

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, October 1, 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
Jon Butler	Emergency Services Coordinator
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 September 18, 2025, minutes as presented. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris; Absent: Mr. Martin

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke updated members on road maintenance within the county including boom axe work along the roads, working of a potential slide area on Route 61, work done on Route 61 near Trivett Farm Road, and patching on Doe Creek, Mountain Lake and Rocky Sink. He noted he is working with the school system for guidance on the roads that need the most work for the buses and related some drainage work to be done on Hilton Road. Mr. Clarke indicated some drainage design is being done on Prospectdale Road in preparation for the secondary road improvements, and shoulder widening continues on Route 460 in anticipation of work to be done on the west-bound side in the future. He reported crews have been checking the equipment to get ready for winter.

Mr. Baker reported potholes in Ripplemead and on Route 635 near the lime plant, and related the park and ride spot at the end of Route 42 needs gravel or paving. He indicated Cascade Drive needs some guardrail replaced, and there are potholes on Route 771. Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for the work done on Route 61 and reiterated Route 219 is in rough shape near the old White’s Market location.

Mr. Martin asked for an update on the work done on the Mountain Lake slide. Mr. Clarke stated he did not think there was anything else left to do there except possibly

some dressing and seeding. Mr. Martin related he had people express concern about it reoccurring with the next heavy rain. Mr. Morris reported the on ramp coming out of Pearisburg has a big dip in it again. Mr. Reed noted the address where the guard rail needs replaced on Cascade Drive, and Mr. Morris stated barrels had been placed there but are now missing. Mr. McKlarney reported trees and rocks in the ditch line on Old Wolf Creek Road.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Marlin Campbell reported schools are wrapping up the first month and have had a successful start. He noted the construction projects are progressing well, and the Department of Education is getting ready to release an accountability system, which will be part of how schools are ranked. Dr. Campbell explained the Department of Education will be increasing the cut scores for SOL testing, and the schools are in the process of developing a comprehensive strategic plan and outlined some of the categories to be included. He indicated he would be going on a “listening tour” the following week in preparation of budget season, and he looks forward to working with all the stakeholders. Mr. Baker expressed appreciation for the new larger flag at Giles High School.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Billy Meadows - Mr. Meadows related he had gotten a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Farewell and would like to set up a meeting or ask some questions to get answers. Mr. McKlarney indicated he could be available for a meeting, but the decision was up to Mr. Meadows. Mr. Meadows requested copies of various reports and paperwork mentioned in the letter and asked about what would need to be changed if the Glen Lyn department opened back up, adding when everything happened, none of the current people were in leadership. Mr. McKlarney outlined who the individuals were who would not be allowed to be in leadership, adding anyone involved in the incident. Mr. Meadows inquired about problem with the roster submitted. Mr. McKlarney related some people listed on the roster stated they had not agreed to become members. Mr. Baker inquired if any people listed on the roster were from outside of Virginia. Mr. Meadows indicated there were some listed from Peterstown. Mr. Meadows inquired if the paperwork states anything about him being guilty of something. Mr. McKlarney advised the report stated an incident with a minor was reported, and the county cannot allow people like that in leadership. Mr. Meadows related it was stated in a department meeting that what happens in the department stays in the department until it is determined to be reportable. Mr. McKlarney advised part of the problem is that the incident was not reported to authorities by the department for months. He advised the county will continue to communicate with who the county has heard is the current chiefs of fire and EMS, and a path has been laid out for the department to reopen. Mr. McKlarney stated the opportunity for reopening is there, but it cannot happen without the changes. He indicated there is a path forward, and he hopes they take advantage of it.

Mr. Meadows complained that things are still being held over his head and it is putting stress on him, even though everything has been dropped. Mr. McKlarney explained the

problem is how the incident was dealt with. Mr. Meadows stated there is no evidence or anything, so it needs to be dropped.

Mr. John Ratcliffe – Mr. Ratcliffe inquired about the status of the water line extension on Cross Avenue. Mr. McKlarney explained the county would not know about the grant until such time as the Governor announces awards. He anticipates it will be this fall, but construction on the project would most likely not happen until around 18 months following the grant award due to grant and state regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

PEARISBURG TOWN MANAGER

Mr. McKlarney introduced the new Town Manager for Pearisburg, Mr. Adam Poser.

SCHOOL INTERIM FINANCING

Mr. McKlarney reported it is taking longer to get the state funding for the school construction projects, as they are only doing that quarterly. He also reported the contractors are billing more than initially thought as well, which has increased the spending more than expected. He requested members pass a resolution allowing him to apply for \$10 million interim school financing in order to cover costs until the grant funding comes through.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve a resolution allowing for \$10 million in school interim financing 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 \$3,366,918.45, 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 (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

WOLF CREEK 5/10K

Mr. McKlarney announced the upcoming Wolf Creek Runs Wild 5/10K later in the month and invited members to participate.

CHRISTIAN MISSION REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney presented a request for assistance from the Christian Mission to purchase a walk-in freezer at a cost of \$5,055. Mr. McCoy inquired if they had not previously approved up to \$10,000. Mr. McKlarney advised they had. Members concurred to assist with the freezer purchase.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 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