

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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.

Richard McCoy	Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Vice-Chair (Western District)
Perry Martin	Eastern District
Jeff Morris	Central District
Paul “Chappy” Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
John Ross	Building Official
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director – Absent
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. McCoy 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 January 18, 2024, minutes as presented. Mr. Morris 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 updated members on maintenance within the county including weather related clean up, work on gravel roads, dead animal pick up, pothole patching on Routes 460 and 61, and ditching on Route 100. He reported a slope failure near the post office in Newport, and slope work being done on Spruce Run. Mr. Clarke indicated the project is out for the Patterson Ford bridge, and he requested a date of the 6-Year Plan public hearing. Members concurred on the March recess meeting, with a resolution approval to be done in April.

Mr. Baker reported the parking area at the end of Route 42 needs some gravel, and potholes need patching on Big Stony Creek from the lime plant to the county line. He also reported potholes on Riverbend Drive near Fisher Lane and on Pyrtle Road in Ripplemead. Mr. Baker indicated there are large holes at the wide turn around spot on Route 460 near 84 Lumber. Mr. Lawson inquired about the bridge naming. Mr. Clarke indicated it was approved, and related the signs and installation would need to be worked on. Mr. McKlarney inquired if the county could purchase signs through VDOT. Mr. Clarke indicated the county could do that.

Mr. Martin reported Kow Camp needs gravel, Celestial Heights needs gravel on the lower end, and pavement is being washed out on Doe Creek past the orchard. He

reported trees down on Route 42 near the Craig line, and the shoulder needs work on Mountain Lake Road. Mr. Martin related he had received calls concerning large trucks up Big Stony, and residents had asked about the feasibility of some no through truck signs. Mr. McKlarney thanked Mr. Clarke for his help in working through the traffic light issue in Pearisburg. Mr. Todd Meredith, Pearisburg Town Manager, stated the felt like it would meet the needs of the residents.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,196 students, which is an increase of 1 from the previous month, and there are an additional 1,295 nonresidential Stride virtual students. He recognized the teachers of the year for each school and noted Ms. Jan Sauder is the county's teacher of the year. Dr. Arbogast related the school spelling bee winners and stated the overall winner was Bryson Blankenship, who will move forward to the next level of competition. He reported the Governor's School science fair was held recently and recognized the placing students. Dr. Arbogast indicated the bids for the Macy McClaugherty project came in, and the lowest bid was R.L. Price Construction at \$8.3 million, which was under the projected cost. He expressed appreciation to members for their support and work on getting the schools taken care of. He noted the project has a completion date of 600 days once contracts are signed, with acquiring the equipment being the main issue with time. Mr. McKlarney requested a scope of work on the project. Dr. Arbogast indicated the Tech Center students will be participating in the Skills USA competition in the near future, and he will bring back more information. Mr. Martin inquired about the sound system in the Giles High School auditorium. Dr. Arbogast indicated the sound system is in the works. Mr. Martin expressed he had received a number of concerns over lack of communication to parents during recent alarming events at the schools. He requested a group notification or something to that affect be looked at to put parents at ease with the rumors that tend to get out of control on social media. Mr. McCoy requested more information on a program in Montgomery County where some special education students do not age out until the age of 22. He stated he would like to see if it would work for our schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Helen Beavers – Ms. Beavers presented information regarding the Pembroke Women's Club relating to the Pembroke Library. She requested additional volunteers, possibly from the ACCE Program, to assist in some of these activities. Mr. McKlarney stated he would get Mr. Charlie Mullins to contact her for some ACCE participation. Mr. Martin expressed appreciation for Ms. Beavers' work at the library and related he was impressed with the entries in the recent art contest there.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,785,068.21, and Mr. Morris 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

