

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 4, 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)
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 February 19, 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***

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported that VDOT crews have continued to monitor weather conditions over the past month, including freezing temperatures and rain, which has required maintaining night-shift readiness. Although there has been some opportunity to work on tasks not related to snow, much of the department's recent activity has focused on patching primary routes. Patching has been completed on Routes 61, 460, and 219, though all of them need additional work. Crews will move to secondary roads as soon as possible. Work has also continued on high-volume gravel roads, including Kow Camp Road, Darnell Mountain, Powell Mountain, and Orchard Hill. Clarke noted that a major request within the town limits of Pearisburg has been completed with the replacement of an old chain-link fence along Route 460, where a sidewalk borders a steep drop off.

Mr. Clarke also provided an update on the sinkhole on Norcross Road, adjacent to Stoney Creek. A meeting is scheduled within the next two weeks with VDOT staff from Salem, including geotechnical and environmental personnel, as well as possibly the Department of Mines, to develop a full repair plan. While surface cracks in the area may

have widened, the overall size of the sinkhole does not appear to have grown significantly. Repair work will be complex because of proximity to the creek, the need for excavation and tree removal, and the challenge of operating heavy equipment on unstable ground. High creek levels currently keep the hole filled with water, necessitating a wait for lower water conditions. Clarke acknowledged the cooperation of a nearby landowner who has allowed public detour access onto private property but emphasized the desire to return traffic to proper VDOT right-of-way routing, as soon as possible. He concluded by stating that crews will continue working on restoring roads following winter damage and prepare for the upcoming paving season. The overlay schedule for the county will be shared when available.

Mr. Clarke noted that the recent snow events have significantly impacted the statewide maintenance budget, as snow-related expenses are deducted first from overall maintenance funds. As a result, VDOT is already reviewing its statewide budget closely. He explained that, heading into the end of the fiscal year, the department will need to be extremely careful in monitoring spending, due to the high costs incurred this winter.

Mr. Baker reported several road concerns to VDOT. He noted that along Route 623 near Red Hill, by the small creek, the ditches the road have been cleaned out, but the guardrail in that area is coming loose again. He added that clearing the ditches along Route 623 leads to runoff tending to wash debris onto nearby property. Mr. Baker then asked about pothole repairs along Wolf Creek on Route 61, and Mr. Clarke confirmed that crew had repaired many of them, though he was unsure how many were completed. Additional pothole repairs were requested along Route 460 in the area leading to Giles High School, particularly near the ramp and the section heading back toward the hospital. Mr. Baker noted rough conditions and deep potholes along the stretch of road from Glen Lyn up the hill toward the park. Finally, he asked for an update on the guardrail request for Route 602 near Perfect State Creek, and Mr. Clarke reported that the request is still pending with the Salem office.

Mr. McCoy reported that when traveling toward Blacksburg on Route 460, particularly going up Hoges Store Hill, there is a roadway section approximately 75 feet long where the shoulder has deteriorated completely to the inside of the white line, creating what appears to be a trail along the road edge. He noted that while potholes are widespread, this section is likely to worsen quickly and encroach another six to eight inches into the travel lane if not addressed soon. Mr. Clarke acknowledged the concern and stated that crews had recently patched an edge-line area nearby and have addressed several similar spots.

Mr. Lawson reported that the winter weather has caused significant deterioration along various sections of Route 460, stretching from the West Virginia line to the Montgomery County line and even beyond. He noted that multiple spots are in rough condition,

including an area with noticeable potholes and breaks in the pavement. Mr. Lawson also referred to Chaney Road (Route 675), which he had previously emailed about, and asked that crews ensure potholes along that road are addressed. Mr. Clarke acknowledged the request, stating he had not yet checked that specific location but would review the same issues noted in the earlier email.

