At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 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.

Jeff Morris	Chair (Central District)
Paul "Chappy" Baker	Vice-Chair (At-Large Supervisor)
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Western District
Perry Martin	Eastern District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
John Ross	Building Official
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.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. McKlarney stated with it being a new year a reorganization of the Board of Supervisors would need to take place.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Lawson nominated Mr. Morris as Chairman of the Board, and Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. McCoy; Abstaining: Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. Baker

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Lawson nominated Mr. Baker as Vice-Chair of the Board. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. Baker

ESTABLISH DATES/TIMES FOR MEETINGS

Mr. McCoy motioned for meeting dates and times to remain as previously established. The regular meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 3:00 PM, and the recess meeting shall be held on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM. 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

ESTABLISH POLICY FOR RESCHEDULING OF MEETINGS DUE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Mr. McCoy motioned to establish the same policy as held in the past which moves a meeting to the same day on the following week at the same time during the event of an emergency. 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

ADOPT ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER

Mr. Baker motioned that the Board of Supervisors shall adopt and follow Roberts' Rules of Order. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the December 4, 2024, minutes as presented. Mr. McCoy 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

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on work done around the county. He indicated most of the recent activity was storm clean up and keeping up work during the holidays. He indicated they had looked at Country Lane and the connection was completed.

Mr. Baker expressed thanks for the work done to the potholes on Route 61. Mr. Martin reported a drainage issue at 486 Winding Way, indicating it is stopped up and water is diverting into the owner's basement. Mr. Morris stated the tree cutting on Route 100 is making a big difference. Mr. Martin related Route 42 looks good too.

Mr. Brayn Reed presented requests from VDOT for abandonment or discontinuance of right of ways, which included old or unused portions of the following: Commissary Hill Road, Bowens Road, Lurich Road, Cedar Crest Loop, Quail Road, Smith Brothers Road, and Federal Street. He requested members give those some thought and send him any comments or questions. Mr. Reed also presented a citizen request, from Ms. Evans, for abandonment of a portion of Parcell Lane in Staffordsville. He indicated the Evans's own one side of the road and the Randel's own the other. Ms. Evans proposes a new turn around near where the road will be gated off. Mr. Baker stated he would like both the owners contacted and to pursue it if they are both in agreement. Mr. McCoy inquired if the Randel's are in agreement with the abandonment. Mr. Morris indicated the Randel's would have to get a right of way to get to their home. Mr. Lawson advised to make sure everyone is in agreement. Mr. Clarke stated he will check on a public hearing for the abandonments and/or discontinuances and see if they can all be done together.

HILTON STREET EASEMENT REQUEST – VDOT

Mr. Chidester reported he had received a request from VDOT for a right of way from the county on property it obtained from Jerry and Ashley Lafon on Hilton Street through a flood mitigation grant. He indicated the regional director of FEMA and/or VDEM would have to approve any conveyance of the property and explained some of the procedure. He recommended granting the easement contingent upon approval from FEMA/VDEM. Mr. McCoy inquired about clean up of the brush on the property and requested that be written into the agreement.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the VDOT easement request contingent upon approval from FEMA/VDEM as required. 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. Martin inquired about the other side of Route 460 where the water would drain. Mr. Clarke advised he did not think it would change the drainage on the other side.

SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. McKlarney related enrollment numbers of 2,134, which is a decrease of 4 from last month. He reported five bids were received for the Eastern Elementary Middle School project, with the lowest coming in at $8,050,000 from Swope and is lower than the estimated amount.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Billy Meadows – Mr. Meadows stated he was a member of the Glen Lyn Fire Department and Rescue, which he indicated was supposed to be handed over to the county. He requested information from members on what is going to happen with the department, adding he would like to get back to running calls. Mr. McKlarney related the vote was made by the people of Glen Lyn to dissolve the town, and the judge will most likely issue an order to that affect by the end of January. Mr. Chidester stated the estimated date of the signed order would be the end of the day on January 31st, at which time the Town of Glen Lyn will no longer exist. He stated the county will not know what will happen until it is signed, and there could be a delay. Mr. Meadows asked for an idea of what might happen with the department. Mr. McKlarney advised Mr. Jon Butler will be putting together a study to help members decide which direction to go with it. He related there are a lot of options to consider. Mr. Morris stated it is an open contract right now, and members have no idea where it is going until it happens.

OLD BUSINESS

EDA GRANT AGREEMENT – TRC

Mr. McKlarney presented an agreement with TRC, selected by Federal procurement guidelines, for the Glen Lyn power plant repurposing study. The amount of the agreement is $207,000.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to approve the agreement with TRC for the Glen Lyn power plant repurposing study. Mr. McCoy 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

REQUEST FOR BEAD SUPPORT LETTERS

Mr. McKlarney presented requests for letters of support to apply for BEAD broadband funding from Verizon and PemTel. He indicated Verizon wants to apply for everything in Giles west of the New River with their FiOS network, which does not encroach upon PemTel's current coverage. Mr. McKlarney reported PemTel would like to apply for funding to serve the Western District, but it might not make sense for them with the number of customers that will be available. He recommended approval for both letters.

Mr. Lawson made a motion to move forward with letters of support for both Verizon and PemTel in regard to BEAD grant applications. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

VEDP GRANT SUBMISSION

Mr. McKlarney reported a new VEDP grant was submitted for grading of a pad at Wheatland Eco Park, and the county can size the pad based on the grant funding received.

CONCISE SYSTEMS AGREEMENT

Mr. Chidester presented an agreement with Concise Systems, LLC for CAMA software, which was a cooperative procurement with Washington County. He indicated the county has been using VamaNet for quite some time, and there is a lot more available on the Concise software on the public side. Mr. McCoy inquired if there is a reason the county cannot use VamaNet. Mr. McKlarney advised the site was recently purchased by a new company, and the cost would be increasing. He related the difference in cost would be an additional $12,000 over 5 years. Members discussed prices and lack of information on the VamaNet site. Mr. McCoy related he had heard complaints about VamaNet. Mr. McKlarney reported the difference in cost also includes a lot of manual data entry to be done by Concise. Mr. Chidester related it would take eight to nine months for conversion to implementation.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the agreement with Concise Systems. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of $2,930,007.27, and Mr. McCoy 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 made a motion to allocate $3,285,000 for January 2025 school appropriations and $925,916.72 for the Macy project for a total of $4,210,916.72. 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. McCoy motioned to approve $415,000 for the January 2025 Social Services appropriations. 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy 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, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

Mr. McCoy 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

HOUSING TRUST FUND

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve $29,450 for the housing trust fund annually for five years and a FY 26 budget supplement in that same amount. 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

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS GRANT

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve $6,000 in-kind match for a potential grant of the Giles County Flood Preparedness and Resilience Plan. 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

JOINT ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve joint procurement for engineering services with the PSA. 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, January 23, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Administration Office located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Clerk