

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

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Treasurer Angie Higginbotham reported on the retirement of the penny and explained that state law requires taxes to be collected in full. The Treasurer’s Association is awaiting legislation that will guide all localities on how to standardize rounding to the nearest nickel, which will require significant software updates beginning with the Commissioner of Revenue’s assessments and continuing through payment processing. She also reported that delinquent tax collection has begun for 2025 bills. Notices were mailed in January, and DMV registration stops have been placed on unpaid accounts. Wage liens will begin this week and operate as a structured payment plan, withholding one-fourth of a taxpayer’s take-home pay. Higginbotham also noted that a judicial sale is scheduled for March 27th, with several properties already paid off. The judicial sale property list is updated regularly, published in the newspaper, emailed to a distribution list, posted on social media, and listed on the Treasurer’s website.

Mr. Morris asked whether the list of properties for the upcoming sale would be publicized the week before. Ms. Higginbotham confirmed that the list would be published in the newspaper and distributed through her email list of approximately 170

recipients. She added that each time a property is added or removed, the list is updated and resent, and the changes are also reflected on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca Morris- Ms. Rebecca Morris addressed the Board with concerns about the recent Countywide property reassessment, noting that her property value increased by approximately 63% while neighboring properties experienced increases ranging from 80% to 300%. She questioned the basis and criteria used for such substantial increases, particularly given the county's large elderly and fixed-income population, its agricultural character, and the lack of major industrial growth. Ms. Morris stated she had observed no changes in property use that would justify the increase and expressed concern that rising values may jeopardize long-held family land, especially for elderly residents who cannot absorb higher taxes.

Mr. McKlarney explained that reassessments are required by the state every six years and are conducted by an outside firm using a study of recent Giles County sales data, over the previous 18–24 months. He noted that average assessments rose about 58% countywide, due to significant increases in local real estate market prices. He emphasized that the Board intends to adopt a revenue-neutral tax rate, meaning the county will not collect additional revenue as a result of the reassessment.

Ms. Morris expressed concern about limited time to appeal and possible errors in her assessment. Mr. McKlarney reviewed the three-step appeals process, beginning with Wampler-Eanes, followed by the Board of Equalization, and finally Circuit Court, if needed. He acknowledged that mistakes could occur and encouraged her to pursue the appeal. She also raised concerns about eligibility limits for elderly and disabled tax relief and questioned whether her property remained enrolled in the land-use taxation; staff agreed to review her parcel.

Ms. Morris additionally reported ongoing cell service disruptions in Wilburn Valley. Staff stated that T-Mobile is replacing former US Cellular tower equipment and that an antenna failure is causing the current outage. Repairs will be underway, as soon as parts become available. Ms. Morris concluded by urging the Board to consider the broader impact of rising assessments on elderly residents.

Denny Duff- Mr. Denny Duff addressed the Board regarding conditions on Hiram Jones Road. He explained that he resides on Guinea Mountain Road and owns property on Hiram Jones Road, which serves as a heavily used shortcut for several surrounding communities, including drivers traveling from Pembroke toward Dublin and Volvo. Duff noted that the road has narrowed to a single lane in multiple areas, creating safety concerns especially when meeting commercial vehicles such as school buses, dump trucks, cargo vans, and larger work vehicles. He stated that drivers frequently must

back up to allow these vehicles to pass and expressed that the road is not suitable for commercial traffic. Duff also clarified that although he and Bob Coffey own much of the adjacent land, he has not recently been approached about providing right-of-way for widening, aside from a request made years ago after he had already invested significant work on fencing and clearing the area.

Mr. McCoy responded that circumstances involving Hiram Jones Road have been discussed with VDOT multiple times but remain unchanged despite long-standing inclusion in the six-year plan. He acknowledged problem areas where gravel buildup narrows the road and agreed that widening or traffic restrictions should be explored.

Mr. Martin asked who owned the property on both sides of the road to understand potential right-of-way considerations. Mr. Duff explained that he and Bob Coffey own most of the adjoining property, along with some owned by another resident. Mr. Duff added that he has spent significant time improving his section of the road frontage, including clearing trees, removing old, barbed wire, and building a new fence.

The Board agreed to follow up with VDOT's David Clark regarding possible restrictions and long-term improvement options.

OLD BUSINESS

CAREER FAIR UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney updated the Board on the County's Career Fair which will be held on April 1st at Narrows High School for all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. Giles County Public Schools will participate, and forty companies have already registered. The event will also feature promotion of the new Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification program, and Board members were invited to attend. Mr. Martin asked whether there was still space available for additional tables. Staff responded that although all forty slots are filled, they can accommodate more participants if needed, using a large tent to create additional setup space.

VATI – BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney provided an update on the VATI broadband project, noting that the expansion of service to the Whitegate area and portions of Route 100 is approximately 30% complete. A recent audit by DHCD, the project's funding agency went well, and the DHCD representative expressed satisfaction with the progress. Most of the fiber in the Whitegate area has been installed, with some splicing still required. All cabinets are in place but not yet active. Mr. McKlarney reported a delay on Route 100 where a contractor installing guardrail accidentally cut the fiber line, requiring a significant repair. Despite this setback, the project continues to move forward, and Pentel has been a strong partner throughout the process.

DRPT FUNDED MINI TRANSIT

Mr. McKlarney reported that the County's DRPT-funded mini-transit system is expected to begin operating this summer, with Pearisburg serving as the central hub. The system will include two buses, one serving the Rich Creek and Glen Lyn area and the other serving the Newport area. Approximately 18–19 preliminary stops have been identified, with routes circulating about every 50 minutes. Proposed initial hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the possibility of Saturday service during the spring and summer. He noted that the plan is still preliminary and will be refined as needed.

