

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 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.

Jeff Morris	Chair (Central District)
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Vice-Chair (Western District)
Perry Martin	Eastern District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
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. Morris 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 February 16, 2023, minutes as presented. 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

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on maintenance within the county including pothole patching on Virginia Heights and Route 219 as well as some brush cutting and working of the gravel roads. He reported a pipe replaced on Hiram Jones Road.

Mr. Baker reported work order 1605085 that has been outstanding for quite a while and potholes on Big Stony Creek Road, on Route 460 at the intersection of Clendennin Road and on the Route 460 ramps. Mr. McCoy requested machining on Kow Camp Road and trees cut on Spruce Run. Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for all the recent work the crew has gotten done and noted an email relating to North Street in Rich Creek. He inquired if there are any funds set aside for the low water bridges in the county. Mr. Clarke advised some are considered structures and some are not; those that are not are maintained by the local office. Mr. Reed reported there was no debris on the bridge at Trivett Farm Road when he was there recently. Mr. Lawson stated the one at Bane is going to be an ongoing problem as well.

Mr. Martin reported potholes on Hiram Jones Road near the intersection of Eggleston Road and request lines painted on portions of Eggleston Road and Doe Creek where they have faded. He inquired about the status of the speed request on Hidden Hills. Mr. Clarke stated he would have to check on it. Mr. Martin related guidance is still needed at 278 Bluegrass trail on the drain pipe and inquired if the mowing schedule would be

modified if the weather stays warm. Mr. Clarke advised it would depend on the budget. Mr. Morris expressed appreciation for all the work recently done by the department. Mr. Lawson reported the Rich Creek Fire Department had come to a recent meeting to request a lowered speed limit on Route 460 through both intersections into the town. Mr. McKlarney inquired about the status of the brush cutting with a county crew. Mr. Clarke stated he would have to check.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Garnet Darnell – Mr. Darnell expressed concerns over the conditions of the road in front of the lime plant and asked if anything could be done to clean up the road. He noted lime dust getting on everyone's vehicles and water running out in the middle of the road. Mr. McKlarney inquired if he had spoken with anyone at the plant. Mr. Darnell stated he had not. Mr. McKlarney advised he would be glad to talk with them, and they are usually very responsive. Mr. Baker indicated the biggest problem is at the clock in house.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Mr. McKlarney updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,195 students, which is a decrease of 1 from the previous report. He stated a meeting with the school board was held earlier, and it went well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ed Coffey – Mr. Coffey made a presentation relating to the balloon tests in Eggleston earlier in the day. He noted the two test sites and stated he wanted to make sure to present his case since another public hearing is not required. Mr. Baker indicated site one was turned down. Mr. Ross advised the site one application is still pending and was not pulled. Mr. Coffey showed both test sites with various pieces of information such as distance and related his intent is to show test site two is better. He went over zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan items relating to communication towers and showed a decrease in properties within 1,500 feet with site two. Mr. Coffey related site two has the least impact to the neighborhood and encouraged members to vote no on site one.

NEW BUSINESS

MR. TOM PITZER

Mr. McKlarney reported Mr. Tom Pitzer had resigned from the Planning Commission and recommended inviting him to the next meeting for recognition. Members concurred.

PASSENGER RAIL SUPPORT LETTER

Mr. McKlarney related he had received a request for a letter of support of an ARC grant application for the Passenger Rail. Mr. McCoy indicated there are two options; one being an even distribution of \$22,000 for each member jurisdiction/agency and the second where those with more direct access to pay more ranging from \$30,000 to \$16,000. Members discussed the options. Mr. McKlarney indicated it would be another example of collaboration within the New River Valley.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve a letter of support for the ARC grant application of the Passenger Rail. 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

NRRA TOUR

Mr. Baker extended an invitation to members to attend a tour at the New River Resource Authority prior to the recess meeting. He suggested members leave the office at 12:30. Mr. McKlarney advised it would need to be added to the agenda.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve a tour at the NRRA prior to the recess meeting on March 16th starting at 12:30 pm. 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

OPIOID ABATEMENT

Mr. McKlarney reported a meeting on the opioid abatement planning would be held at the courthouse on March 6th. He indicated some planning has already been done and county staff and judges from the region as well.

LARGE LOT SUBDIVISION

Mr. Reed presented a large lot subdivision plat for Mr. Kevin Ryan, noting three of the four lots are zoned RRA1 and the other B2. He reported a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the Kevin Ryan large lot subdivision 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,067,432.36, and Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

APPOINTMENTS

Members discussed options for appointments to the Planning Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (29) 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. McCoy 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg. A tour of the New River Resource Authority will take place prior to the meeting starting at 12:30 PM.

APPROVED:

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk

March 1, 2023