

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 3:00 PM in the Giles County Maintenance Building located at 315 N. Main Street, Pearisburg, VA, 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 March 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

Jesse Miller appeared before the Board representing VDOT, noting that Mr. Clark, Resident Engineer, was on vacation. Mr. Miller reported that Roger Simpkins has officially been appointed Superintendent, at the area headquarters.

Mr. Miller provided a maintenance update, stating that during the past month VDOT addressed 23 gravel roads as part of end-of-winter maintenance. Patching work was completed on eight roads in preparation for upcoming paving projects, and a list of roads scheduled for paving will be provided to the Board.

Litter pickup was completed along primary county highway routes, including routes 100 and 460. Ditching work was also performed in Rich Creek, following coordination with Maintenance Manager Brian Walker and the Town’s Mayor, to address drainage issues and routine maintenance needs.

Regarding Route 219, Mr. Miller advised that while full repair funding is not available at the residency level, VDOT is pursuing the route for inclusion on the district paving schedule. In the interim, temporary repairs and patching are planned for this summer.

Mr. Baker thanked VDOT for patching potholes on Route 61 near Wolf Creek. He requested that guardrails be installed on Route 635 near Big Stoney Creek where a gas line crosses the road, noting the area is approximately 200–500 feet long and poses a significant safety concern. He asked if this location remain on VDOT’s project list. Mr. Baker also reported that pavement repairs are needed at the end of Pyrtle Road (Ripplmead area). He expressed appreciation for recent pothole repairs and emphasized the ongoing need for guardrail maintenance, due to safety concerns.

Mr. McCoy requested that roadside mowing be scheduled earlier in the season to avoid visibility issues, referencing numerous complaints along Route 460 where grass height has created safety concerns. He also questioned the need for late-season mowing and emphasized the importance of timely maintenance. Additionally, Mr. McCoy reported that Sinking Creek Road, from the bottom of the hill near the dry creek bed to the bridge at Muldoons, is deteriorating significantly. He noted the roadway is breaking apart and requires more than routine pothole patching.

Mr. Lawson reported that Route 100 from Pearisburg to Narrows is in deteriorating condition and has been the subject of a resident complaint. He requested that VDOT review the roadway for needed maintenance.

Mr. Martin reported an approximately eight-foot section of roadway on Big Stoney Creek near 178 Sportsman Circle that is undermined and beginning to collapse, he requested inspection by VDOT. Mr. Martin also raised concerns about Spruce Run Road, where bamboo along the roadway is obstructing visibility. Mr. Miller indicated multiple work orders have been received and VDOT will evaluate need for additional clearing within the right-of-way.

Mr. Martin mentioned ongoing safety concerns on Hiram Jones Lane, citing a narrow section with limited sight distance that prevents vehicles from passing safely, and requested further review of that area. He also expressed continued concerns regarding the lack of deceleration lanes on Route 460 in the Eastern District and requested that VDOT continue exploring safety improvements.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Mr. Campbell provided an update from Giles County Public Schools, highlighting improved attendance and student engagement. March division-wide attendance increased to 95.32%, up from 93.58% last year. This reflects approximately 35 additional students attending daily. Macy McClaugherty Elementary School was recognized for achieving a 96.49% attendance rate. Significant reductions in chronic absenteeism were reported at both Giles High School and Narrows High School, now below 10%. Mr. Campbell credited the efforts of students, staff, and families for these improvements.

Mr. Campbell also reviewed key operational updates, including adoption of the 2026–2027 school calendar, which features an earlier start date, week-long Thanksgiving and Easter breaks, completion of first semester before Christmas, and early release days. He announced the launch of a new online process for zone transfer and non-resident enrollment, with approximately 46 applications submitted, as well as the division’s new website at gilesk12.org, featuring student-produced drone footage. Additionally, he provided an update on the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, with a draft expected in April and final adoption anticipated by May or June. Mr. Campbell concluded by thanking the County for its continued partnership, including support for a recent Career Fair and collaboration on apprenticeship opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Hammons- Mr. Hammons, a long-time resident of Spruce Run Road (Route 605 South), addressed the Board regarding ongoing safety concerns related to excessive speed and aggressive driving in the area. He reported that large portions of the roadway lack posted speed limit signage beyond Route 693 (Sugar Grove Lane), which hinders enforcement and creates dangerous conditions, particularly on the road’s curves. He cited multiple incidents, including a serious crash and a recent high-speed deer collision near his property, and noted that residents are increasingly fearful due to unsafe driving behavior.

Mr. Hammons requested that speed limit signage be installed along the entire length of Spruce Run Road and that roadway striping be restored in areas where it was lost following paving in April 2024. He emphasized that striping and signage are critical for visibility and safety, especially at night and in poor weather conditions, and urged VDOT and the County to address the issues before a serious accident occurs.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve a speed study for Spruce Run Road 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

OLD BUSINESS

SPECIAL CONSERVATORS OF THE PEACE

Mr. McKlarney presented an item regarding the designation of the County’s animal patrol officers as Special Conservators of the Peace. He recognized the officers for their continuous 24/7 service and the volume of calls they handle year-round, noting their work is often unrecognized.

Animal Control Officers Bill Ahearn and Jacob Taylor addressed the Board and explained that pending state firearms legislation, effective July 1, would prohibit them from carrying their currently issued duty weapons. They stated that becoming Special

Conservators of the Peace would allow them to lawfully carry existing equipment and would have minimal cost to the County aside from required training. The officers advised that the new designation would also allow them to enforce animal cruelty laws and certain county ordinances directly, reducing time spent obtaining summonses from the magistrate. Letters of support from the Sheriff's Office and the Commonwealth's Attorney were provided.

