

At a budget work session of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 2:00 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
Catherine Ballard	Finance Director
John Ross	Building Official – Absent
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Missy Bray	Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morris called the work session to order.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. McKlarney presented a variety of budgetary topics such as anticipated employee increases, expected revenues and expected expenditures. Mr. McKlarney indicated the budget numbers include a three percent increase for staff. He noted upcoming projects such as the Route 42 waterline extension. Mr. McCoy suggested adding \$10,000 for the coyote bounty line item instead of taking the funds from recreational funding. Mr. Martin inquired if more could be done for the volunteer agencies. Mr. Jon Butler indicated the volunteers had suggested to put funding into an annual allotment, and Giles Rescue had expressed a need for a new ambulance. Mr. Martin stated he would advocate to increase the fire department funding. Mr. Butler reported an upcoming radio grant, adding the awarding agency had come back with additional questions on the grant application. Members discussed school funding, positions and requests and related they would allocate the requested amount but would like additional information on the portion of which they were unsure. Mr. Martin suggested looking at additional funding for local pantries who impact and serve the county. Mr. McCoy related the Christian Mission is very good at coming back with information on what the needs there are when approached. Mr. McKlarney stated the county had entered into a membership with Feeding Southwest Virginia in order for them to come conduct distributions in the county during the pandemic. Mr. McCoy agreed with putting funding in the budget for the pantry at the Christian Mission, and Mr. McKlarney suggested adding \$25,000 as community projects. He advised the budget public hearing would need to be advertised for the upcoming recess meeting, which would need to be moved from June 19th to June 18th due to the holiday. Mr. Morris called for a recess until the regularly scheduled meeting time.

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, June 4, 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 – Absent
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 May 22, 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

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on road maintenance within the county including patching for the paving schedule, working a mud slide on Mountain Lake Road, a sink hole on Wenonah near the high school, mowing on the western end of the county, and work started on Lucas Road and Rocky Sink. Mr. Baker reported trees in the road and damaged guardrail on Cascade Drive, and related a request for surface treatment on Sands Road due to the gravel being washed into the ditches. He indicated there are potholes on Route 219 and Big Stony Creek Road and reported a dip in the road near the annex building in Narrows. Mr. Baker inquired about a date for the public hearing to be held on the road abandonments previously approved. Mr. Clarke stated he would have to look into it. Mr. McCoy inquired if both sides of the road would be worked in Pembroke where VDOT had requested the easement from the county, noting issues on both sides of the road in that location. He reported sight issues due to high grass and inquired about the mowing schedule and related water had washed out the curve out on Kow Camp.

Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for the work done on Old Wolf Creek Road. Mr. Clarke stated VDOT is trying to figure out something on Trivett Farm Road, noting he had recently talked with Ms. Christen Poe. Mr. Martin thanked VDOT for the culvert work on Smith Hollow and reported issues on Doe Creek Road up to Celestial Heights.

He indicated the ditches are filling up and cutting across the road as well as a tree falling, which had caused some problems. He reported potholes toward the top of Doe Creek, and he had received a call about the pavement needing work on Clover Hollow. Mr. Martin inquired if there was anything VDOT could do about the issue being caused on Route 42 at the Cochran property. Mr. Clarke advised he had learned nothing new but will continue to look to see what can be done, noting it was hard to get water to turn. Mr. Morris reported trees growing over the road on Brooks Road. Mr. McCoy reiterated the issues with Doe Creek where the road is coming out. Mr. Baker related a sign needs replaced near Giles High School due to being faded and covered with brush and added mowing needs done on Virginia Heights.

OLD BUSINESS

JUNE RECESS MEETING AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. McCoy made a motion to move the recess meeting from June 19, 2025 to June 18, 2025 due to the holiday, and hold the FY 2026 budget public hearing at the June recess meeting. 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

ACCE ALL IN PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Rachel Keffer and Ms. Abby McCoy presented information relating to the ACCE All In program. The material included number of service projects, number of hours, and Giles students had an average GPA of 3.36, which was higher than the college average. In addition, information was provided regarding the categories of the projects, such as elderly outreach, community involvement, and clean-up efforts. Mr. Charlie Mullins thanked members for their support of the students and the program.

