

At a budget work session of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 1:00 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- Absent
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morris called the work session to order.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. McKlarney presented a variety of budgetary topics such as anticipated employee increases, anticipated lack of a state budget, expected revenues, proposed animal run expansion and an additional employee requested for planning and zoning. He noted the treasurer's office needs to get tax tickets printed and mailed out as soon as possible. Members discussed various scenarios on tax rates as well as expected debt service from the school construction grant submitted. Mr. McKlarney advised the real estate rate was set at 80 percent of the assessment rate. Mr. McCoy inquired if the building department position would be fully county funded. Mr. McKlarney indicated he will be meeting with the towns about contributing to that position. Members discussed the cost to cover non-SOQ positions, the proposed FY 2024 school budget, and new school staff positions, including both EMT and GED instructors.

Mr. McKlarney reported the schools are planning on moving the GED and CBI classes currently in Narrows High School to Giles High School and are in the process of talking with legal counsel. He stated it was a bad idea to move the CBI students in his opinion and noted no final decision has been made. Members discussed the need to keep CBI at Narrows. Members also discussed expected revenues as well as SOQ and Compensation Board positions. Mr. McKlarney requested information on the current bus loan. Mr. Martin noted a discrepancy between the amount of funding allocated for Giles Rescue and Newport Rescue and requested for that to be addressed.

Mr. McKlarney reported he recently had a discussion with VACorp regarding the pool damage, who indicated it could be a sink hole or an ongoing problem. Instead of both sides spending money on experts, Mr. Chidester is going to get an estimated cost for repair and see where it goes from there. Members discussed issues and options and concurred with that recommendation. Mr. McKlarney related issues with repairing and equipment. Mr. Martin inquired if there was any estimate on upgrading the pool

equipment. Mr. McKlarney advised the equipment is probably 50 years old and has been piecemealed for a long time. He estimates \$1.5-2 million to replace what is there and does not recommend putting a pool back in that location due to the possibility of the sink hole and continued issues.

Mr. Martin inquired about the amount listed on the Newport Park Grant, and Ms. Ballard stated she would double check the amount. Mr. McKlarney reported the SCC was doing a discovery on the broadband grant and questioned the high cost. He advised he got all the questions answered and submitted. Mr. McCoy stated it might be into next year before the county gets a state budget.

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

RECESS

Mr. Morris called a recess until the start of the regular meeting.

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, May 3, 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. McCoy motioned to approve the April 20, 2023, minutes as presented. 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

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on maintenance within the county including working roads on the paving schedule, pipe replaced on Cascade Drive, patching in White Gate, machining of some gravel roads, patching on Route 460 and Route 42, and a pipe replacement on Eggelston Road. He related the boom axe had been working around the Commissary Hill area, and stated he had talked to the resident up Wolf Creek about the low water bridge. He advised there is not a lot of options, and VDOT is maintaining the current structure as best they can. Mr. Clarke will look to see if there are other funding options.

Mr. Baker stated Big Stony Creek Road continues to get worse, and there are a couple of places that need pavement. He reported potholes in Ripplemead, on the exit ramps coming into and out of Pearisburg and on Virginia Heights. He inquired about the work needed on drainage on Route 622 and reported potholes on Route 42 all the way to the Bland County line. Mr. Martin reported potholes on Sinking Creek Road and shoulder work needed on Route 460 west in Hoges Chapel. Mr. McCoy inquired if they had looked at the ditch at Cub Lane. Mr. Clarke stated they had not yet, but he had mentioned it to them. Mr. McKlarney reported potholes on the road to Glen Alton.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,188 students, which is a decrease of 12 from the previous month, and there are an additional 1,295 nonresidential Stryde students. He reported on the STEAM festival held the previous week with approximately 700 community members in attendance. Dr. Arbogast related the Tech Center students attended a Skills USA competition where several students were recognized for their performance, and some students would be attending a TSA competition in Hampton this weekend. He indicated SOL testing would begin this week and will go through May 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT

Mr. McKlarney provided narrative and budget information to members from the Opioid Abatement grant and requested a resolution of support.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve a resolution of support for the opioid abatement grant application. 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

NEWPORT ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from Mr. Doug Martin for a road closure during the annual Newport 4th of July parade.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the request as presented. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,207,663.41, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel. 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

CARILION TRANSPORT CONTRACT

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the contract for Carilion Transport at a cost of \$467,000, and 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

TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. McCoy made a motion to set a 2023 tax rate public hearing for the May recess 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

AEP UPDATE – EGGLESTON

Mr. Martin inquired about the status of the work being done by AEP in Eggleston. Mr. McKlarney indicated they have started the work and will ask Ms. Amanda Cox to come to a meeting for an update. He told members AEP will be donating a drone to the county, which will be used in emergency service type situations.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, 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