

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:30 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)
John C. Lawson, Jr.	Vice-Chair (Western District)
Perry Martin	Eastern District
Paul “Chappy” Baker	At-Large Supervisor
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the January 7, 2026, 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***

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION: RECOGNITION OF ELWOOD LAMBERT

Mr. Jon Butler addressed the Board and presented a special resolution for consideration. He noted that several guests were in attendance, including members of the Narrows fire department and their families, and expressed appreciation for their service and ongoing commitment.

Mr. Butler explained that the resolution honors Fire Chief Elwood Lambert, who joined the Narrows fire department in 1975 and achieved 50 years of service in 2025. During his tenure, Mr. Lambert has served as Chief, President, and Chaplain of the department, and volunteered as Assistant Chief with the Celco Fire Brigade. He emphasized Mr. Lambert’s significant influence as a mentor to many in the department, including himself.

Mr. Butler requested the Board’s approval to present the resolution recognizing Mr. Lambert’s exceptional service.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to adopt the resolution 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

WARMING SHELTERS

Mr. McKlarney reported that warming shelters would open on Monday, due to anticipated extremely low temperatures over the upcoming weekend. He stated that the exact impact of the approaching storm remained uncertain, but staff had participated in multiple coordination calls. He commended Jon Butler for effectively communicating with local emergency services, as well as with VDOT and the State Police, to ensure preparedness.

Mr. McKlarney advised that the warming shelter located at the Wellness Center would operate Monday through Thursday from 5:30 AM to 10:00 PM, and on Friday until 9:00 PM. The shelters are intended to provide a safe location should any power outages occur, though current forecasts suggest snow and sleet rather than freezing rain. He noted that additional shelters could be opened at other locations if necessary. He thanked Jon for his efforts throughout the past week and reported that shelter information had been shared on social media to help ensure adequate public awareness.

WHEATLAND ECO PARK

Mr. McKlarney informed the Board that bids for the Wheatland pad work are due on February 4. He reported that the project involves grading a 26-acre pad, with approximately 75% of the cost funded by the state. He noted that a pre-bid meeting was held the previous week with 16 contractors represented, which he described as a strong turnout. Mr. McKlarney stated that the bid results should be available prior to the Board meeting scheduled for that day.

CASCADE PARKING- FOREST CORPS GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. McKlarney reported that the grant application to the Forest Corps for the acquisition and construction of an overflow parking lot at the Cascades has been submitted. He commended Mr. Chidester for his extensive efforts in gathering necessary information and contacting numerous individuals, as well as Mr. Martin for identifying and tracking down property owners in the area.

He stated that the application includes two alternatives. The first is a lower-cost option located near the road with 19 parking spaces. The second alternative is located further down on the floodplain and would provide 46 parking spaces.

BOARDROOM RENOVATION – BID SCHDEULE UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney reported that bid solicitation for renovation of the boardroom at the new county administration offices are expected to be released in early February, likely around February 5. He stated that he has a current copy of the bid documents and noted that there have been no significant changes to the plans since the Board last reviewed them. Mr. McKlarney added that Mr. Morris had recently reviewed the plans and offered helpful suggestions. He advised that bids should be returned within 30 days, with bid results anticipated in early to mid-March.

He explained that the project will follow a design-build approach and that the materials provided are bridging documents. Mr. McKlarney encouraged Board members to share bid information with any local contractors who may be interested, noting that several local and even residential contractors can complete the work. He added that outreach efforts to local contractors will continue.

REASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney reported that a reassessment update will be presented at the February recess meeting, with the possibility of receiving the report slightly earlier. The report will detail the total assessment values and the overall percentage increase. He stated that the reassessment firm estimates property values will rise between 50% and 55%, noting that this increase is consistent with trends in other localities and is not unexpected.

Mr. McKlarney emphasized that the Board remains committed to achieving a net-zero tax impact, explaining that if assessments increase significantly, the tax rate will be lowered accordingly. Mr. McKlarney noted that residents may feel concerned when hearing of such a substantial increase; however, similar results are being seen across the region. He reiterated that reassessments occur every six years, as required by state law, and that more precise figures will be available once the firm finalizes its review.

PEMBROKE RECREATION CENTER – PROJECT ANALYSIS REPORT (PAR) UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney reported that the draft Project Analysis Report (PAR) for the Pembroke Recreation Center will be available for Board review on February 4. The draft will include preliminary designs, cost estimate, and operations plan, as well as business plan for operating the facility.

Mr. McKlarney stated that the Board, along with any committee member or others they wish to appoint, will have the opportunity to receive a presentation on the draft, review the materials, and recommend any desired changes. Following this input, the PAR will be finalized, and the Board may then determine how to proceed with the project.