Mr. Martin thanked VDOT for their recent work on the county's gravel roads and noted that he had seen the grader operating on Hiram Jones Road earlier in the day. He asked for an update on whether additional stone would be placed there, as the road currently contains a significant amount of mud despite the recent placement of large rock. He also reported that River Road remains in very rough condition, with minimal stone, heavy mud, numerous potholes, and wash boarded sections, particularly from the start of the road to the tunnel at Bear Springs. At the tunnel itself, the ruts are deep enough that an average car could bottom out. Mr. Martin also received a request for gravel at the railroad crossing where the detour is located near the sinkhole area. Additionally, he noted storm-related tree limbs on Mountain Lake Road that are striking passing vehicles in several places. He requested replacement of missing turnaround reflectors in the median at Winding Way and Route 460, as the posts are completely gone and drivers are missing the turn.

Mr. Martin also relayed details of a call regarding Saddler Mountain Road off Route 42, where recent grading brought up significant dirt, leaving the roadway soft and in need of gravel. He further emphasized the longstanding drainage problem on Kow Camp Road near the Huff residence, explaining that without addressing drainage, any grading work is quickly washed out. Mr. Clarke agreed and noted that drainage work is also planned for Olean Road to reduce future maintenance needs. Mr. Clarke concluded by explaining that although VDOT no longer uses the term, crews are entering their traditional spring "replacement stone maintenance" period, during which gravel roads receive new stone after winter plowing has pushed much of it off the roadway.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Campbell provided the school board report and thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to speak. He shared the most current version of school system updates, noting that no major changes had occurred, but that monthly tracking remains important. He echoed earlier comments expressing appreciation for VDOT's efforts in helping schools reopen quickly during recent winter weather, as well as for Mr. Butler's support during early morning decision-making calls. Dr. Campbell reported that the school district is in the midst of budget season and is cautiously optimistic, expecting to receive slightly more funding from the state than last year. He noted that the school system does not anticipate requesting additional funding from the county and expressed gratitude for the county's continued support and longstanding partnership.

Dr. Campbell also provided a brief update on ongoing construction projects across all schools, stating that while challenges remain, progress is steady and the district feels increasingly confident about the direction of the work. Dr. Campbell highlighted the recent National Honor Society induction ceremony at Giles High School, where more than 30 students were recognized. He concluded by sharing excitement for the upcoming spring sports season, including baseball and other activities as warmer weather approaches, and reiterated his willingness to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Baker noted that Giles High School had several athletes who recently earned state championships. Dr. Campbell confirmed this, stating that the school had state winners in diving, swimming, and wrestling. He added that the district looks forward to formally recognizing these students for their achievements and mentioned that the state champion wrestler is known for performing an impressive backflip. Both Mr. Baker and Dr. Campbell expressed pride in the students' accomplishments.

Mr. McCoy asked about the continued decline in student enrollment at Macy, noting that the school appears to be experiencing a larger drop in numbers than any other school in the district. Dr. Campbell explained that the decrease actually occurred at the beginning of the current school year, with enrollment falling from 398 to 367 students. Dr. Campbell emphasized that there has not been a subsequent decline throughout the year. He added that the principal, Ms. Johnson, has reviewed the records of all 40 students who left and has identified where they transitioned as part of a general needs analysis. Dr. Campbell reported that a significant number of students enrolled in private schools, while others moved to homeschooling or transferred to neighboring counties. He acknowledged the trend and stated that the district will continue working to address it.

Mr. Martin asked about short-term solutions for excessive heat in certain classrooms at Giles High School, noting that warmer weather is approaching and some rooms are already becoming uncomfortable, with windows being opened even on cooler days. He requested clarification on how the district plans to address potentially unbearable temperatures while construction is ongoing. Dr. Campbell responded that the school system is currently prioritizing the installation of solar blinds, with pricing expected soon and a list of rooms has already been identified for early installation. He explained that the primary issue appears to stem from heat generated through the windows rather than from the HVAC systems themselves. In addition, he noted that the district is considering the use of affordable portable air-conditioning units in some classrooms as needed. He assured the Board that staff are aware of the issue and actively planning solutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Neely addressed the Board regarding what he believes to be unjust and incorrect taxation related to his former contracting business. He explained that his company ceased operations and liquidated all equipment in 2007, yet he received a county personal property tax bill in 2009. He stated that former Commissioner of the Revenue Gerald Duncan inspected the site, confirmed that no equipment remained, and later issued a letter in 2018 stating that all of Mr. Neely's real estate and personal property taxes were paid in full.

