

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, October 4, 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 - 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. McCoy motioned to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023, 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 reported maintenance efforts throughout the county, such as placing pipe on Big Stoney with the next step is to get them all patched. He indicated the crew had prepped the equipment for winter weather, there was ditching on Apple Drive, and tree cutting on Route 100. Mr. Clarke hopes they will be able to get out to Route 42 as well.

Mr. Baker reported pot holes on Route 670, and Curve Road needs brush cut. He also reported gravel coming out of the pipes on Big Stoney. Mr. McCoy related an issue on Route 605, and the need for brush cutting on the secondary roads. Mr. Lawson thanked VDOT for the patching one on Route 61 and reported gravel that had washed out into the road from a driveway on Market Road. Mr. Martin requested culvert work near Sportsmen Circle and expressed appreciation for the recent mowing. He reported rock knocked out near the road on Zales Mill and requested gravel on Kow Camp on the Pembroke side. He reported a missing speed limit sign on Eggleston Road, and requested a speed study on the lower end of Spruce Run. Mr. Morris reported he had received several brush calls, and commented how the Pearisburg VDOT crew had gotten their dry run done before everyone else. Mr. McKlarney offered to use some of the county mowing crew with VDOT for brush cutting, noting he was good with using the same agreement that is already in place.

ROUTE 61, PARK DRIVE BRIDGE NAMING RESOLUTION

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution naming the bridge on Route 61, Park Drive as the Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge. He read the resolution into record and noted Mr. Lawson had received a request to name the bridge. Mr. Clarke related it would be sent on to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and will make their December agenda. A copy of the resolution is attached at the end of these minutes.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the resolution 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

Mr. McKlarney provided information on the project pipeline meeting and requested members send him any ideas for projects they would like to see done. Mr. Clarke indicated funding sources and criteria keep changing, and the meetings makes them aware of needs in the areas. Mr. McCoy inquired if it was like TEA21. Mr. Clarke advised it could be anything that would not fall under maintenance.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,222 students, which is a decrease of 11 from the previous month. Dr. Arbogast expressed appreciation for Jeff Dinger and John Hale working on a grant application, noting they had met on September 29th to see how solar could be tied to other programs for this \$1.9m grant opportunity. He reported DOE representatives had come to tour the Ag Lab for Farm to Table Day, and they had heard nothing but positive comments about the meal served. Dr. Arbogast reported the days for teacher work days and parent/teacher conferences and thanked Mr. Morris, Mr. Lawson and Mr. McKlarney for taking time to tour the school facilities.

Mr. Stevie Steele, School Board Chair, stated he wanted to clarify a few things that have brought up recently. He related the Tech Center is the most successful venture the two boards have had, and they have created new programs there such as EMT and Early Education programs. Mr. Steele indicated the Tech Center does not have a large footprint to add a lot of other programs, and students who attend there can find jobs after their training if they choose to do so. He reported the schools will be integrating the Workforce staff in with the school counselors, but he was told only 25 percent of the youth funds could be used for in school students, with the majority of the funding going toward those who have graduated. Mr. Steele spoke of the renovations and an effort to find grant funding to help keep tax rates down. He stated there are currently six vacancies for bus drivers at the school, and the schools are doing everything they can to get the kids to the buildings. Mr. Steele thanked members for the funding for the teacher raises and indicated some that had left are now returning to the school system. He reported STEM programming needs to be built up, and he talked about security upgrades and the need for AEDs due to so many having heart issues either from COVID or some other problem. Mr. Steele related there will be free lunch in every

school for the upcoming year, and each student is provided with a computer device. He indicated he appreciates all the members do for the schools and the extra meetings, and he feels the two boards have come a long way.

Mr. McCoy inquired if there are students who do not get to attend vocational school. Mr. Steele stated the schools always have to strive for balance, and there are prerequisites they need in order to attend the Tech Center. He indicated students would not be successful in the programs if they are not able to read and write. Dr. Arbogast stated there would be a CDL class held on October 21st and 22nd if anyone had an interest in driving a bus.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY

Mr. Joe Levine with the New River Resource Authority presented information regarding their 2023 Waste Rate Study and Financial Model. He provided information on the facility, its recent changes, and what the study showed. He advised the NRRRA was not looking at a rate change for next year, and they have the lowest rate in the area.

Mr. Morris indicated he had recently taken a tour of the facility, and it was a very clean and well put together operation. Mr. McKlarney expressed appreciation of Mr. Levine and his staff, as they are always willing to help when called upon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jay Williams – Mr. Williams reported People Incorporated, who took over the Workforce programs, had hired a case worker, but the worker soon after quit. He advised there is a case worker coming over to the office one day a week and provided information about an apprentice program that the Governor is pushing, which will pay employers to conduct apprenticeships. Mr. Williams related information about a new workforce and child development center in Abingdon, and stated Food City had donated the building. He reported there will be around the clock day care, and training in various fields, along with STEM programs. Mr. Williams stated they would have a pipeline of future workers coming through the programs for the businesses. He related he had asked previously about forming a local workforce board in the county, noting the businesses need help. Mr. McKlarney reported there are already some local businesses working with the schools, including an upcoming job fair. He advised the Board or the IDA could appoint people. Mr. Williams stated the group could find out what the businesses want and need, and he believes it would be an asset to the businesses.

OLD BUSINESS

PEMTEL VATI APPLICATION

Mr. McKlarney reported the VATI broadband applications from last year were not funded, and Pemtel would like to reapply this year and requested a letter of intent. He advised the grant would be for the Whitegate area and the Route 100 corridor, and this would be separate from the upcoming BEAD funding. Mr. McKlarney stated there is only \$40m in VATI funds available throughout the state, and DHCD had encouraged the county to reapply. Mr. Lawson inquired about what happened to the Clendennin area. Mr. McKlarney stated he does not know yet, but it might be possible. He advised the size of the previous project was cited as an issue in the previous application, and members will still have an opportunity to approve or deny the actual grant application.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve sending a letter of intent for the VATI funding, 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

NEW BUSINESS

EDA GRANT

Mr. McKlarney requested a resolution to allow for application for Economic Development Administration grant funding for the reuse study of the Glen Lyn power plant in the amount of \$200,000. He related the IDA has appropriated funding for the grant match of ten percent.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve a resolution to apply for EDA funding for the reuse study of the Glen Lyn power plant. 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 for FY 2024 in the amount of \$988,068.49, 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

Mr. Baker made a motion to reappoint Mr. Tom Miller to the IDA. 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

October 4, 2023

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel 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 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, October 19, 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

**Resolution Naming the Bridge on Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek in Giles County
as the Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge**

WHEREAS, Ronald D. Sparks was a lifelong resident of Giles County and the Wolf Creek area;
and

WHEREAS, Ronald Sparks was an All-State Football Player and graduate of Narrows High School
in 1966; and

WHEREAS, PFC Sparks served his county and country by fighting as an Indirect Fire Infantryman
in the 1st Calvary of the United States Army in the Vietnam War; and


WHEREAS, PFC Ronald D. Sparks gave his life on April 6, 1968, while fighting in the Quang Tri
Province of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the Commonwealth
Transportation Board (CTB) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and
other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways, bridges, interchanges, or
other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation shall
place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges,
and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing,
placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Giles County, in accordance with the requirements
of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby request that the Commonwealth
Transportation Board name the bridge on Route 61, Park Drive, over Wolf Creek in Giles County
as the Ronald David (Ronnie) Sparks Memorial Bridge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Giles County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing,
and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Signature 
Jeffrey L. Morris, Chairman

Date 10/4/23