

At a called meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, June 1, 2023, at 4:00 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
John Ross	Building Official – Absent
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

### **CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION**

Mr. Morris called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Mr. Baker motioned to approve the May 18, 2023, minutes 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***

### **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. McKlarney presented the latest draft budget and advised a public hearing would need to be set in order to have time to get everything approved before the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Chidester confirmed the budget is supposed to be adopted by the end of June. Mr. McKlarney related the budget numbers presented are with a five percent pay increase, and \$250,000 would cover non-SOQ positions for the schools. Members discussed the school budget, student and position numbers, as well as possible unutilized COVID funds. Mr. McKlarney explained each 1 percent of pay increase costs \$67,000 for school positions and \$70,000 for county positions, which would mean an increase of \$275,000 if the salaries increase by 7 percent.

Mr. McKlarney advised the Sheriff has a number of employees who have applied at Blacksburg, and the Sheriff is concerned he will lose deputies. He provided salary information from departments throughout the New River Valley. Mr. Baker stated the county pays to training the deputies, then they leave. Mr. Chidester advised there is now a clause in the employment contracts where the cost is prorated and repaid if the deputy leaves before a certain amount of time. Members discussed issues and concerns as well as vehicle needs. Members concurred the county cannot compete with Blacksburg with either deputy or teacher pay. Ms. Ballard related some changes to

the budget such as the building department position, an increase in the DSS budget due to adjustment issues and the run expansion at the animal shelter.

Mr. Lawson inquired if any changes had been made to the emergency services funding. Mr. McKlarney advised it was still the same, but Mr. Jon Butler is working with the departments regarding funding distribution. Mr. Lawson related the departments with new ambulance services are not getting any financial benefit. Mr. Martin stated he has a hard time giving more funding when you have some departments doing more than others, and he would like to recognize those who are putting forth the effort. Mr. Lawson inquired about the possibility of paying some insurance for them. Members discussed the differences between department funding and some department issues. Mr. McCoy suggested raising Newport Rescue to \$16,000 and giving each fire department \$8,000. Mr. Morris stated it needs to be specified the additional \$8,000 would be for the departments with ambulance service.

Mr. McCoy inquired about the funding amount for the detention home. Ms. Ballard indicated the detention home request has gone down, and she had cropped the amount in this proposed budget. Mr. Morris inquired if the landfill change had gone anywhere. Mr. McKlarney advised he had not heard anything at this point. Mr. Martin asked if the amount for the health insurance is good. Mr. McKlarney related he anticipates a 1.5 percent increase this year, and the amount also includes the new wellness program. He indicated participation is good at about 70 percent. Mr. Martin inquired if the county would be able to recoup anything on the new position for the building department. Mr. McKlarney explained that is something that is still in the works right now. He has had conversations with two of the towns, and both managers were not opposed to the concept.

Mr. McKlarney related information regarding a proposed change to the method of assessment by the Commissioner of the Revenue. Mr. McCoy expressed concern, since the example given would lower the amount of revenue taken in. Mr. McKlarney inquired if it would be acceptable to look at it, since it would not change until December. Members discussed possible issues with revenues and the use of school funds. Mr. McKlarney indicated the Department of Education seems to be more flexible with funding on the front end than they have been in the past. He related the county can apply for a literary loan in August if needed, and the loans go out from 20 to 30 years. Members discussed principal amounts on school loans and previous refinancings. Mr. McKlarney advised there seems to be a 25-year life cycle on school renovations. Mr. Martin inquired if the Giles High School auditorium had come up at all. Mr. McKlarney believes the schools are moving forward with that renovation, but they had a hard time getting anyone to bid on it. Members discussed school carryover and possible uses.

## **CLOSEOUT MEETING**

***Mr. McCoy made a motion to set the FY 2023 closeout meeting for June 29, 2023 beginning at 3:00 PM. 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***

## **FY 2024 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

***Mr. Baker made a motion to set a public hearing for the FY 2024 budget at the June recess meeting. 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 (1) Personnel. 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 Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

**APPROVED:**

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**Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk**

June 1, 2023