarke provided information on cut backs and impacts on the department. Mr. Williams inquired why Montgomery and Floyd counties have spent over \$20 million each and Giles County is about half of that amount, and why every other county has gotten over \$1 million more in paving than Giles. He stated the brush is a disgrace, noting the danger with increased truck traffic. Mr. Clarke stated the crew is working on brush.

Ms. Jeannie Dudding – Ms. Dudding inquired about VDOT policy for kudzu in right of way. Mr. Clarke indicated nothing is done with it unless it encroaches on the roads.

Mr. McCoy inquired if the jail is starting to send out inmates for work crews. Mr. McKlarney stated some had been sent out to help with the ACCE Race. Mr. Chidester advised the jail was not letting any pretrial inmates out, but they will be looking at sending some out again. He indicated the jail does not have enough inmates to cover its in-house work due to low numbers. Mr. McCoy inquired if the inmate agreement could be reinstated or if the county would have to go through the entire process again. Mr. Clarke stated he would have to check to make sure it is in place. Mr. McCoy recommended it might be worth while working some overtime to get the brush cut.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,192 students, which a decrease of 19 from the end of last month and a decrease of 49 from the same time last year. Mr. Baker inquired about the cause of the decline. Dr. Arbogast indicated some are being lost to home schooling, adding there are 2,290 that are non-residential virtual students not being counted in that number. He reported on recent presentations done in the schools and related work on the track had been completed. Dr. Arbogast also reported the work on the tennis courts will not be started

until spring. He announced the Giles High School golf team had won the regionals and will be competing at the state level next week, and a bus driver class would be starting on the weekend. Dr. Arbogast advised parent-teacher conferences would be held next week, and thanked members for their support with the ACCE program.

Mr. Jay Williams related the Workforce program had reached out to the Tech Center to try to get a truck driver class set up, and indicated the program had offered to pay for an instructor as well as compensate the students of the class while attending. Dr. Arbogast stated he would look into it.

NEW BUSINESS

EXTENSION REPORT

Ms. Jeannie Layton-Dudding updated members on activities at the Extension Office including 4H, FCS, and agriculture. She indicated the office had found a way to adapt the programming during COVID, and she had been able to make more visits to the farms during this time. Ms. Dudding provided information on programs conducted with the Focus families as well as the Women in Agriculture grant. She stated there would be a fall exhibit for the 4H program where students could bring arts, crafts, hobbies and other items for exhibit. Ms. Dudding related information on various research plots and showed a video to members that would be broadcast on PBS, which highlighted Giles County. She indicated the summer intern had done a wonderful job.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$2,034,875.99, 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 (3) Property, (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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR REDISTRICTING

Mr. Morris made a motion to set a public hearing for the October recess meeting for an ordinance to reestablish the existing election districts for the county. 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021, 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