

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, October 2, 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 September 19, 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meranda Evans – Ms. Evans presented a request for the abandonment of 190 foot of Route 734 in Staffordsville. Mr. Morris stated there is another property owner involved, who Ms. Evans indicated was in agreement with the abandonment. Requirements from VDOT were discussed, and Ms. Evans related she was willing to provide a turn around. Mr. McCoy advised the matter would need to be taken to public hearing, and members discussed the possibility of a gate or signage. Mr. Morris suggested having Mr. Clarke take a look at the road and discuss options. Mr. McCoy related the Board could set a public hearing and cancel it if the issue is resolved.

Mr. Baker made a motion to set a public hearing for the abandonment of Route 734 for the November recess meeting. 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

Billy Kantsios – Mr. Kantsios expressed appreciation for help from the County Administrator, county office and public works. He related they had assisted with a leak at his mother’s home in Rich Creek where a piece of sewer pipe was missing. Mr. McKlarney concurred staff indicated that seemed to be the case.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION FOR POPLAR HILL EMS SERVICE

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution for the approval of EMS service from the Poplar Hill Fire Department. He advised it is a much-needed service in that area, and the department is efficiently run.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the resolution in support of EMS services from the Poplar Hill Fire Department 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

NEW BUSINESS

FLEEMAN BUILDING LEASE EXTENSION

Mr. McKlarney presented a three-year extension on the lease for the Fleeman Building. He noted changes would most likely be taking place around the time the lease runs out in September of 2027.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the lease extension on the Fleeman Building. 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

FLOODING AND POWER OUTAGE UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney updated members on flood damage and power outages in the county. He related county staff is working around the clock trying to find places for the displaced people to go, noting the work of Ms. Anna Riddle on these efforts. Mr. McKlarney stated help has come from all over, including churches and individuals, and many dignitaries have visited the area. He expressed thanks to the first responders and Mr. Jon Butler, Emergency Services Coordinator, and reported a large number of volunteers signed up to help with clean up over the weekend. Mr. McKlarney commended the New River Resource Authority for bringing roll offs and trucks to help with cleanup, and noted rental assistance is being offered to those affected by the flooding. He expressed thanks to Delegate Jason Ballard for getting needed attention to Giles County and opening up the possibility of FEMA assistance. Mr. McKlarney reported monetary donations made to the county of \$52,000, with others donating to support other county agencies in their relief efforts. He indicated many supplies have been donated as well, and VDOT could not be any better to work with during this time, adding they had approved two bridge crossings for internet fiber to be restored. Mr. Lawson expressed thanks to County Administration staff and Public Works for the outpouring of support for the community, adding it would have been a lot worse if they had not stepped up.

ENERGY RIGHT SOLAR PRESENTATION

Mr. Taylor called the Planning Commission to order; members present were as follows: Mr. Berkman, Mr. Baker, Mr. I. Snider, Mr. Hackney, Mr. Law, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Skyler Zunk, CEO of Energy Right and Mr. Ben Wilson, Community Outreach Representative gave a presentation to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors relating to solar energy. They covered items such as; why we are seeing solar developments, why projects are need, how much solar is needed, the economics of solar energy, local tax impacts, the myths and misconceptions of solar energy, grazing of sheep to keep the land manicured, as well as solar ordinance recommendations. Mr. Zunk provided opportunity for questions and answers.

Mr. Lawson inquired about solar being the cheapest way to produce power. Mr. Zunk stated it was the cheapest way to put an electron on the grid due in part to low maintenance and staffing costs. Mr. Berckman asked if they work with private companies. Mr. Zunk indicated they work with private and other organizations. Mr. McCoy asked for any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing. Mr. Taylor adjourned the Planning Commission.

RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution declaring a local emergency due to damage and flooding due to the hurricane.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the resolution for a local emergency 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,403,194.16, 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 (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

SOLAR ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Baker made a motion to set a public hearing for the proposed solar ordinance at the November recess meeting. 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, October 17, 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

Jeffrey Morris
Central District Supervisor

Perry Martin
Eastern District Supervisor

John Lawson
Western District Supervisor

County of Giles



Paul "Chappy" Baker
At-Large Supervisor

Richard McCoy
At-Large Supervisor

Board of Supervisors

A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE OPERATION OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY WITHIN THE COUNTY OF GILES, VIRGINIA TO THE POPLAR HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Poplar Hill Volunteer Fire Department will obtain certification to operate an EMS unit from all appropriate agencies; and

WHEREAS, Poplar Hill Volunteer Fire Department seeks to operate as an EMS agency in Giles County; and

WHEREAS, Poplar Hill Volunteer Fire Department shall follow all requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Giles County Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County Board of Supervisors, has considered this resolution request contingent upon all certifications and licensures being obtained.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GILES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, the Poplar Hill Volunteer Fire Department is hereby granted the operation as a primary EMS agency within their previously established fire coverage area, and as a secondary agency throughout all of Giles County, Virginia as requested and outlined by the Giles County EMS response plan. This resolution in subject to obtaining all certifications and licensures required for such operation of an EMS unit.

Adopted at a meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on October 2, 2024.

	Voting for	Voting against	Abstain	Absent
P. Baker	X			
J. Lawson	X			
P. Martin	X			
R. McCoy	X			
J. Morris	X			

Attest:


Chris McKlarney, Clerk

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

October 2, 2024

**A RESOLUTION
DECLARING LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Local Director of Emergency Management, in accordance with §44-146.21, *Declaration of local emergency*, of the Code of Virginia, in consultation with the Local Emergency Services Coordinator and the National Weather Service, recommends declaration of a local emergency effective immediately due to the risk of flooding from excessive rainfall; and,

WHEREAS, due to heavy rainfall in the County of Giles and flooding creating a risk of inundation of properties located along and adjacent to streams and rivers; and,

WHEREAS, also in accordance with §44-146.21, the governing body shall confirm the declaration of a local emergency, and,

WHEREAS, also in accordance with §44-146.21, the governing body, when in its judgment all emergency actions have been taken, shall take appropriate action to end the declared emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Giles County Board of Supervisors hereby declares by way of resolution, confirmation of the recommendation of a declaration by the Director of Emergency Management of a local emergency for Giles County effective September 27, 2024. and authorizes the County Administrator to file with the Governor of Virginia, a notification that the County of Giles is in a state of Local Emergency,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the time of the adoption of this resolution, the local emergency had resolved due to receding of flood waters and the Board of Supervisors certifies that the local emergency has ended.

Adopted and ratified this, the 2nd day of October, 2024, in Giles County, Virginia.

By: 
Richard K. McCoy, Chairman

Attest: 
Christopher P. McKlarney, Clerk

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Local Director of Emergency Management, in accordance with §44-146.21, *Declaration of local emergency*, of the Code of Virginia, in consultation with the Local Emergency Management Coordinator and the National Weather Service, recommends declaration of a local emergency effective immediately due to excessive rainfall and flooding resulting in part from Tropical Storm Helene; and,

WHEREAS, due to heavy rainfall in the County of Giles and flooding creating a risk of inundation of properties located along and adjacent to streams and rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Local Director of Emergency Management may in accordance with §44-146.21, declare a local emergency which shall be effect subject to the confirmation of such declaration at its next meeting to occur on October 2, 2024, and

NOW THEREFORE the Local Director of Emergency Management declares that a local emergency exists and that residents of Giles County who live in low lying areas adjacent to streams and rivers which prone to flooding should vacate such properties until the flooding risk has passed.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2024.



Chris McKlarney, Emergency Management Director
Giles County, Virginia