Despite this, Mr. Neely reported that he has continued to receive tax notices, with the alleged amount owed increasing to nearly \$38,000, due to accrued interest expense. The County Attorney explained that a 2014 circuit court judgment exists against the business for unpaid personal property taxes from 2009–2013 and that Mr. Neely would have had the opportunity to contest the suit at that time.

Members questioned whether the equipment had been accurately assessed, given evidence that none was present at the business location during those years. Mr. McKlarney stated he would meet with the Treasurer to review the assessments, determine where the equipment was believed to be located, and work toward resolving the issue. Mr. Neely agreed to this next step.

OLD BUSINESS

THANK YOU- LETTER TO ELECTED OFFICIALS HELPING GILES COUNTY

Mr. Baker recommended that the Board send letters of appreciation to former Governor Youngkin, Delegate Jason Ballard, and Senator Hackworth for their support of the Wheatland Eco Park project, funding contributions to the park and Interstate Trailer, and their involvement in school renovation efforts.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the letter of support. 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

RESOLUTION– RECOGNITION OF STATE CHAMPIONS

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve a letter of support for the Giles High School state champions. 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

VAN PURCHASE FOR OAA PROGRAMS

Mr. McKlarney reported that bids had been received for a new Ford F-350 Transit passenger van to support the OAA programs, which regularly transport participants who often do not have driver's licenses. While Giles Health and Family Services assist with transportation for employment needs, this van would be used for public service activities, training trips, and monthly visits to a church group in Newport. He noted that matching funds are available and that no tax dollars would be used for the purchase. He recommended awarding the bid to Sheehy Ford in the amount of \$58,204.77.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve purchase of a van for OAA programs in the amount \$58,204.77, and 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

REASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney reported that reassessment notices are expected to be delivered around March 9th. He noted that residents have already begun calling with questions after seeing reassessment information in the newspaper, even before receiving their official notices. He emphasized that the Board intends for the process to be revenue-neutral and has already committed to lowering the tax rate accordingly. Mr. McKlarney explained that property owners whose assessments increase by more than 58% may see a slight tax increase, while those below that threshold could see a decrease. He stressed the importance of communicating this clearly to prevent confusion or the misconception that reassessments equate to a 65% tax increase, which is not the case.

TREASURE ISLAND

Mr. McKlarney reported that the Town of Pembroke requested assistance with repairs and improvements at Treasure Island. A county group, including Mr. Martin, visited the site and met with town council members to evaluate the playground and identify necessary repairs. Staff are currently preparing an assessment and exploring potential funding sources, including a possible request to Mountain Lake Lodge, which has previously supported local recreation projects. The goal is to provide Pembroke with cost estimates and options within the next three weeks, so the town can decide how to proceed. Mr. McKlarney also noted that Pembroke has expressed interest in participating in the county's water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program.

TELEPHONE POLE SURPLUS

Mr. McKlarney reported that the Narrows Recreation Department requested permanent use of four telephone poles currently stored at the school bus garage. The poles were originally acquired from a contractor and are no longer needed by the county. Narrows plans to use them to construct a batting cage for girls' softball. He requested that the Board approve the surplus of the four poles and transferring them to the Narrows Recreation Department.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the surplus of four telephone poles to the Narrows Recreation Department. 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

CASTLE ROCK GREENS FEES RATE INCREASE

Mr. McKlarney reported that staff have been discussing potential rate adjustments at Castle Rock Golf Course, noting that fees have not changed in several years. Although the facility's financial performance has improved, it still does not break even. To help move closer to a break-even position and considering significant increases in greens-fees play driven partly by the unusually low pricing, he recommended modest increases that would keep rates below the regional average. The proposed changes include raising the senior, college, and student rate for 18 holes from \$25 to \$30 and increasing the regular adult rate from \$30 to \$36. Comparable adjustments would apply to nine-hole fees. He asked the Board to consider adopting the updated rate structure.

