

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, December 6, 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 – Absent
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 minutes of November 16, 2023, as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported maintenance efforts throughout the county, such as picking up deer along the roadways, brush cutting and debris pick up on Flat Hollow Road, Old School Road, White Pine Road and River Road, machining gravel roads, and surface treatment on Cross Avenue. He indicated the pothole on the ramp is still on the list to be fixed as well as the shoulder drop off on Kub Lane, adding they are looking into the MVP issue reported by Mr. Martin. Mr. Clarke related the crews were out the previous night in case the temperatures dropped.

Mr. Baker reported potholes on Route 670 in the Whitegate area and requested some gravel at the park and ride area at the end of the road. Mr. Clarke advised they might be able to put a wedge there. Mr. Baker requested brush cutting on Curve Road. Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for the tree cutting work on Route 61. Mr. Clarke indicated the bridge naming resolution would be presented to the CTB on next month’s agenda, and it could take a while to get the sign. Mr. Martin reported water running over the road on Route 700 consistently, and brush cutting needed on Clover Hollow and Zales Mill Road. He inquired about the stakes going up on Eggleston Road. Mr. Clarke advised nothing comes to mind on anything VDOT is doing on Eggleston Road.

Mr. Martin related the railroad crossing at Cliffview Drive and Caboose Lane is so steep it is hard to get across. Mr. McKlarney indicated the county would need to work with the railroad and provided a map and pictures of the location. He reported there are more than 60 structures in that area, and it seems the track elevation has gotten higher. Mr. McKlarney related the research shows it to be a private road and requested members allow to make formal contact with the railroad and talk with some of its crossing staff. He indicated the fire department can get truck over the tracks, and a piece of equipment was taken over the tracks as well. Mr. McKlarney advised the citizens in that area have a legitimate concern, and Board consent would be needed in order to move forward with contacting the railroad. Mr. Martin inquired about snow removal in that area. Mr. McKlarney stated they must pay someone to remove it or have someone who does it.

Mr. Martin made a motion to move forward with contacting the railroad to alleviate the problem with the crossing on Cliffview Drive and Caboose Lane. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin stated the Masonic Lodge in Newport is still in need of information about the crushed drain pipe before the lot can be paved. Mr. Morris reported the bypass from the Narrows end needs some gravel, and he had received calls requesting brush cutting. Mr. Baker reported a pothole on Pyrtle Road in Ripplemead. Mr. McKlarney related the county mowing crew is still available to VDOT for brush cutting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Widget Shannon – Ms. Shannon stated a section of road was left unpaved on Spruce Run when paving was done there two years ago. She related that section was now splitting, and the line painting was never done on the road. Ms. Shannon reported a large pothole near Goodwin's Ferry and patches are coming up on Route 730, a route which she uses daily.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Mr. McKlarney reported current enrollment at 2,205, which is a decrease of 8 from the previous month. Mr. Baker inquired where all the kids are going. Mr. McKlarney indicated he did not have an answer to that question.

NEW BUSINESS

PEPPER'S FERRY SEPTAGE AGREEMENT

Mr. McKlarney presented a three-year renewal of the Pepper's Ferry septage treatment agreement, noting septage haulers in the county dispose of the waste at that facility.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the renewal of the Pepper's Ferry septage agreement. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as

follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants for FY 2024 in the amount of \$1,634,694.08, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Martin motioned to reappoint Mr. Mark Givens to the Giles County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Billy Henderson and Mr. Alan Leet to the Giles County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin made a motion to reappoint Mr. Leon Law to the Board of Zoning Appeals contingent upon his acceptance. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Richard McCoy to the New River Valley Regional Commission. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Lawson made a motion to appoint Ms. Rebecca Hughes to the New River Valley Detention Home Board. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Jeff Morris to the Fairview District Board. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Martin; Abstaining: Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker made a motion to reappoint Mr. Kevin Belcher to the Fairview Homes Board. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin motioned to reappoint Mr. Paul Baker to the New River Highlands RC&D. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Baker; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker made a motion to reappoint Mr. Richard McCoy to the Community Policy and Management Team. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. Bobby Lilly to the New River Valley Alcohol Safety Action Program. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Lawson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Paul Baker to the Planning Commission. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Baker; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Mr. John Lawson as Board alternate to the Public Service Authority. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Lawson; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin made a motion to reappoint Mr. Jeff Morris to the Social Services Board. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Martin; Abstaining: Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Baker motioned to reappoint Ms. Betsy Steenken and Ms. Diane Weiss to the Social Services Board. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Lawson made a motion to appoint Ms. Nancy Rader to the Social Services Board contingent upon her acceptance. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jay Williams - Mr. Williams outlined meeting topics from a recent workforce meeting, noting a newly hired case manager for the Giles office. He indicated Cogar is going to become a certified trainer for the workforce programs and plans to start classes after the first of the year. He provided an update on efforts to develop a county workforce committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

GOODWIN'S FERRY PROPERTY EXCHANGE – WEBSTER

Mr. Morris opened the public hearing. Mr. McKlarney reported the county had recently received grant funding to purchase property near Goodwin's Ferry in order to build an additional boat ramp. He indicated parking has been an issue along that stretch of the river, and Mr. Chidester had located heirs to the Dillon property, a 3.5-acre parcel on the north side of the railroad and a 1.4-acre parcel on the south side of the railroad, which was the property purchased. Mr. McKlarney related information on the adjoining Webster property and indicated the exchange of approximately 1.68 acres on the south side of the railroad for the 3.5 acres portion of the county property north of the railroad tracks. He noted there would be no exchange of funds, and he thinks the county would benefit from this exchange. Mr. Morris asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing. Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation to the Websters for being agreeable to the property swap.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the exchange of Parcel A 58-80, +/- 3.5 acres, for Parcel D contained in 58-81 and 58-82, +/- 1.68 acres. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Martin motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel, (7) Legal Counsel and (29) Contracts. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 by rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

Mr. Martin 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 4-0 by rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

NEW BUSINESS

DECEMBER RECESS MEETING

Mr. Baker made a motion to cancel the December recess meeting. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

PEMTEL BEAD APPLICATION LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. McKlarney presented a proposed letter of support for the BEAD grant application of Pemtel to serve every home in Giles County.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Pemtel BEAD grant application. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. McCoy

PROPOSED PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. McKlarney advised there will be a public hearing coming up regarding school funding. Ms. Ballard suggested it might make sense to do it a little later in the year.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 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