Mr. McKlarney noted that many residents have inquired about the status of the project, and this update reflects that work has been progressing for some time and is now nearing completion.

VEHICLE SURPLUS

Mr. McKlarney presented to the Board a request to surplus two vehicles: a 2001 Ford Expedition (VIN ending 8104) and a 2004 Ford Explorer (VIN ending 1371). He reported that both vehicles have exceeded their useful life, are no longer maintainable, and one is unable to pass inspection. He requested Board approval to surplus the vehicles.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the vehicle surplus. 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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – GLEN LYN COMMONS TAX EXEMPTION REQUEST

Mr. McKlarney stated that the public hearing was being held in accordance with Virginia Code §58.1-3651 to consider a request for tax exemption for real properties owned by Glen Lyn Commons, LLC, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The properties included in the request are identified as tax map numbers 38A 6 G L5, 23A 1 1, 23A 1 9A, 23A, and 123A. He reported that the 2025 assessed value of the properties is \$209,000, and if approved, the revenue impact to the County would be \$1,421.12 for 2025. The 2026 assessed values have not yet been determined.

Mr. McKlarney noted that Board members had been provided with a copy of the application, and two members of Glen Lyn Commons were present to answer any questions. He stated that, in his opinion and that of Mr. Chidester, the applicant had met the intent of the requirements and adequately addressed all necessary questions, concluding that the organization is eligible for the exemption. He then opened the floor

for questions from the public and the Board. No questions were asked from the public or the Board.

Mr. Lawson motioned to grant tax exemption status to the Glen Lyn Commons property retroactive to 2025 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$2,738,371.68, 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 \$3,400,800.00 for February 2026 school appropriations and \$34,719.47 for the Macy McClaugherty Elementary/Middle School project, \$253,509.06 for the Narrows Elementary/Middle School project, \$1,413,932.50 for the Eastern Elementary/Middle School project, \$1,753,516.68 for the Narrows High School project, \$285,038.44 for the Giles High School project for a total of \$7,141,516.15. 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

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION

Mr. Martin motioned to approve \$440,000.00 for the February 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

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Lawson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Andrew French to the Board of Zoning Appeals. 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

Mr. McCoy made a motion to reappoint Billy Williams, David Epperly, and CB Andrews to the Board of Equalization. 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Maintenance Building located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg, Va.

APPROVED:**Chair** _____**ATTEST:**

Clerk

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXEMPT FROM TAXATION CERTAIN PROPERTY
OWNED BY GLEN LYN COMMONS, INC.**

After public hearing on January 22, 2026, pursuant to notice published in the Virginian Leader on January 14, 2026,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia that certain real property described below and owned by Glen Lyn Commons, Inc., shall be exempt from taxation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3651 for tax year 2025 and subsequent years so long as such properties are owned by Glen Lyn Commons, Inc. and used in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

Property exempted:

Real Property designated as Tax Map Numbers 38A 6 G L5, 23A 1 1, 23A 1 9A and 23A 1 23A.

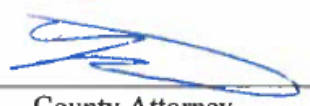
Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, held on January 22, 2026.

	voting for	voting against	abstain	absent
Morris	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Lawson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
McCoy	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Baker	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Martin	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____

Attest:


Christopher P. McElarney, Clerk

Approved as to form:


County Attorney

January 22, 2026

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

A RESOLUTION HONORING FIRE SERVICE OF ELWOOD LAMBERT TO THE CITIZENS OF GILES COUNTY

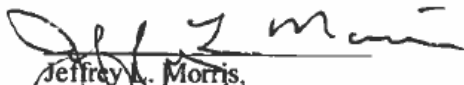
WHEREAS, Elwood Lambert has served the citizens of Giles County, Virginia as a member of Narrows Fire Department and Celco Emergency Response Fire Brigade.

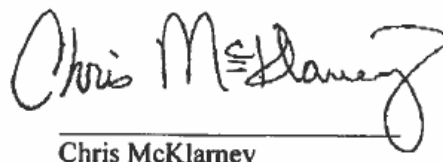
WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize the outstanding, selfless service Mr. Lambert has provided to the citizens of Giles County, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lambert has served the citizens of Giles County as Narrows Fire Department's Fire Chief, President, and Chaplain throughout his years of service.

WHEREAS, Mr. Lambert has provided this service to the county and the public as a member of the above listed organizations for 50 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GILES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that Mr. Elwood Lambert is duly recognized for the outstanding, dedicated, and selfless service that he has provided to the citizens of our County and his contribution to his achievements in bringing a better quality of life to Giles County citizens on this 22nd day of January 2026.


Jeffrey A. Morris
Chairman


Chris McKlamey
County Administrator

Telephone: (540) 921-2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

January 22, 2026