

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, April 16, 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 April 1, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. William Vaught: Mr. Vaught addressed the Board regarding multiple roadway and maintenance concerns in the Eggleston area. He cited the poor condition of Second Creek Road, noting recurring potholes, uneven pavement, and significant shoulder drop-offs between Nick's Knoll and the intersection with Eggleston Road. He expressed safety concerns, particularly due to regular school bus traffic, and requested that Board members inspect the roadway. Mr. Vaught also reported an ongoing issue at Wingo Apartments on Eggleston Road involving an unidentified substance crossing the roadway surface over an extended period of time. Additional concerns included a displaced memorial plaque honoring Jim Connell at Ingalls Landing following flood damage, a fallen tree that has remained along Goodwin's Ferry Road for nearly a year, and severe deterioration along Sinking Creek Road near Liberty Lane. Mr. Vaught requested that these locations be evaluated in person. Mr. McCoy responded that Sinking Creek Road remains in poor condition and noted that VDOT representatives were present at the meeting and aware of the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION – DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Mr. Jon Butler presented a resolution requesting ratification of the previously declared emergency and approval of a local burn ban due to ongoing dry conditions. He recommended that the Board ratify the declaration and extend the burn ban until sufficient rainfall occurs.

Mr. Martin motioned to approve this resolution as presented. 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

NEWPORT RESCUE EXPENSES

Mr. Jon Butler presented a request regarding Newport Rescue Squad expenses to be funded through the Emergency Replacement Fund. He explained that Newport Rescue is up for ambulance rotation this year and has submitted expenses related to equipment for a new ambulance scheduled for delivery later in the year. Mr. Butler requested Board approval of a \$25,000 allocation from the Emergency Replacement Fund.

Mr. Martin motioned to approve of the \$25,000.00 allocation from the Emergency Replacement Fund for equipment to be installed in a new ambulance. 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

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$1,406,179.87, 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 \$6,110,600.00 for the May 2026 appropriations, as well as \$623,303.85 for Eastern Elementary/Middle School project, \$130,735.08 for Giles High School project, \$26,276.11 for Giles County Technology Center project and \$222,774.24 for Macy McClaugherty Elementary/ Middle School project, for a total of \$7,113,689.28. 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 \$460,000.00 for the May 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

NEW DEDICATION SIGNS ON 460

Mr. McCoy requested that Mr. Reed review the condition of the Hugh Broadwell signs located on Route 460, identifying the highway dedicated to a fallen deputy. Mr. McCoy stated that the signs are in poor condition, difficult to read, and noted that replacements would cost approximately \$1,300.

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve \$1,300.00 for the replacement of the dedication signs. 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel, (29) Contracts, and (1) Personnel. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING – VDOT 6 YEAR PLAN

Mr. McKlarney opened the public hearing on the VDOT Secondary Road Six-Year Plan and construction budget. He explained that while one road project is preparing to begin construction, future projects require several years of funding accumulation. He noted that Giles County's allocation has increased from the prior year.

Mr. David Clarke clarified that the County's FY allocation totals \$328,755, of which \$293,000 must be used for unpaved road construction and \$34,789 represents telecommunications right-of-way revenue that may be used for certain other secondary road improvements. He emphasized that road construction costs average approximately \$1 million per mile, depending on grading and drainage needs, and advised that projects require multiple years of funding before construction can begin.

Mr. Clarke presented the draft version of the six-year plan, noting that it has remained unchanged for several years. Priority projects were identified as follows: Prospectdale Road (Priority 1), Hiram Jones Road (Priority 2), and Powell Mountain Road (Priority 3). He explained that Prospectdale Road is nearing full funding and that Hiram Jones Road would likely require an additional two to three years of funding once Prospectdale is completed. He noted that while the Board may change project priorities, prior commitments to Prospectdale make changes there unlikely at this time.

Mr. McKlarney mentioned a citizen inquiry regarding Route 733 (Old Mill Dam Road), requesting confirmation that the road had been submitted for consideration under the six-year plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Duncan spoke regarding safety concerns on Hiram Jones Road, acknowledging progress toward eventual paving but expressing concern about continued commercial truck traffic using the road as a GPS-designated cut-through. He asked about the feasibility of restricting through-truck traffic and requested clarification on the definition of commercial vehicles.

Mr. Clarke explained that through-truck restrictions are possible but require formal public hearing, identification of an alternate route, and coordination with VDOT's traffic engineering division. He noted enforcement challenges and emphasized that such restrictions are used sparingly statewide. Jessie Miller added that through-truck restrictions require careful justification and coordination but are achievable if supported by the Board.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Miller explained that establishing a no-through truck restriction requires an initial investigation by VDOT's traffic engineering division, including identification of an alternate route. If deemed feasible, the proposed restriction must be advertised and a public hearing held by the County before being forwarded to VDOT for consideration. It was noted that some roads currently have "truck not recommended" signage, which is advisory rather than enforceable. Should a legal restriction be implemented, the County would be required to provide law enforcement. Staff indicated that the process could be initiated upon request from the Board, and County staff would be notified to begin the first step.