NEW BUSINESS

POLYSTYRENE RESOLUTION REQUEST

Mr. Chidester presented a proposed resolution requested by Ms. Christy Lawson with the schools for a waiver on the requirement for food service to discontinue use of polystyrene containers. He indicated the legislation was passed in 2021, but the schools had only recently obtained knowledge of the requirement and related the schools only use polystyrene containers during the summer food program or if the dishwashers are down. Mr. Chidester indicated the cost of purchasing different containers would be approximately \$8,500, and members could pass a resolution for a waiver if they wish to do so for a period of one year. He stated DEQ was supposed to post how to comply with the legislation, but he had been unable to locate that information on the DEQ website. He indicated the penalty cost is \$50 per day, and some other localities had adopted these resolutions. Mr. McCoy inquired if it was passed due to health risks of polystyrene. Mr. Chidester stated he believes it as due to it not being biodegradable. Mr. McCoy inquired why DEQ is not granting the waivers.

Mr. Chidester explained the statute states a waiver should be requested from the locality and does not believe there would be any liability issue to the county. He indicated the waiver could be contested. Mr. McCoy inquired what all the other food vendors will do with all the fairs and festivals that will be happening during the summer. Mr. Chidester provided the definition of a food vendor and stated he thinks most have already switched over to other options. Mr. McCoy requested they be aware that the Board expects some kind of plan in place to deal with the change. Mr. Lawson explained that vendors are struggling to come up with an economical alternative to the polystyrene containers.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the requested waiver resolution with the stipulation that a plan be put in place. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve warrants in the amount of \$1,068,387.31, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Larry Greene – Mr. Green expressed concerns over driveway debris being washed out onto Route 42 and inquired if there are any zoning requirements. He indicated there had not been any cleaning out of culverts, and it will come back whenever it rains. Mr. McKlarney advised the county had spent a lot of time on this issue. Mr. Chidester explained that the administrator of the estate does not have any authority over the property, and he had heard the family is trying to take action to establish a will. Mr. Chidester related county has no authority to take any action on a VDOT road, and the parties involved had priced out the cost to fix the road properly and are also having conversations. He explained with all this going on the hope is that the situation improves.

APPOINTMENTS

Members discussed the number of upcoming appointments and requested a list.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (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 Wednesday, June 18, 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

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GILES COUNTY, VIRGINIA PROVIDING
EXEMPTION TO GILES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH VIRGINIA
CODE SECTION 10.1-1424.3 FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025**

WHEREAS, Giles County Public Schools (herein GCPS) is a food vendor as defined in Virginia Code Section 10.1-1414 and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 10.1-1424.3 (A), beginning July 1, 2025, food service vendors may not dispense prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is authorized pursuant to Subsection B of Section 10.1-1424.3 to grant an exemption from the provisions of Subsection A for a period of one year upon a showing by a food vendor of the lack of a reasonable alternative to the expanded polystyrene food service containers in use and that compliance with subsection A would cause significant economic hardship to the food vendor, and

WHEREAS, GCPS has submitted a written application for an exemption for a period of one year from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, by email from Christy B. Lawson, dated June 3, 2025 at 12:01 pm, a copy of which is attached hereto, and,

WHEREAS, such application documents the lack of a reasonable alternative and a significant economic hardship if the exemption is not granted,

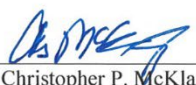
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia that the following Resolution is hereby adopted pursuant to Section 10.1-1424.3 B:

Giles County Public Schools is hereby granted an exemption to compliance with Virginia Code Section 10.1-1424.3 (A) from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

This Resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2025

Member	Attendance	Vote
Baker	Present	Yes
Lawson	Present	Abstain
Martin	Present	Yes
McCoy	Present	Yes
Morris	Present	Yes

ATTEST: 
Christopher P. McKlarney, Clerk

Approved as to form: 
County Attorney