

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 6, 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 – Absent
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
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 February 22, 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 such as ditching on Northview and Route 100, patching on Routes 61 and 42, Ripplemead and Virginia Avenue, potholes fixed on Virginia Heights and Pyrtle Lane, stone at the park and ride, and the low shoulder fixed on Route 460 at 84 Lumber. He related brush cutting still needs done on Curve Road, and he had met with Mr. McCoy and Mr. Reed on Spruce Run for a pipe issue, which needs to be ordered.

Mr. Baker reported potholes on Route 635 near the West Virginia line. Mr. Lawson stated Route 100 looks good, and expressed thanks for the pothole fixed on Route 219. Mr. Martin inquired about some marked tress on Mountain Lake Road. Mr. Clarke advised he would have to check. Mr. Martin reported a drain pipe stopped up at 497 Bluegrass Trail. Mr. McCoy stated he had sent an email about potholes on Flat Hollow Road. Mr. Baker inquired about the bridge dedication. Mr. Clarke related he would get the signs ordered and bill the county. Mr. McKlarney expressed appreciation for VDOT staff assisting with the county's FLAP grant project.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,198 students, which is an increase of 2 from the previous month, and there are an additional 1,301 nonresidential Stride virtual students. He recognized Tech Center students who placed in the recent Skills USA competition as well as the students placing in the Blue Ridge STEM competition at Giles High School. Dr. Arbogast reported Governor School students had participated in the District Science Fair at Radford and related the placing students. He indicated the schools are currently accepting applications for preschool programs, and kindergarten registration will be held in April. Dr. Arbogast announced graduation dates, with Giles High School on June 6th and Narrows High School on June 7th. He related receipt of Literary Loan notices for all six of the school buildings, noting the new funds for Macy would be for phase two. He indicated he is working on getting a couple of things submitted to the state for the literary loans.

Mr. McKlarney indicated the county would need bond council to close on the literary loans, and presented a quote of not more than \$5,000 for each school from Spillman, Thomas and Battle, for a total of \$30,000. Mr. Chidester stated it could be less in cost.

Mr. Baker made a motion to accept the quote from Spillman, Thomas and Battle for closing the literary loans. 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

Mr. McKlarney noted a spreadsheet provided by the schools on the projects. Dr. Arbogast stated they will keep that updated, and he is waiting the hear back from SCAP on additional funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jay Williams – Mr. Williams thanked members for their support and noted the state workforce plan is coming out soon. He stated it looks as though local funding will be cut by 15 to 20 percent. Mr. Williams reported Ms. Jennifer Claytor is the new case manager at the Giles office, and she has completed all of her training. He stated the office is trying to get moved to Pearisburg, and they have been visiting all local businesses and have received interest. Mr. Williams related he has been trying to get more adult classes at the Tech Center, one being CDL training.

NEW BUSINESS

BOIL WATER NOTICE

Mr. Andy Crocker, Chief Water Operator, at the county water plant updated members about the recent boil water notice issued. He indicated the issue was a mechanical problem at the water plant, where a filter was tested and went below the required 15 psi limit during a test time of 5 minutes. Mr. Crocker related the health department was

aware with the ongoing mechanical problem, and the issue caused a shut down and lost programming. He stated they got it back up and running, but there was no guarantee all the water went through the filter with the pressure drop. He does feel strongly that the water is good, but the rule is the boil notice had to be issued. Mr. Crocker collected samples from all systems around the county, and results will be available the following day. He noted the notice will be lifted, if the samples come back good. Mr. Crocker stated the plant will have to operate without one skid of filters, but he is not worried about water capacity. He noted different wells and their production amounts, as well as the availability of water from Red Sulphur. Mr. Crocker stated he does not believe there is a problem with the water, and the notice should be lifted by Friday. Mr. McCoy stated it is a hard and fast rule on the pressure when it drops under 15.

OPIOID ABATEMENT GRANT

Mr. McKlarney reported he will be working on year two of the Opioid Abatement grant, and he is working on how to utilize year one funds.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,516,734.10, 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Helen Beavers – Ms. Beavers thanked members for getting her in touch with Mr. Charlie Mullins and reported she is also working with the Senior Center. She is working on getting art classes together for those who are interested.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (29) Contracts relating to water line extensions. 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

WATER STUDY FUNDING

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve funding for a water study. 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 Thursday, March 21, 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