Mr. Martin provided additional comments regarding Hiram Jones Road, noting that he and Mr. Coffey had recently inspected the road. He suggested that trimming overgrown brush along the roadway would improve visibility and traffic flow. Mr. Martin also noted that recent grading had displaced gravel onto a nearby fence line and requested that it be pushed back onto the roadway. Mr. Martin emphasized the importance of monitoring ditches and shared feedback from residents who stated they often avoid the road due to larger vehicle traffic and difficulty seeing ditches at night.

BUDGET DRAFT

Mr. McKlarney advised that Board members had received a preliminary draft of the proposed budget and thanked Catherine Ballard for her work. He noted that the document represents an initial submission from department heads and organizations and requested that Board members review it, as revisions, including potential reductions, are anticipated.

PROPOSED NEW WATER POLICY

Mr. Chidester asked staff to review proposed changes to the County water policy. Staff responded indicating that policy updates could be made administratively, but any water rate

adjustment would require a public hearing. Current terms, including the \$2,000 connection fee and existing bimonthly rates, were reviewed.

Mr. McCoy noted that water rates have not been reviewed in nearly 20 years and are below the cost of service.

Mr. McKlarney discussed the reduced-rate policy and clarified customer responsibility for water line extensions beyond 30 feet. Staff noted that water service is heavily subsidized and recommended considering all policy and rate changes together during the budget process, subject to a public hearing.

TAX EXEPTION REQUEST

Mr. Chidester presented a request from West Virginia Cave Conservancy, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, seeking exemption from real estate taxes for a parcel assessed at \$5,400, resulting in approximately \$25 annually in taxes. The property contains a cave opening adjacent to Mill Creek Park. With questions raised regarding public access, Mr. Chidester advised that the organization does not qualify for an automatic exemption and must request approval from the Board through a public hearing.

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve a public hearing on May 21, 2026, for a tax exemption request. 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 Wednesday, May 6, 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

A RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Local Director of Emergency Management, in accordance with §44-146.21, *Declaration of local emergency*, of the Code of Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia Division of Forestry, local fire chiefs and the Local Emergency Management Coordinator, recommends declaration of a local emergency effective immediately. enacting a burning ban; and,

WHEREAS, due to severe dry weather conditions in the County of Giles and low water levels in creeks and streams, a heightened level of concern is fostered regarding increased risk of fire, the availability of water to fight a large fire, and the increased danger placed on fire fighters; and,

WHEREAS, the County is authorized by § 15.2-922.1. *Regulating or prohibiting the making of fires*, to regulate the making of fires on private property and public places when a declared emergency exists; and,

WHEREAS, also in accordance with §44-146.21, the governing body shall confirm the declaration of a local emergency, and,

WHEREAS, also in accordance with §44-146.21, the governing body, when in its judgment all emergency actions have been taken, shall take appropriate action to end the declared emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Giles County Board of Supervisors hereby declares by way of resolution, confirmation of the recommendation of a declaration by the Director of Emergency Management of a local emergency for Giles County effective April 13, 2026 at 12:00 noon and authorizes the County Administrator to file with the Governor of Virginia, a notification that the County of Giles is in a state of Local Emergency; and the ordinance adopted pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-922.1 shall become effective at 12:00 noon on April 13, 2026.

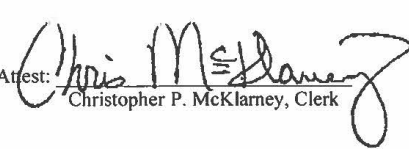
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the time of the adoption of this resolution, Giles County is under a local emergency and an additional resolution will be needed to certify the ending of the declared emergency.

Adopted and ratified this, the 16th day of April, 2026, in Giles County, Virginia.

By:


Jeffrey L. Morris, Chairman

Attest:


Christopher P. McKlarny, Clerk

April 16, 2026

Secondary System
Giles County
Construction Program
Estimated Allocations

Fund	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032	Total
TeleFee	\$34,789	\$34,789	\$34,789	\$34,789	\$34,789	\$0	\$173,945
District Grant - Unpaved	\$293,966	\$293,966	\$293,966	\$299,645	\$299,626	\$0	\$1,481,169
Total	\$328,755	\$328,755	\$328,755	\$334,434	\$334,415	\$0	\$1,655,114

Board Approval Date:

Rnt Dclk 4/16/20

Residency Administrator

Date _____

OK MFG 4/16/26

County Administrator

Date _____