

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, August 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 – Absent
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary – Absent

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 July 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 efforts throughout the county, such as machining gravel roads; patching on Mountain Lake, Sugar Run and Green Valley; brush cutting on Zales Mill, Clendennin and a few other small routes; and pipe and ditch work on Clover Hollow. He indicated he had ridden along with Mr. Baker, Mr. Williams and others to look at brush issues for school buses, and advised they would be working to get as many of those taken care of as possible. Mr. Clarke reported brush has been cut back on Klotz Road, and that one pass will not fix the issue with the shape most of them are in. He indicated the sickle bar will only reach a certain height. He related the surface treatment schedule has started, with Clendennin and Hilltop completed, and crews will be surface treating about seven miles of Sugar Run Road, and parts of Green Valley and Kow Camp. Mr. Clarke stated the bridge naming is set in Narrows for August 23rd.

Mr. Baker requested work on the turnaround at 84 Lumber on Route 460. Mr. Morris reported potholes on Route 705. Mr. Lawson requested work on the drains on the Ripplemead bridge, noting heavy rain is on the way. Mr. Martin reported gravel washing into the roadway on Ridge Road, and requested consideration of Smart Funds for a deceleration lane at Cascade Drive, noting there are a couple of other areas that would benefit from deceleration lanes as well. Mr. McKlarney requested ditch and pipe work

on Bowens Road. He thanked Mr. Baker, Delegate Ballard and others for taking the time to ride through the county to look at the brush issue, and noted it looks as though the brush cutting agreement will be in place for this winter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Helen Beavers – Ms. Beavers updated members on activities being held at the Pembroke Public Library and presented them with a thank you card made with the help of the children.

Amber Baesler – Ms. Baesler stated she lives on property at the bottom of Mountain Lake on Lucas Road and had no water. She indicated she is helping to house some homeless at this location and has requested to get water delivered. She stated she would like to make it bigger but cannot until she can resolve her water issue. Ms. Baesler requested the county to run water to her location. Mr. Morris inquired about the original water source for the house. Ms. Baesler indicated it was a spring box that was about 200 feet from her house, but it has not been maintained. She related the house had also been on a shared well with the neighbor; and the neighbor had to dig a new well, which was not shared. Ms. Baesler stated she was hauling water in her vehicle, but it now has a bad torque converter. She stated others in the county also have water issues. Mr. McKlarney advised the cost to run water to that location would most likely be in excess of \$500,000.

NEW BUISINESS

ELECTRONIC POLLBOOK VENDOR CHANGE

General Registrar, Mr. Tyler Perkins, presented information to members regarding a request to change vendors for the electronic pollbooks, due to the current provider ceasing support. He provided information on the vendor, KNOW-iNK, and its products, which is used in other jurisdictions in the state as well. Mr. Perkins noted the cost would be \$52,000, which is more than was budgeted. Mr. McCoy inquired if that was a competitive bid process or just a review of potential vendors. Mr. Perkins provided information on the vendors that were considered and reasoning for recommending KNOW-iNK. Mr. McCoy inquired about the reasoning behind not coming to the Board during the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2025. Mr. Perkins provided information on early voting and the June primary election, which hampered their progress in determining a vendor selection and exact pricing. Mr. Lawson inquired if the election would be running without support due to it being discontinued by the current vendor. Mr. Perkins stated the support would run out in September, which would mean an election in November without support if the vendor is not changed. Mr. McKlarney inquired if the system would be up and operation if approved. Mr. Perkins stated the early voting would be questionable, but the turn around is 30 days, so the system should be up and running before the election in November. Members discussed various issues and concerns.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the purchase of the new pollbooks system with KNOW-iNK as requested. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-1 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris; Voting NO: Mr. McCoy

DEER POPULATION

Mr. McKlarney related he has received a number of requests recently regarding the deer population and damage in the county. They are requesting an extended season or an increase in harvesting numbers, and he recommended to contact the state to have them come review the numbers and make a presentation to members at some point. Members discussed issues with the process in the past but concurred to contact the state.

OLD BUSINESS

CROSS AVENUE WATER

Mr. McKlarney advised income certification for Cross Avenue would start within the next week to be used for the SERCAP grant of \$55,000. He indicated it has to be 51 percent of LMI for the competitive grant.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,460,031.92, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Morris 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 5-0 by rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, 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, 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, August 15, 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