

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, November 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
John Ross	Building Official
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 minutes of October 19, 2023, 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***

### **VDOT REPORT**

Mr. David Clarke reported maintenance efforts throughout the county, such as patching on Wolf Creek and Big Stony Creek, brush cutting on Market Road, pipe inspection and machining dirt roads, driveway entrance repairs on Cascade Drive, and pipe cleaning and brush cutting in Glen Lyn.

Mr. Baker inquired about the status of the drain pipes on Big Stony. Mr. Clarke advised most of those had been completed. Mr. Baker inquired about the recent weight limit sign on the bridge near Gravley Ridge. Mr. Clarke indicated it was a new type of weight limit sign, and there might be a permit logging trucks could get. Mr. Baker related a state trooper had stopped the logging truck, and the pipeline offered to build a new bridge there, but VDOT turned them down. Mr. McCoy inquired about the status of Route 605. Mr. Clarke advised he had looked at it and will see what needs to be done. Mr. Lawson reported the pothole near Chaney Road was sinking again. Mr. Martin related the Masonic Lodge is getting ready to pave, and requested information on what needs to be done about the crushed drain pipe. He also requested guardrails on Kow Camp. Mr. Clarke advised some of that is very narrow, and guardrail can not be placed if there is no shoulder. Mr. Martin inquired if there were going to be any upcoming detours with the MVP construction. Mr. Clarke related he did not know of any. Mr. Morris requested

more brush cutting. Mr. McKlarney requested guardrail at Blueberry Lane off of Route 613, noting a car had gone off there last winter.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Ms. Kaylee Hopkins** – Ms. Kaylee Hopkins stated she is an ACCE student and will graduate in the spring with a degree in police science. She thanked members for their support of the program on behalf of all ACCE students. Ms. Hopkins stated she had done her community service hours at the Administration Office and then had an internship there as well. She related various community service projects done by the students for ACCE All In.

## **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,213 students, which is a decrease of 4 from the previous month. Dr. Arbogast recognized student Walter Gillespie as 1A State Champion in golf, and the NHS marching band for their first place 1A win at the Cougar Band Classic. He presented a packet of information relating to the Literary Fund and cost of the projects proposed.

Dr. Arbogast listed Literary Fund Applications as follows:

- Eastern Elementary/Middle School - \$8,722,654 for HVAC, roof replacement, upgrades, and a safe school entrance.
- Giles County Tech Center - \$1,814,699 for roof replacement
- Giles High School - \$13,318,930 for HVAC, roof replacement, window replacement, lighting system replacement in the auditorium, and a safe school entrance.
- Narrows High School - \$9,628,528 for HVAC, roof replacement, window replacement, lighting system replacement in the auditorium, and a safe school entrance.
- Narrows Elementary/Middle School - \$650,000 for elevator replacement, and a safe school entrance.
- Macy McClougherty School - \$12,475,000 for HVAC, roof replacement, door and window replacement, building addition to accommodate up to 11 classrooms, elevator replacement, upgrade existing classrooms, and upgrade a school safe entrance.

Dr. Arbogast related some additional opportunity for grant funding, as well as school carryover funds and ESSR III funds that will be put toward the projects. He asked members to consider approving moving forward with the funding and allow for the documents to be processed by county staff.

Mr. McKlarney advised the group had been able to carve out a fair amount from the original reported expense, and noted a highlighted section on the handout from Dr. Arbogast, which he stated was the only part of the proposed projects that are exclusive and could be taken out. He advised the amount of those pieces was \$7,821,500, and there is a possibility of an additional \$6.8M in SCAP grant funds. Mr. Jason Buckland

related the schools fit higher in the matrix for Macy, since it is new construction or additions. Mr. McKlarney indicated the removal of a new gym had lowered the cost down quite a bit for Macy, but it is still a large sum of money. He provided information on cost to the county for the next five years, noting CPI numbers and a host of other factors and anticipated costs. Mr. McKlarney related the cost would start to climb in 2025, where it would take a 12-cent increase, but the cost drops down after that year. He indicated it would take an average increase of seven cents over the next ten years and noted a lot of things are subject to change. Mr. McKlarney advised the numbers provided were about as lean as they could be, and the school board has agreed, through resolution, that they would not move forward with any kind of expansion or restructuring without coming back to the Board for approval. Mr. Stevie Steel related any project done would need to have prior approval from the Board.

Mr. Martin expressed concern with the timeframe, and asked if it was needed today or at another meeting. Mr. McKlarney related it could be today or an additional meeting would need to be held prior to the recess meeting. Mr. Lawson inquired if the tax increase would just be real estate. Mr. McKlarney indicated it was usually done across the board and would be approximately four cents if done that way. He noted it was a very conservative estimate. Mr. McCoy inquired if the classroom additions at Macy would take up the modulars and white house and if that was due to expansion. Dr. Arbogast stated that was before any growth. Members discussed options and the ability to change their minds at a later date. Dr. Arbogast gave dates for application deadlines, and noted it would probably be February before they hear back about the SCAP grant. Mr. McCoy inquired if there would be any change in operational cost. Mr. McKlarney stated any increase in operational would have to come back before the Board for prior approval. He related he understands the concern about the timing, but he is not certain this funding will be around later on. Dr. Arbogast stated there could be another round of Literary Fund in the spring, but he is not sure. Mr. McKlarney advised a lot of things are subject to change, and given the fact that the Board retains the ability for prior approval should give a reasonable amount of assurance. He advised he would recommend moving forward with the renovation portions of the projects, adding the other parts are calculated risks. Mr. McCoy inquired about the total burden for the county. Mr. McKlarney related it would be \$45m and would be \$6m less if additional grant funding is awarded. Members discussed options, and Mr. Chidester outlined the resolutions that would need to be sent in for the application process. Mr. McCoy inquired if the county could back out if the literary funds are awarded. Dr. Arbogast indicated the schools could change the scope of work and reduce the amount requested. Mr. Martin inquired if all the items listed were considered critical. Mr. McKlarney related they are except for the yellow highlighted items previously mentioned, adding renovations would still need to be done even if a new building was constructed. Mr. Martin expressed concern that it would seem all the items would wear out again at the same time and inquired why they were not staggered. Mr. McKlarney explained some of the items had a little use left in them, and the items were staggered at one time. Mr. McCoy related the county was not in a position to replace some of these items at the time some of these problems started.

***Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the literary fund requests from the school board 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***

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **LEGISLATIVE ITEMS**

Mr. McKlarney indicated he had received a letter from Delegate Jason Ballard requesting feedback on any legislative items members might have. Mr. McCoy inquired if there is any news on getting back money on the gas tax. Mr. McKlarney suggested having Delegate Ballard come speak with members at one of the upcoming meetings. He requested members get any ideas to him, and he will pass them along.

## **PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

***Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants for FY 2024 in the amount of \$1,192,184.65, 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 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, November 16, 2023, at 6:30 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**