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. John Ross presented a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission for a conditional use request to modify an existing development that was established with Section 601.03 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance for Kairos Resort. This request is specifically to allow for a five-stand clays shooting range to be established. The property is specifically identified as Tax Parcel 12-5, is owned by Kairos Holdings LLC, and is located on Shumate Falls Road in Glen Lyn, Virginia.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the conditional use for Kairos Resort as recommended. 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. John Ross presented a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission for a conditional use request pursuant to Sections 802.04 and 603.03-1 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a Commercial or Service Establishment, specifically to allow an indoor sports practice facility for baseball, softball, etc. The parcel of land associated with this request is owned by Corey Sult, is identified specifically as Tax Parcel 45-35E, and is located at 174 Winding Way Drive, Newport, Virginia. The property is in the RRA-1, Rural Residential /Agriculture, Zoning District. Perry Martin is the applicant of this request on behalf of the Newport Sports Booster Club.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the conditional use for the Newport Sports Booster Club as recommended. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Martin

NEW BUSINESS

NRV HOUSING TRUST

Ms. Jennifer Wilsie, of the New River Valley Regional Commission, presented information to members regarding a proposed NRV Housing Trust Fund. She indicated a recent study showed the need for housing throughout the region and recommended the creation of a regional housing trust fund as one of the seven strategies outlined from the study. She outlined how the fund would be set up, the stakeholders, funding contributions and funding awards. Ms. Wilsie noted the fund would be operation in a rotational basis of five years, as in the tested model with the NRV Housing Consortium. She related it would be a flexible funding source, localities would have the ability to shape what can be done, and it would provide a financial value not otherwise available in the region. Mr. Martin inquired about who contributors would be, adding Virginia Tech would get a lot of benefit and is causing a housing strain in the area. Mr. McKlarney inquired how it could be used. Ms. Wilsie noted Community Housing

Partners, Habitat for Humanity and Taylor Hollow Construction as some of the builders, and noted the bulk is either property acquisition or construction. She related the developer is able to sell or rent at a lower rate by the trust reducing the cost burden. Mr. McCoy asked if the funds could be used for existing property to be used for housing. Ms. Wilsie related it could.

NR/MR CAREER WORKS REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from the New River/Mount Rogers Career Works Board for funding in the amount of \$1,466.00 to help with the support of business services in the county.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the request for funding as presented. 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

COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. McKlarney provided health insurance cost for the past several years. He related the anticipated cost to the county for this year is \$3.2 million, and the insurance consultant stated Giles County is the only place he has seen where there had been no cost increase in five years. He noted the wellness program is working, and employees are being good shoppers. Mr. McKlarney recommended staying the course with no increase for the coming year.

Mr. Baker motioned for the health insurance rates to remain the same for the coming year. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

NEWPORT WATER

Mr. Martin requested for an update on the current water situation in the Newport area, as he had heard from a number of citizens asking what help the county could provide. Mr. McKlarney advised he had visited the site in question that day and also had a conversation with MVP. He related MVP is making every effort to rectify the issue, and the quicker the project is done, the faster it will be resolved. He reported the county had offered to hook up public water at the McWhorter residence, but the owner had refused, citing a concern about the pressure. The county had also offered to reduce the pressure. Mr. McKlarney related the home on Zales Mill Road does not have public water near it, and the line would have to cross Sinking Creek in order to reach it, which would take quite a while for permitting. Mr. McKlarney stated it appears the water at the site being pumped out is running right back in, possibly due to a sink hole or fissure on the hillside where the water is pumped out. He indicated the sooner it gets completed and covered, the sooner it will clear up. Mr. Martin inquired if there is anything the county can do if more people in that area are affected, adding he wanted to advocate for them and consider what the county can do to support them. Mr. McKlarney related the people could seek damages, and MVP is checking on the McWhorter residence

more than one time a day. He stated the county might be able to haul water but would be looking at long-term to run public water. Mr. McKlarney indicated he has not had any issues getting MVP to respond, and the county will try to help citizens anyway it can. He indicated the county can pass water issues along to MVP as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal 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. Morris 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

FEBRUARY RECESS MEETING

Mr. Baker made a motion to move the February recess meeting to February 22, 2024. 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, 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