

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County Maintenance 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
Gracie Howard	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.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. McKlarney stated that with it being a new year a reorganization of the Board of Supervisors would need to take place.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Baker made a motion to nominate Mr. Morris to be the chair of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote as follows: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin and Mr. McCoy; Abstaining: Mr. Morris

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. McCoy nominated Mr. Lawson to be the vice chair of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. Mr. Lawson motioned to nominate Mr. McCoy to be the vice chair of the Board of Supervisors; motion died for lack of a second. The initial motion was approved by a 4-0 vote as follows: Mr. Baker, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris; Abstaining: Mr. Lawson

ESTABLISH DATES/TIMES FOR MEETINGS

Mr. McCoy motioned for meeting dates and times to remain as previously established. The regular meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning at 3:00 PM, and the recess meeting shall be held on the third

Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

ESTABLISH POLICY FOR RESCHEDULING OF MEETINGS DUE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Mr. McCoy motioned to establish the same policy as held in the past which moves a meeting to the same day on the following week at the same time during the event of an emergency. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

ADOPT ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER

Mr. Baker motioned that the Board of Supervisors shall adopt and follow Roberts' Rules of Order. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the December 3, 2025, minutes as presented. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported on recent county maintenance activities, including snow preparation, completion of mowing along Routes 460 and 61, repair of a washout on Spruce Run, road work on Sadler Mountain and Scale House Road, and ongoing shoulder work and mowing on Big Stoney.

Mr. Baker reported the need for installing 200–300 feet of guardrail along Big Stoney, due to a significant drop-off. He also noted potholes in the same area, as well as additional potholes along Route 61 and Route 42.

Mr. McCoy asked for an update on the appointment of a new supervisor for the area. Mr. Clarke provided that no official decision had been made for the new VDOT supervisor.

Mr. Lawson expressed appreciation for the shoulder work completed on Route 61 and noted that additional repairs will eventually be needed.

Mr. Martin reported maintenance concerns, including brush near the intersection of Zells Mill and Clover Hollow, damage to a 911 emergency indication sign on Placid Lane caused by a snowplow, and storm-damaged brush adjacent to culverts along Clover Hollow Road.

Mr. David Clarke mentioned plans to meet with county staff soon to discuss projects and needs, and these meetings occur quarterly. Additionally, he mentioned an upcoming Rich Creek council meeting with VDOT on January 12th and advised that it would be beneficial for Mr. Lawson to attend.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Marlin Campbell reported that there have been seven virtual learning days this school year, with a limit of ten days allowed. He discussed new alternate snow routes, highlighted a strong attendance rate of 97.45% compared to 92.44% the previous year, and noted progress on school construction projects.

Mr. Morris inquired about school population percentages, and Dr. Campbell reported that enrollment is five students higher than before, with additional students participating in the Stride program.

Mr. Baker commended the achievements of the Giles Drama Club and offered recognition for their success.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chris Taylor from New River Valley Community Services provided an update on their work in Giles County and highlighted the partnership with the County.

GILES HEALTH AND FAMILY

Helen Wallace from Giles Health and Family discussed an upcoming application for public transportation, emphasized the need for micro-transit in the area, and requested support through funding and letters of recommendation. Chris McKlarney praised Giles Health and Family efforts and commitment to leveraging available opportunities.

NEW RIVER TANNERY CLEAN UP PROJECT – EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT PROPOSAL

Mr. Hale presented updates on the Former Leas & McVitty/New River Tannery Cleanup Project and the EPA Brownfields cleanup grant, which will be submitted later this month. He explained that community input is part of the grant process and recognized members who have assisted, including Karen Webber of Virginia DEQ, Joe Morici and Miranda Basconi from Stantec, and Carrie Staton, Director of the Brownfields Technical

Assistance Center at WVU. Joe Morici outlined Option 4, which involves removing two feet of soil from the top of contaminated areas of the site and replacing it, and noted that public comments are due by January 21. Carrie Staton stated that grant award announcements are expected in June. Chris McKlarney added that Giles County well #4, which provides water for many residents, is adjacent to the location, and the cleanup plan will help ensure its integrity and security.

WATER/ WASTEWATER APPRENTICESHIP

Mr. McCoy asked for an update on the progress of the new apprenticeship program focused on water and wastewater management.

Mr. Hale reported progress on the new apprenticeship program for water and wastewater management. He noted that the team is working on completing documentation and meeting Virginia Works program requirements and emphasized the importance of this initiative for the continued well-being of the community.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$2,462,337.61, and Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION

Mr. Lawson motioned to allocate \$3,275,000.00 for January 2026 school appropriations and \$450,000.00 for the Giles High School project for a total of \$4,044,823.59. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION

Mr. Martin motioned to approve \$450,000.00 for the January 2026 Social Services appropriations. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote 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 (7) Legal Counsel and (29) Contracts. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 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 by a 5-0 rollcall vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

ADKINS BRIDGE RESOLUTION

The resolution requests that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Apache Road over Sinking Creek in Giles County as the Atkins "Maybrook Boys" Memorial Bridge. This honors six brothers: Harry B., John, Curtis, David, Warren "June" Jr., and Billy Atkins who were born in the Maybrook community and served in World War II and the Korean War.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Martin second the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

JANUARY RECESS MEETING

Mr. McCoy motioned to change the date for the January recess meeting to the 22nd. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 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, January 22, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Maintenance Building located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg.

APPROVED:

Chair _____

ATTEST:

Clerk

Jeffrey Morris
Central District Supervisor

Perry Martin
Eastern District Supervisor

John Lawson
Western District Supervisor

County of Giles



Paul "Chappy" Baker
At-Large Supervisor

Richard McCoy
At-Large Supervisor

Board of Supervisors

1 TAYLOR AVENUE, SUITE 2
PEARISBURG, VIRGINIA 24134

Resolution Naming the Bridge on Apache Road, over Sinking Creek in Giles County as the Atkins "Maybrook Boys" Memorial Bridge

WHEREAS, Brothers Harry B. Atkins, John Atkins, Curtis Atkins, David Atkins, Warren "June" Atkins Jr., and Billy Atkins all were born and raised in the Maybrook community of Giles County.

WHEREAS, Harry B. Atkins, John Atkins, Curtis Atkins, David Atkins, and Warren "June" Atkins Jr. all served their country with honor during World War II.

WHEREAS, Billy Atkins served his country with honor in the Korean War.

WHEREAS, These brothers would collectively become known as the "Maybrook Boys" in honor of their family's service to their country in times of conflict.

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to give suitable names to state highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities and change the names of any highways, bridges, interchanges, or other transportation facilities forming a part of the systems of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB and requires that the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining such signs shall be paid by the localities in which they are located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Giles County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 33.2-213 of the Code of Virginia, does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board name the bridge on Apache Road, over Sinking Creek in Giles County as the Atkins "Maybrook Boys" Memorial Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Giles County agrees to pay the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

Signature *Chris McKinney*

Date 1/8/26

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January 7, 2026