

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:30 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
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 May 1, 2024, minutes. 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

Bobby Huffman – Mr. Huffman stated he had spoken with Mr. McKlarney about the railroad crossing at Cliffview Drive in Pembroke and was amazed at everything he had gone through to get in touch with someone. He related the crossing is unsafe and dangerous, and for the railroad to get by with this is out of the ordinary, noting it is no wonder why there are so many private crossing accidents. Mr. Huffman indicated he could not believe it has gone on as long as it has.

OLD BUSINESS

RAILROAD CROSSING

Mr. McKlarney reported he had been through several railroad people in order to finally get to someone who handles private crossings. He related step one in the process is to submit an application, along with a \$1,750 fee, a listing of property owners and various other information to the railroad. Mr. McKlarney advised there is not a home owner's association in that neighborhood, and the funding for reconstruction would depend on what fault the railroad finds and suggested moving forward. He indicated negotiation would come after the application is reviewed in regard to the cost to the parties involved.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve moving forward with the railroad application process and fee of \$1,750 for the crossing at Cliffview Drive, 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

AEP WORK IN EGGLESTON

Mr. McKlarney reported AEP continues to work on the line through Eggleston, and he had received word that the tie line should come online sometime in August.

GILES CHRISTIAN MISSION REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney indicated Mr. Morris has requested to meet with the mission to see exactly what they have planned for improvements. He thinks the mission will be fine with that approach, and members concurred.

NEW BUISNESS

TOURISM/MARKETING GRANTS

Mr. McKlarney stated Ms. Cora Gnegy was successful in obtaining \$65,000 in marketing and tourism grants for the county.

MVP LETTER

Mr. Martin related he had been approached by several citizens requesting the county send a letter to FERC relating to the safety agreements of MVP. He indicated the safety agreements had not yet been met, and this letter would be asking the federal government not to let them go into production until all safety requirements are complete. Mr. Martin stated Montgomery County and Congressman Morgan Griffith's office had both sent such letters.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve sending a letter to FERC requesting MVP be denied until all safety guidelines are met as well as for greater transparency.

The motion died for lack of a second.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Mr. Lawson inquired if it would be a hinderance to look into other dangerous railroad crossings in the county, or if more than one crossing could be submitted. He alluded to the crossing on Robertson Mountain Road. Mr. McKlarney advised he was not sure, but the crossing at Robertson Mountain would require a retaining wall.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,425,581.58, 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

SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve \$3,987,000.00 for the June 2024 School Board appropriations and \$9,559,377.00 for a Stride payment for a total of \$13,546,377.00. 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

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Martin motioned to approve \$383,000.00 for the June 2024 Social Services appropriations. 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris 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. 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

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2025 BUDGET AND 2024 TAX RATES

Mr. McCoy opened the public hearing. Mr. McKlarney presented information regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and the 2024 tax rates. He noted a balanced budget at \$77,820,771 and related the budget included a line item for reassessment. Mr. McKlarney indicated the budget shows a five percent increase for county and school staff, and there were no changes made to the tax rates. Mr. McCoy asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing. A copy of the ordinance is attached at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the 2024 tax rates as presented with no changes. 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

TIMBERLAKE BUILDING RENNOVATION CONTRACT

Mr. McKlarney requested a contract be awarded to Envisicon Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,449,261 for renovations to the Timberlake Building.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve awarding the contract with Envisicon Company, Inc. for renovations on the Timberlake Building. 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 Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 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

Ordinance 8-31
Page 1 of 1
May 16, 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE
FOR 2024 REAL ESTATE TAXES.

After a public hearing held on May 16, 2024, duly advertised on May 8th and May 15th, 2024, in the Virginian Leader, a newspaper of general circulation in Giles County, Virginia,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, that the tax rate applicable to real property located in Giles County, Virginia for 2024 shall be sixty-eight (68) cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value.

Such taxes shall be due and payable in two equal installments due and payable on June 28, 2024 and December 5, 2024. The penalty for taxes, levies and fees which are not paid by the due date is 10% of the unpaid balance. Ten percent (10%) interest charges begin on the first day of the month following the payment due date.

	Voting For	Voting Against	Abstain	Absent
Baker	X			
Lawson	X			
Martin	X			
McCoy	X			
Morris	X			

Attest: 
Christopher P. McKarney, Clerk

Approved as to form: 
Richard L. Chidester, County Attorney