

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:30 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, and Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the August 2, 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

OLD BUSINESS

NEWPORT ACTIVITY CENTER

Mr. McKlarney reported the bid date on the Newport Activity Center project had been pushed back to August 31st at the request of the contractors who attended the pre-bid meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE PRESENTATION

Lieutenant S.K. Vaughn presented information on a proposed system upgrade to the emergency communications system. He provided information on the number of calls since 2019 and advised the system has a life of 20 to 25 years. Lt. Vaughn related ARPA funds had been obtained, and the towns had allowed the county to apply for their funds as well for a total grant of \$535,000. He stated the current system was installed in 2012, and the technology is outdated, with replacement parts no longer available. Lt. Vaughn outlined the current and proposed sites along with the cost of upgrading and/or adding each. He also outlined uncovered areas in the county and the best ways to get coverage throughout the county. Mr. Lawson inquired about the cost of the Poplar Hill

addition and if Bland would possibly kick share in that cost. Mr. McKlarney indicated a lot of the cost for that site would be solar and infrastructure. Lt. Vaughn stated the signal from that site would not go far enough into Bland to be of any help to them. Discussion was held on the lack of radio communication at the Bland Correction Center. Tower sites discussed during this presentation and estimated costs were as follows: Bald Knob, Flat Top, Peters Mountain, and add Butt Mountain-\$566,801.40; addition of Poplar Hill-\$256,026.20; addition of Powell Mountain-\$231,626.96; and addition of Wolf Creek-\$298,126.96. Lt. Vaughn related radio signals within the schools are absorbed by the brick, and officers have to go outside in order to talk on the radios. He requested mini repeaters for each school at approximately \$10,000 per facility. Lt. Vaughn provided information on the cost of system upgrades in Smyth County at \$9.5 million and Floyd County at \$4.5 million. He itemized a list of costs for members and provided different option scenarios. Mr. Martin inquired about the possibility of cost sharing with other localities. Lt. Vaughn advised the signals would not go far enough into the other localities to be a benefit to them. Mr. Martin asked if agencies would have to upgrade their equipment. Lt. Vaughn explained the radios would not have to be upgraded unless the county decided to go with the digital DMR signal, and he had planned to apply for grant funding when it is ready to be switched to DMR. Mr. Baker stated this is the first time the Board has heard anything about this or the Butt Mountain site being discontinued. Mr. Martin inquired about the coverage in the McCoy area. Lt. Vaughn stated the coverage is decent, and the Poplar Hill site would hit that area as well. He related the project would take approximately 18 months from start to finish, depending on the availability of the equipment. Mr. Lawson inquired if the estimates include everything except the generators. Lt. Vaughn stated the Wolf Creek tower would cost \$8,000 to \$10,000, and he would get more accurate pricing if members were interested in proceeding.

Mr. Baker made a motion to move forward with the estimates on upgrading the emergency communications system. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion with the stipulation of having staff recommendations following the estimates.

Discussion: Mr. McCoy advised to look over the cost and how to best phase it in over two fiscal years. Mr. Butler stated they had talked about that and using the ARPA funding first. Mr. Martin inquired where the schools would fall into that. Mr. Butler related he had seen a grant that might be a possibility for that funding. Mr. McKlarney advised the cost to set mini repeaters at the schools would be minimal. Lt. Vaughn stated the schools could be started on immediately. Mr. Lawson asked about the deadline on the ARPA funding. Lt. Vaughn related the deadline is in June of 2024.

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

Lieutenant Vaughn will provide quotes and asked members to contact him with any questions. Members concurred with moving forward on the mini repeaters for the schools.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION MOU

Mr. Jon Butler, Emergency Services Coordinator, announced Lieutenant Vaughn was named the region's Outstanding EMS Communicator for 2023 by the Virginia EMS Council. He presented MOUs to members regarding equipment distribution to various emergency agencies. The equipment was donated by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Mr. Butler noted Giles Rescue, Poplar Hill Fire Department, and Rich Creek Fire Department had expressed interest, and an assessment was done in order to find the agencies most in need for this type of equipment.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve equipment distribution MOUs with Giles Rescue, and Poplar Hill and Rich Creek fire departments. 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 \$1,216,024.06, 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

SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Lawson made a motion to allocate \$2,750,000.00 for the September 2023 school board appropriations. 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

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Martin motioned to approve \$355,000 for the September 2023 Social Services appropriations. 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel and (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

OLD BUSINESS

MONTE VISTA DRIVE ABANDONMENT

Mr. Chidester advised a public hearing was not required to abandon the 99-foot section of Monte Vista Drive talked about at the last meeting. He indicated all related parties had signed the paperwork, and members could approve the abandonment if they so choose.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the vacation of street agreement on a 99-foot section on Monte Vista Drive in the J. W. Farley Subdivision as outlined. 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk