At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 5, 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 – Absent

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. McCoy motioned to approve the February 20, 2025, minutes as presented. 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

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Mr. McKlarney presented some volunteers from Christ In Action, a group doing clean up and demolition work in various flood areas who had been in the county doing some clean up on Caboose Lane. He also recognized the Pembroke Assembly of God who has taken care of the volunteers, since they arrived in the county.

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on maintenance within the county including slides on Routes 700, 460 and Fletcher's Mountain Road; storm clean up and maintenance on several roads. Mr. Baker reported pot holes on Dogwood Lane and Route 219. Mr. McCoy expressed thanks for VDOT's response for the last storm and brush cutting. He asked that the drains on the Ripplemead bridge on Route 460 be checked. Mr. Lawson reiterated needs on Burton Road and Whitlow Road and asked that the entry from Route 460 at Rich Creek Tire and Auto be checked due to potential for accidents. Mr. Martin expressed appreciation for the work done in the Eastern District following the storms and inquired about culvert replacement at Smith Hollow Road, noting one was destroyed. Mr. Morris related soil had been washed away at that culvert. Mr. Martin reported mud and gravel over the lanes near 473 Bluegrass Trail, requested stone on Rocky Gap, ditching on Orchard Hill, reported gravel in the roadway on Big Stony Creek and trees close to falling on Mountain Lake Road. He inquired about what VDOT could maintain on Sportsman's Circle and reported low shoulders on Route 460 in Hoge's Chapel. Mr. McCoy added people have been running off the road in that area and ruining tires and rims. Mr. McKlarney thanked VDOT for the work done during recent flooding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Hyatt – Mr. Hyatt expressed concern regarding Burton Road, noting culverts were installed in 2010 but ditch work needs to be done to get the water into them. He indicated Burton Road was on the Six-Year plan in 2007 but had been removed. Mr. Hyatt related the sides are higher than the road and thanked VDOT for the efforts during the last storm. Mr. Lawson inquired if there was some type of funding to help to build the roads back up. Mr. Clarke indicated he would take a look at it and get back to members.

COUNTY REPORT

Mr. Bryan Reed presented a request to add a portion of Smith Brothers Road to the road abandonment list developed by VDOT. He provided information on the location of the portion for members and Mr. Clarke. Members concurred.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,139 students, which is a decrease of one from the previous month, and there are an additional 1,555 nonresidential Stride virtual students. Dr. Arbogast reported information on school winners for the spelling bee and related a Giles High School wrestler won at the state championships as well as the Giles High School swim team placings. He noted competition results for Skills USA.

OLD BUSINESS

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Mr. John Ross presented the Planning Commission recommendation for the proposed conditional use permit for a solar array at Rogers Road by New Leaf Solar. He stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the project with the following conditions:

- If the project secures a place in the shared solar program, then prior to beginning the commercial operation of the solar facility, the applicant shall use good faith efforts to identify residents of Giles County to voluntarily subscribe to its shared solar facility, provided that the initial outreach shall be to community members within a five-mile radius of the solar facility (Local Potential Subscribers). Good faith efforts to identify means using commercially reasonable methods to identify occupants of residences and sending to such occupants by

U.S. mail, information regarding the opportunity to subscribe to the shared solar facility. After the outreach to local potential subscribers is completed, the applicant shall use good faith efforts to identify other residents of the county.

• Project shall comply with all aspects of the Giles County Solar Ordinance, Section 716 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance, unless otherwise noted. In this case, the only exception requested is to utilize existing trees and other vegetation to comply with the planting requirement of the ordinance. These existing trees must be maintained for the life of the project or replaced with plantings, which meet the requirements if they are destroyed by any means.

• All other required permits to be obtained and all other applicable regulations to be followed.

Mr. Ross further stated that subsequent to the Planning Commission meeting he had conversations with both Mr. Martin and Mr. Lawson regarding the first condition and its language of "If the project secures a place in the shared solar program…", and that he believed that it was both of their understandings that the project had been presented as it would definitely be in the shared solar program. Ms. Jesse Robinson of New Leaf addressed this point and stated that the project would not happen if it was not enrolled and that if the current allocation of 50MWAC is filled prior to this projects acceptance that the project would be on hold until it was accepted.

Mr. Martin made a motion to approve the conditional use permit as recommended by the Planning Commission as the conditions were set forth with the exception that the verbiage in the first condition be modified to reflect that construction activities could not begin until the project is accepted into the shared solar program. 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

DHCD GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Mr. McKlarney related the county intends to apply for grant funding through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Cross Avenue water line extension, for sewer service extension to Mountain Lake and the Urgent Need program to help with Hurricane Helene clean up expenses. He indicated public hearings would need to be held in order to apply for the funding and noted Mountain Lake would pay the match and engineering costs. Mr. McKlarney explained Mountain Lake would need the county to apply for the funding as a conduit. He provided information about the current sewer system at Mountain Lake and the amount of pipe to run it into the pump station, noting it would generate some revenue. He reminded members of his involvement on the Mountain Lake Board.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to set required public hearings for the DHCD grant application submissions as required. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The

motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Lawson

Mr. McCoy made a motion to move forward with the grant application for the Mountain Lake sewer extension as requested. 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 $1,027,149.03, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel 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

CURVE ROAD WATER REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney presented a request for water line extension on Curve Road from Ms. Lauren Conley. He indicated the line would serve three houses. Members discussed the property and parcels being split. Mr. McKlarney related he would get a cost estimate together and present it to the property owners if members would like to move forward and stated owners have paid for the materials and half the labor in the past. Members concurred with providing owners with a rough estimate.

ROUTE 42 WATER EXTENSION

Mr. Martin inquired if there was any update on the water line extension on Route 42. Mr. McKlarney indicated the engineers are working on design and should get something back soon.

RECREATION CENTER UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney inquired if members would like to move forward with allowing staff to begin estimates for construction, operational costs and a more formalized design of the proposed recreation center. Members discussed the need for more concise estimates and costs as well as the possibility of developing a committee after estimates are done. Members concurred with moving forward with gathering the needed information and designs.

FOREST SERVICE

Mr. Martin inquired if the Forest Service could be contacted about maintaining Cascades and White Rocks. Mr. McKlarney related he would draft a letter and also send it on to state and federal representatives. Members discussed issues.

VIRGINIA OUTDOOR FOUNDATION

Mr. McKlarney stated he would like to apply for some VOF funding to acquire some land in Ripplemead near the bridge to help protect it from squatters moving in there. He related the cost would be around $35,000. Members discussed various options for use and information regarding the parcel. Mr. Martin stated he would rather use VOF funding for something like Cascades. Mr. McKlarney indicated the realtor with information relating to a parcel next to Cascades has not yet called him back. He stated he would work on these and bring it back to the Board prior to acting.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 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