At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, 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.

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. Morris 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 5, 2025, minutes. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved as presented 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Scottie Potter – Mr. Potter, Recreation Director from the Town of Pearisburg, spoke in favor of the proposed recreation center. He noted various barriers to rec sports and regular school sports, both of which are in need of spaces to practice and have games. He noted a pressing need for the facility and the risk of losing youth in sporting activities.

Mr. Billy Meadows – Mr. Meadows inquired if members had made any decisions on the Glen Lyn Fire Department and expressed a great need for services. He related the department had taken calls across the county and noted limitations to volunteer services due to work schedules. Mr. Meadows indicated Glen Lyn would have availability during those times. Mr. McKlarney explained board members had requested information from the department on an operations plan and training certifications before any decision would be made, and they had not yet received the requested information.

Ms. Christine Farewell – Ms. Farewell, with the Glen Lyn Fire Department, provided a letter and information to board members regarding the department. She asked to reopen the department and stated they could have been a help during recent events.

She indicated the plans, roster and certifications are attached with the letter, and that the fire department is self-sustaining, with them asking only for a portion of the state funding that comes in. Ms. Farewell spoke of the number of units who could respond during the day, and there is a question from local residents about insurance rates going up if there is no longer a fire department in close proximity. She stated the department is very willing to cooperate and help and would like to at least get a provisional time period. Ms. Farewell provided information on services to the community such as classes and transports, as well as them being in the process of becoming a safety shelter. She stated the fire department financials showed they have five bank accounts, and she noted the town has control of two of those, where she only had access to three of them. Ms. Farewell related the department would like to get back to helping people. Mr. Morris indicated members would take time to review the information and would get back to them.

NEW BUSINESS

GIGABEAM REQUEST BEAD GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. McKlarney presented a request from Gigabeam for a letter of support in relation to a BEAD grant application. He noted two others had already been written; and the service area proposed by Gigabeam would be in the Dismal Falls area of the county, which is not proposed for service by either of the other providers.

Mr. Baker made a motion to compose a letter of support relating to a Gigabeam BEAD grant application in the Dismal Falls area as requested, and 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

FIRST RESPONDERS - RECENT FLOODING IN THE COUNTY

Mr. McKlarney expressed appreciation for all the first responders for their work the previous weekend during the flooding. He related they did a fantastic job, and there was a lot of cooperation. Mr. McKlarney indicated there was a lot of damage, which is still being assessed.

OAA BUDGET SESSION

Mr. McKlarney reported he will be attending an OAA budget session on Friday.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of $1,739,938.73, 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 February 2025 school appropriations, $925,916.72 for the Macy project, $3,265,000 for March 2025 school appropriations and $2,963,314 for the SCAP Macy project for a total of $10,439,230.72. 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. Martin motioned to approve $435,000.00 for the March 2025 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. McCoy 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, 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

PROPOSED RECREATION CENTER

Mr. McKlarney reported on comments received regarding the proposed recreation center at the Cascades Industrial Park, noting 66 percent were in favor, 15 percent were in favor with a pool, and 19 percent were opposed. He explained members would take the comments into consideration, and the next step would be to allow for some funding to do some planning on the project.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE GLEN LYN VOTING PRECINCT AND CONSOLIDATE WITH RICH CREEK VOTING PRECINCT

Mr. Morris opened the public hearing. Mr. McKlarney presented the proposed ordinance to eliminate the Glen Lyn voting precinct and consolidate it with the Rich Creek voting precinct. He indicated the facility for Glen Lyn will no longer be available, and the electoral board was in favor of this action as well. Mr. Morris asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – 5 MWAC SOLAR ARRAY NEAR ROGERS ROAD IN RIPPLEMEAD

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

Mr. John Ross presented a request for issuance of a conditional use permit pursuant to Sections 802.04 and 716 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance, specifically to allow for the construction and operation of a 5MWAC solar array and facility to be established at or near 279 Rogers Road in Ripplemead, Virginia. The property associated with this request is specifically identified as tax parcels 27-6-3, 27-6-4 and 27-6-5, is owned by Daniel Gallagher and is located in the A-1 (Agriculture and Limited Uses) zoning district. Mr. Ross indicated he had received no questions or comments regarding this request.

Ms. Jessie Robinson and Mr. Quentin Wood, with New Leaf Energy, presented information relating to the proposed project. They provided information on the history of the company, how the project complies with or exceeds the requirements set forth by the zoning ordinance, the type of panels to be used and the project location, studies conducted to ensure the least impact to adjacent neighbors, visual simulations of the project, information on construction, operations/maintenance and decommissioning of the project, stormwater management requirements, compliance with the Giles County Comprehensive Plan, community outreach conducted, panel composition, and frequently asked questions. Ms. Robinson provided information on the opportunity for community members to subscribe to save 10 to 15 percent on their electric bills, as well as other benefits of the project to community.

Mr. Lawson requested information on the process to subscribe for electric bill savings. Ms. Robinson related the company would reach out to people to see if they are interested prior to construction, and there will be a minimum bill amount, which will lead to a credit. She stated there would be a credit score process, and New Leaf would do that through a third party. Mr. Lawson inquired if there is a distance requirement. Ms. Robinson explained there is none. Mr. Lawson inquired if there could be a distance requirement. Ms. Robinson indicated New Leaf would offer the savings to Giles County residents first. Mr. Morris inquired if the panels are flat or rotate. Mr. Wood stated they are fixed and do not rotate. Mr. Ross stated the item will be taken back to the Planning Commission on Tuesday, February 25th for a recommendation.

<u>Mr. Ben Wilson</u> – Mr. Wilson stated he had worked with the county to implement the new solar ordinance, which will serve to protect the community but also allow for improvement. He related it will open doors for new jobs and businesses in the county, and spoke of the need to retain the power to make these types of decisions locally. Mr. Wilson indicated it shows local government is effective and can make good decisions for its community.

Mr. Morris asked for any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing. Mr. Taylor adjourned the Planning Commission.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the ordinance to eliminate the Glen Lyn Voting Precinct and consolidate it with the Rich Creek Voting Precinct. 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, March 5, 2025, 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 9-22
Page 1 of 1
February 20, 2025

AN ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE THE GLEN LYN VOTING PRECINCT AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE GLEN LYN PRECINCT WITH THE RICH CREEK PRECINCT PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE §24.2-306 and 307

After public hearing on February 20, 2025, pursuant to notice published in the Virginian Leader on February 5th and February 12th, 2025, and published on the Giles County website (www.virginiasmtnplayground.com),

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, pursuant to §24,2-306 and 307 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as follows:

1. That the Glen Lyn Voting precinct shall be combined with the Rich Creek Voting precinct.

2. That the new combined precinct shall be known as the Rich Creek voting precinct.

3. The polling place for the Rich Creek voting precinct shall remain at the Rich Creek Community Center, 140 Spruce Street, Rich Creek, VA 24147

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption, subject to a certification of no objection by the Attorney General of Virginia pursuant to the Virginia Voting Rights Act. (Virginia Code Section 24.2-125, *et seq*).

Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, held on February 20, 2025.

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

Attest: __________________________
Christopher P. McKlarney, Clerk

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