Mr. McKlarney added that the proposed weekend and holiday rate for 18 holes would be \$40, with a nine-hole rate of \$24. He noted that the overall rate adjustments are projected to generate approximately \$65,000 in additional revenue if recent levels of play continue. He stated that staff will also recommend an increase in membership fees during the upcoming budget discussions. Given the high volume of play expected over the coming weekend, he requested approval of the new rate structure as soon as possible to allow the county to capture additional revenue within the current fiscal year.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the increase in Castle Rock Greens Fees and 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

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. McKlarney reported that Community Services, in partnership with the Giles Youth Adult Partnership, requested that the Board designate March 2026 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. A resolution was provided to the Board for review, and he requested a motion for its approval.

Mr. Martin motioned to approve the Proclamation to declare March as Problem Gambling Awareness month, and 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

RESOLUTION – OPPOSITION TO HB 1374

Mr. McCoy raised the issue of the VMI resolution, noting that although the matter may have been resolved, the Board continues to receive requests for action. He stated that he saw no issue with adopting a resolution supporting VMI's ability to maintain its own governance.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the Resolution and 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

ANIMAL RESCUE

Mr. Martin expressed appreciation for the quick response of emergency personnel following an incident in Newport where dog was struck on Route 460. He noted that traffic had begun to back up, but Animal Control and other responders arrived promptly, and a Good Samaritan also stopped to assist. He thanked everyone involved for their timely and professional actions.

Mr. McKlarney added that the county is fortunate to have two highly dedicated Animal Control officers who handle approximately 2,400 calls per year and provide 24/7 coverage, often requiring significant overtime. He thanked Mr. Martin for the recognition and stated he would pass the appreciation on to the officers.

INTERSTATE TRAILERS

Mr. McKlarney reported that the Governor announced a new investment by Interstate Trailers at their Glen Lyn facility, resulting in 55 new jobs, 46 of which will qualify for Commonwealth funding. He noted that since the company's arrival in 2018 when the Board supported efforts to recruit them, Interstate Trailers has grown from 83 employees to 120, with plans to add approximately 55 more positions. The company is expanding its advanced manufacturing capabilities, including investments in robotic welding, and expects production to increase from about 40 trailers per day to approximately 65. Mr. McKlarney added that Interstate Trailers recently donated a trailer valued at roughly \$15,000 for use by county schools, after learning the county had placed an order. He expressed appreciation for the company's generosity.

WATER/ WASTEWATER APPRENTICESHIP

Mr. Lawson asked whether the county's new wastewater and drinking water operator apprenticeship program would accept training opportunities outside the local area.

Mr. McKlarney confirmed that they would, noting that exposure to a variety of plants including larger facilities would be beneficial, provided required training hours can be met. He added that the program welcomes any private support or donations. Mr. Lawson mentioned a potential connection at a larger plant in Montgomery County, and Mr. McKlarney encouraged him to coordinate through John Hale, who has been leading the program's development. Mr. McKlarney outlined upcoming outreach efforts, including a parent meeting in the next few weeks and participation in the April Career Fair, where students will have hands-on demonstrations and learn about Public Works operations. He emphasized that the program offers strong career opportunities, with competitive pay, and thanked the school system, particularly Dr. Campbell and Mr. White for their support. Dr. Campbell added that operator certification is needed not only by municipalities but also by many large industrial firms.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve payment of FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$2,094,524.59, 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

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCoy made a motion to reappoint Mr. Jeff Dinger to the Salvation Army New River Valley 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. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel for a question about a local ordinance, and (29) Contracts for potential lease of property. 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Giles County Maintenance Building located at 315 North Main Street, Pearisburg, VA.