Mr. McCoy stated that he supported designating the Animal Control Officers as Special Conservators of the Peace.

Mr. Lawson asked whether there were any legal concerns associated with the designation.

Mr. Chidester advised him that he was not aware of any issues. He explained that recent firearms legislation contains conflicting provisions that may ultimately be resolved by the courts and noted that he had informed the Governor that current law would prohibit Animal Control Officers from carrying their issued firearms. He stated that the proposed designation would allow officers to continue carrying their duty weapons and would enable more efficient enforcement of animal control laws and county ordinances, including issuing summonses without obtaining them through a magistrate.

Animal Control staff confirmed they were not seeking additional duties and were willing to complete the required 24-hour DCJS training, noting eligibility for firearms training waivers due to existing certification. The officers stated their goal was to complete the process prior to July 1, to remain in compliance. The Board expressed consensus to move forward with approval.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve designation of the Animal Control Officers as Special Conservators of the Peace 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

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION – TREY GILMER

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution recognizing Trey Gilmer, a student at Jefferson Christian Academy, for his outstanding achievement in the arts. Mr. Gilmer recently won at the state level and has earned the opportunity to compete at the national level. The resolution, brought forward by Mr. Baker, commended Mr. Gilmer for his creativity, skill, and dedication, and for bringing positive recognition to himself, his family, Jefferson Christian Academy, and the broader community. Mr. McKlarney congratulated Mr. Gilmer and expressed the Board's appreciation for his accomplishments.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve a resolution of recognition for Trey Gilmer and 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

EMS “4 FOR LIFE” FUND DISBURSEMENT

Mr. Butler presented the annual EMS “4 for Life” fund disbursement, noting the County will receive \$17,732 for the current year. He requested the funds be distributed as customary, equating to just under \$6,000 per agency for the counties’ three EMS agencies.

Mr. McCoy asked whether Poplar Hill EMS was close to becoming operational. Mr. Butler responded that they are close but experiencing delays related to installation of required state software. He stated that staff are working to resolve the issue and assist Poplar Hill in moving forward, with the goal of having the agency operational next year. Mr. Butler requested Board approval of the fund disbursement.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the disbursement of funds for each of the three EMS agencies in the total amount \$17,732.00. and 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

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION - FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mr. McKlarney requested consideration of a resolution of appreciation for First Christian Church in Newport, in recognition of exemplary ongoing support of the Giles County Recovery Court. He noted that the church provides monthly meals for participants and has gone above and beyond by offering clothing, birthday cards with gift cards, and hosting baby showers for individuals in the program. He described the group as selfless and supportive, and requested that the resolution be framed.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve a resolution of recognition for the First Christian Church in Newport and 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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Board was advised that the Regional Commission has requested an extension until December 2026, to complete the Comprehensive Plan update. It was noted that the request is due to their current workload, and that staff understand the situation. There was no issue expressed with granting additional time to complete the work.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney advised that staff have begun preliminary budget discussions; however, the County is still awaiting additional information from the state and, at this time, not all revenues for the offices have been finalized. He noted that expenditure requests will be provided to the Board, with electronic copies expected to be distributed later in the week. He emphasized that the budget materials represent an initial draft based on department requests only. Board members were encouraged to review the requests and provide any proposed modifications in the near future.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve payment of FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$1,145,715.69, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1)Personnel, 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

ADJOURN

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

April 1, 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 the Artistic Achievement of Trey Gilmer

WHEREAS, Trey Gilmer is a talented and dedicated student artist who attends Jefferson Christian Academy; and

WHEREAS, Trey Gilmer has demonstrated exceptional creativity, skill, and commitment to the arts; and

WHEREAS, his artwork reflects not only technical ability but also originality, discipline, and a passion for artistic expression; and

WHEREAS, Trey Gilmer earned the opportunity to compete in a national-level art contest, an accomplishment that speaks to the high quality of his work and the respect he has earned among peers and judges alike; and

WHEREAS, his participation in a national competition brings positive recognition to himself, his family, Jefferson Christian Academy, and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, young artists like Trey Gilmer inspire others through their dedication, perseverance, and willingness to share their talents on a larger stage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Giles County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and commends Trey Gilmer for his outstanding artistic accomplishments and his achievement in competing at the national level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Trey Gilmer is applauded for representing Jefferson Christian Academy with excellence and for serving as a positive example of creativity and hard work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented as a token of appreciation and encouragement for Trey Gilmer's continued growth and success in the arts.

Jeffrey Morris
Chairman

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

April 1, 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 of Appreciation

First Christian Church

WHEREAS, the Giles County Recovery Court is committed to supporting individuals seeking to overcome substance use disorders and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Recovery Court program is strengthened by the generosity, encouragement, and community partnerships that provide participants with hope, stability, and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, First Christian Church has consistently demonstrated outstanding compassion and commitment to the wellbeing of Recovery Court participants through its ongoing support, outreach, and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, the members of First Christian Church have given of their time, resources, and kindness to uplift individuals working hard to change their lives, thereby contributing significantly to their progress and success; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County Board of Supervisors recognizes the value of community organizations whose dedication strengthens the Recovery Court program and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of local families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Giles County Board of Supervisors extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to First Christian Church for its generous and compassionate support of Recovery Court participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to First Christian Church as a token of the Board's deep appreciation for their service and commitment to the people of Giles County.

Jeffrey Morris
Chairman

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329