Mr. McCoy asked whether the mini transit system would remain within Giles County or extend beyond it. Mr. McKlarney confirmed that for now, the system is planned to operate entirely within the County.

Mr. Lawson then asked if there would be a cost for riders. Mr. McKlarney stated that a minimal fare is expected, likely to be less than one dollar per ride, to keep the service affordable for county residents.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION- ALLOWING PATRICK COUNTY TO USE REGIONAL LANDFILL

Mr. McKlarney presented a proposed resolution to allow Patrick County to transport its solid waste to the New River Resource Authority's regional landfill. Patrick County expects to bring approximately 9,000 tons per year, equal to two to three transfer truckloads daily. Although this will reduce the landfill's lifespan by an estimated five months, it will generate about \$162,000 annually for the development and closure fund. Mr. McKlarney noted that Mr. Snider from the Authority was present to answer questions and emphasized that the Authority operates one of the cleanest and best-managed landfills in the state, often used as a demonstration site by DEQ.

Mr. Baker added that the agreement is a win-win for both the Authority and the PSA, helping keep tipping fees stable. He noted that the landfill has capacity for at least 35 years and confirmed that the proposal is for a ten-year contract.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the resolution as presented, 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

GILES COUNTY EMS RESPONSE PLAN

Mr. Butler reported that the updated Giles County EMS Response Plan was included in the Board's packet. He noted that the original plan was adopted in 2022, and the current revisions update several response areas to reflect recent operational changes. The updates address issues involving staffed ambulance response, cancellation of

additional units, and mutual aid responses outside the County. Mr. Butler stated that all agencies reviewed the document and provided no negative feedback, and he requested the Board's approval of the updated plan.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the EMS response plan as presented. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$1,674,191.67, 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 approve \$3,678,000.00 for the April 2026 appropriations, as well as \$602,195.50 for Eastern Elementary/Middle School project, \$488,913.87 for Giles High School project, \$673,162.83 for Giles County Technology Center project, \$407,299.45 for Narrows Elementary/Middle School project, \$1,334,226.84 for Narrows High School project, and \$275,755.50 for Macy McClaugherty Elementary/ Middle School project for a total of \$7,459,553.99. 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 \$445,000.00 for the April 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

ROAD SIGNS

Mr. McCoy reported that the Cascades sign in Pembroke is down. He noted that the sign is located on the righthand side of the road.

Mr. Baker noted that the Giles County entrance sign along Northbound Route 100 has been leaning for an extended period. The sign is currently crooked and needs to be straightened.

RAMPS AND ROADS

Mr. McKlarney reported that the annual Ramps and Roads event will take place on March 28, and Free Tire Day will be held over two days, March 27 and 28. He noted that he has identified several target areas needing attention and encouraged Board

members to share any additional locations. He also stated that the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will be unavailable this year due to a scheduling conflict, though they may be able to assist later in the spring. To support cleanup efforts, he reminded the Board that the County's Assign-A-Highway Program, under which individuals on probation must clean one mile of highway every two weeks can provide additional manpower, and he asked that any requests for assistance be directed to him or to Charlie Mullins, who administers the program.

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.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 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

MEMBER RESOLUTION OF - GILES COUNTY VIRGINIA -
APPROVAL FOR THE NEW RIVER RESOURCE AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE
OF WASTE FROM PATRICK COUNTY VIRGINIA

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia held on MARCH 19, 2026 at the Board of Supervisors resolved as follows:

A RESOLUTION approving the New River Resource Authority (the "Authority") to dispose of waste from Patrick County, Virginia ("Patrick County"):

WHEREAS, the Articles of Incorporation of the Authority provide that the Authority may, with the consent of all Member Jurisdictions (as defined therein and in the Agreement, defined below), enter into contracts with other political subdivisions that are not members of the Authority in order to further its purposes and functions; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement of expansion of the Authority dated April 14, 1998 (the "Agreement"); provides that the Authority is to be used only for the disposal of waste in the member jurisdictions and only such areas outside of those geographical limits as the governing bodies of the member jurisdictions may unanimously agree; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Authority has approved accepting and disposing of waste from Patrick County and authorized its staff to take such necessary steps to do so, including, but not limited to, securing approval of the Member Jurisdictions and presenting amendments of its solid waste permit to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Agreement, the consent of all Member Jurisdictions of the Authority is required for approval of the disposal of waste from areas outside of the geographical limits of the member jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors deems it to be appropriate for reasons of regional corporation as well as to protect public health, safety, and welfare, to agree to allow the Authority to accept solid waste from Patrick County pursuant to the terms of such contract as the Authority and Patrick County may agree.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia that:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Authority disposing of waste from Patrick County, under such terms as the Authority and Patrick County agree.
2. The County Administrator, or such other designated staff, is authorized and directed to communicate this Resolution to the Authority as the requisite approval as a Member Jurisdiction under the terms of the Agreement.
3. The Chainnan of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to take such further actions and execute additional documents as may be needed and consistent with this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Attest:


Secretary/Clerk

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County does hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes the Resolution as adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County at a meeting thereof held on MARCH 19, 2026. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing Resolution, a quorum was present. The vote of the members present and voting upon the foregoing Resolution was as follows:

Board of Supervisors	<u>Voting</u>				
	Present	Absent	Yes	No	Abstaining
Jeffrey Morris	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____
John Lawson	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____
Richard McCoy	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____
Perry Martin	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____
Paul Baker	_____	_____	<u>✓</u>	_____	_____

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of Giles County, Virginia, this _____ day of MARCH, 2026.



 Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Giles County,
 Virginia