APPROVED:

Chair _____

ATTEST:

Clerk



Problem Gambling Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling, New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS), and the Giles Youth-Adult Partnership (GYAP) have designated March 2026 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds;

WHEREAS, problem gambling has a significant societal and economic cost for individuals, families, businesses and communities;

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing this harm to individuals, communities and society as a whole;

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to the education of the public about problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of treatment;

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling, NRVCS, and GYAP invite all residents of Giles County to participate in Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

THEREFORE, I, Jeffrey Morris, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2026 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Giles County and encourage all citizens to support the National Council on Problem Gambling and New River Valley Community Services, and the Giles Youth-Adult Partnership in their efforts to mitigate gambling-related harm nationwide.

Signature: 
 Name and Title: Jeffrey Morris, Chairman
 Date: 3/4/2026

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

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING GILES COUNTY STUDENTS FOR WINNING 2026 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DIVING, SWIMMING, AND WRESTLING

WHEREAS, the Giles County Board of Supervisors takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding achievements of students within Giles County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, during the 2026 athletic season, Giles County student-athletes displayed exceptional dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County Swimming & Diving Team secured a State Championship title, showcasing extraordinary teamwork, endurance, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County Wrestling Program produced State Championship winners, reflecting superior technique, strength, highest level of competitive determination; and

WHEREAS, these student-athletes, along with their dedicated coaches, families, and supporters, have brought honor to Giles County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that such achievements strengthen community pride and exemplify the values of hard work that define Giles County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Giles County Board of Supervisors hereby congratulates and formally recognizes the Giles County student-athletes who achieved 2026 State Championship titles in Diving, Swimming, and Wrestling

Adopted this March 4, 2026, by the Giles County Board of Supervisors.

	Voting For	Voting Against	Abstain	Absent
Morris	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lawson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Martin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
McCoy	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Baker	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Attest: _____

Chris McKlarney, Clerk

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

March 4, 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

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1374, WHICH WOULD AMEND TITLE 23.1 OF THE VIRGINIA CODE TO EFFECTUATE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE AND PLACE THE GOVERNANCE OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE UNDER THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, House Bill 1374 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session, which, in sum, dissolves the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and places the Institute under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter VMI) was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1839, Lexington and Rockbridge County citizens, led by an esteemed Lexington resident and native son of Virginia, developed the foundational design and principles of VMI, which they later gained Commonwealth approval to implement, establishing the citizen-soldier model later adopted nationally; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other Senior Military College in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only, awards bachelor's degrees exclusively, and grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, VMI has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence, many of whom have served the United States of America, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps, including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

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March 4, 2026

WHEREAS, VMI is the only Virginia Institution of Higher education with a State Cadet program that graduates citizen-soldiers to work directly for the Commonwealth and benefit all citizens and has produced leaders in the military, education, medicine, law, and engineering; and

WHEREAS, VMI, as a treasured part of the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has more than earned the right to govern itself under its own Board of Visitors as it has done for over 186 years; and

WHEREAS VMI and the VMI Family are essential parts of Giles County's society and economy whose future and governance should not be conducted from afar by those who have no stake in the County, its residents, or businesses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Giles County, Virginia Board of Supervisors hereby expresses and affirms its strong opposition to House Bill 1374, which amends Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia to dissolve the VMI Board of Visitors and place VMI under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University, and urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached hereto.

This Resolution was adopted by the Giles County Board of Supervisors on this 4 day of March 2026.

	Voting For	Voting Against	Abstain	Absent
Morris	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lawson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Martin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
McCoy	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Baker	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Attest:



Chris McKlarney, Clerk

March 4, 2026