

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, May 7, 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 – Absent
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. McCoy motioned to approve the April 17, 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

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Ms. Angie Higginbotham, Giles County Treasurer, introduced her Chief Deputy, Ms. Michelle Stephens. Ms. Higginbotham related she would be attending the evening meetings and would have Ms. Stephens attend the day meetings in case members have any questions.

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on road maintenance within the county including patching for the paving schedule on Eggleston Road, Big Stony Creek Road, and Walkers Creek Valley Road. He reported patching on Kow Camp, overlay in Pembroke, and a debris clean up and slide stabilization.

Mr. Baker expressed thanks for the work done on Route 635 and reported pot holes on the Ripplemead ramp off of Route 460 as well as the road in Narrows in front of the Annex building needing work. He related there is a tree leaning into the roadway on Curve Road that needs to be cut, Route 219 has potholes that need filled and a tree near McKenzie’s that is getting ready to fall, and shoulders washed out and potholes on Route 635 before the lime plant. Mr. McCoy related there are a lot of places on Doe Creek Road where the shoulder has washed out and is eroding the pavement.

Mr. Lawson indicated he had received a letter requesting brush cutting on East River Mountain and related the pipes are clogged on Penvir Road near the Stowers residence, and a resident on Penvir Road had dropped his boat off in the ditch. Mr. Martin thanked VDOT for the tress being cut on Mountain Lake Road. He reported a very deep ditch on Smith Hollow Road near where culvert work was done and a rough section on Kow Camp. He inquired if there would be any more ditch work done on Winding Way. Mr. Clarke advised he had provided the address and related the issue but is not sure if there is more work to do there. Mr. Martin reported holes opening up on Route 460 east bound near Mountain Lake Road and shoulders eating into the road on Lucas Road and Rocky Sink, asking for update on repairs. He reported debris being washed into the road on Route 42 due to a residential driveway and inquired what VDOT can do for that issue. Mr. Clarke advised they are looking at it, but there is not a lot they can do. He indicated he would have to talk to some of the property owners. Mr. McKlarney related there would be one owner who would be willing to sit down and talk about it, one owner had passed away, and there is no ditch on that side of the road. Mr. Clarke indicated VDOT would be glad to do whatever it can in its right of way.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Arbogast updated the board on current enrollments. He stated there are currently 2,120 students, which is a decrease of three from the previous month, and there are an additional 1,605 nonresidential Stride virtual students. He provided updates on school renovation projects and indicated all project would be underway on June 2nd. Dr. Arbogast provided information on the current art show and invited members to stop by to view the exhibits. He related information about a technology conference in Hampton, Virginia and named finalists and their categories, adding 15 students would be attending the national competition. Dr. Arbogast stated graduation for Giles would be held on May 29th and for Narrows on May 30th, which will also be the last day of school.

Mr. Martin inquired about issues with the Giles High School auditorium sound system. Dr. Arbogast advised there was an issue, but it was corrected. Mr. Martin asked about a report of mold in a classroom at Eastern Elementary. Dr. Arbogast explained an air quality study was done with no significant difference between the air inside and outside of the classroom.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Helen Beavers – Ms. Beavers presented a new website being designed by some Virginia Tech students for the Pembroke Library, which will be online soon. She noted an oral history project that they will be working on and plans to have the recordings transcribed for the website, with more than 60 local people interested in participating. Ms. Beavers related a need for a fiduciary for a grant the library has need of for equipment and inquired if the county would be willing to assist.

Mr. Billy Meadows – Mr. Meadows, from Glen Lyn Fire and Rescue, asked for any answers about what is going to happen with the department. He indicated he was told

some of the department's equipment has been promised to other departments. Mr. Lawson stated that was no factual. Mr. McKlarney explained additional information would be provided to the Board later on in the meeting, and he is not sure what will happen. He assured staff would be talking with the department members as well, adding it is an important decision and members wanted more information. Mr. McKlarney stated a decision should be made in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

MAY RECESS MEETING

Mr. Lawson made a motion to move the recess meeting to May 22, 2025, and 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

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET

Mr. McKlarney provided a copy of the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and indicated he did not anticipate any change in the tax rate for this year.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,266,044.92, 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

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCoy made a motion to reappoint Mr. Jeff Dinger to the Salvation Army Board. 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. McCooy 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, 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

May 7, 2025