

At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, May 21, 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 May 6, 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

Helen Beavers - Helen Beavers opened her presentation by recognizing students who participated in the November Art Contest, noting that all displayed pieces earned first place locally, most advanced to win at the District level, and several received state awards. She highlighted Hayden, who won first place at all three levels, followed by recognition of Savannah Dotson, Gloria Jeffers, Esther Greg, and Jericho Craig, with special mention that the Greg family's multiple entries brought new statewide recognition to Ripplemead. She then introduced Melissa Dotson, who announced the poetry and writing winners: Esther Greg for first place in District and State poetry (K-2), Shipra Gregg for first place in district and state short story (K-2), Samson Gregg for first place in District and State short story (3-5), and Fiona Jeffers for first place in District and State poetry (3-5).

Jessie Webb- Jessie Webb introduced herself and explained that she is part of a team of women documenting the history of Giles County, sharing that the project aims to preserve firsthand accounts in a world increasingly dependent on technology and disconnected from traditional ways of life. She described how the team began by interviewing local author Charles Litton, and have plans to continue interviewing other residents, recording each session on video, transcribing the conversations, and eventually creating physical books. The videos will be made publicly accessible through a website created by Virginia Tech, for

those interested in Giles County history. Jessie noted that interviewees include locals with expertise in areas such as hunting, animal conservation, food preservation, native vegetation, antique log-cabin construction, and additional personal historical knowledge. She emphasized that this oral-history project is one of many community-focused efforts occurring at the Pembroke Library, which also offers sewing classes with machine loans, reptile exhibits, gardening classes, writers' meetings, and opportunities for children to display their art work. She and Ms. Helen Beavers explained that the oral-history work is still in its early stages, with two interviews already completed as they practice with familiar participants, and hope to interview more community members who hold valuable knowledge. They stressed the importance of preserving these stories for future generations and noted that participants may decline any question, ensuring each person's story remains uniquely their own, without inclusion of unwanted or rumored information.

William Vaught - William Vaught thanked the Board for their time and expressed appreciation to everyone involved in helping restore Jim Connell's property, noting that the site looks good although the plaque still needs repair. He then raised concerns about the condition of Sinking Creek Road, explaining that potholes remain from Nick's Knoll to the Eggleston Road intersection, including a severe pothole on Ingles Trail. He reiterated that the road needs to be added to next year's paving list, as grading alone has not resolved road surface concerns, and the entire stretch up past the bridge and toward the top of the hill requires proper surfacing.

Mr. Vaught continued by addressing safety concerns on Goodwin's Ferry Road, where a fallen tree had been cut and left at the roadside, causing a driver to damage a tire. He noted that similar debris issues exist near Ricky Johnson's property and emphasized that these conditions pose ongoing safety hazards. He then reported a serious health concern at Wingo Apartments, where gray water continues to run across the road in multiple areas. He described the contamination, the odor, and the fact that he accidentally drove through it, stressing the need for lime treatment or other immediate mitigation.

Mr. McCoy responded that the issue had been reported and that follow-up was expected.

Mr. Chidester added that the health department is aware of the situation and is issuing permits related to replacing the system, though staffing limitations have slowed progress.

Mr. Vaught then asked whether asphalt millings from Route 460 could be reused on River Road from the bridge to Burton's Crossing. Mr. McCoy explained that the question had been raised previously with VDOT. Mr. McKlarney clarified that environmental regulations prohibit placing millings in floodplains, though they may be used on gravel roads after being crushed. Mr. Vaught pointed out that millings already exist along the creek between Pembroke and Maybrook, raising concerns about petroleum runoff into trout waters and urging officials to inspect the area.

Mr. Martin stated that the County could look into the matter, noting that if the millings are on private property, VDOT has no jurisdiction, and any environmental concerns would fall

under DEQ. Mr. Vaught reiterated that the millings are visibly close to the water and pose a potential environmental hazard. He concluded by thanking the Board for their time and expressing hope that he would not need to return with further complaints.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION – RESCINDING BURN BAN

Mr. McKlarney reported under old business that he had a resolution prepared to rescind the previously declared local emergency burn ban. He explained that due to the rainfall received that day, along with additional rainfall projected over the next several days, conditions had improved enough to safely lift the ban.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve this 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

NEW BUSINESS

VOTER REGISTRAR – NEW VOTING MACHINES

Mr. McKlarney introduced Amy Wheeler, interim registrar, noting she had submitted a request regarding voting equipment and wished to provide explanation mentioning that no decision was expected that evening.

Amy Wheeler summarized the registrar's request to replace the County's aging DS-200 voting machines, which were purchased in 2016 and are nearing the end of their lifespans. She explained that the machines have slowed significantly, causing delays during the most recent election, and that new legislation eliminating hand counting requires the county to purchase at least one new DS-300 machine for post-election ballot processing. She stated that the registrar's office recommends replacing all 13 machines to ensure reliability and consistency, noting that the County's ADA-accessible Express Vote devices can be upgraded to work with the new machines.

Mr. Morris asked whether the older machines are still maintained. Ms. Wheeler confirmed that the vendor performs annual maintenance but the DS-200s are outdated and increasingly limited by their original design.

Mr. Lawson asked how many machines the County uses, and Ms. Wheeler explained that eight precincts plus early voting and provisional processing require a total of 13 units.

Mr. Martin asked whether other localities use the same machines and whether bulk purchasing discounts exist. Ms. Wheeler said other Counties are also replacing their DS-200s due to age, though she is not aware of bulk pricing and is willing to inquire.

Mr. Lawson asked whether the County could replace half the machines now and half later. Ms. Wheeler said the DS-200s and DS-300s can operate simultaneously, though the registrar's office prefers consistency of equipment across precincts.

RESOLUTION – VDOT 6 YEAR PLAN

Mr. McKlarney presented a resolution concerning the County's six-year road plan and summarized its key points. He explained that the plan establishes three construction priorities: first, to reconstruct and surface-treat Route 659 (Prospectdale Road); second, to treat and construct Route 621 (Hiram Jones Road); and third, to reconstruct and surface-treat Route 647 (Powell Mountain Road).

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve this 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

PUBLIC HEARING

TAX EXEMPTION – WEST VIRGINIA CAVE CONSERVANCY

Mr. Chidester explained that the West Virginia Cave Conservancy, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization, requested a real estate tax exemption for Tax Parcel 38-53, a 3.5-acre tract near Lewis Webb's property in Narrows. The property includes entrance to a cave and provides maintained access to it, noting that the tax impact is minimal and outlined in the public hearing notice.

Mr. Lawson asked whether there were any plans to develop the property, and the Cave Conservancy representative stated there were none, explaining that the land sits in a major sinkhole, the cave entrance occupies much of the parcel, and development would be highly impractical; he added that the Board could revisit the exemption if circumstances changed. The Cave Conservancy representative further noted that the cave's former commercial entrance has collapsed, leaving only a rope-access opening about 40 feet down, and emphasized that the Conservancy does not intend to open the cave to the general public in order to protect it. With no additional questions, Mr. Morris closed the Public Hearing on the West Virginia Cave Conservancy request.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the tax exemption for West Virginia Cave Conservancy. 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

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – PRIVATE SEASONAL CAMP OR RETREAT – TAX PARCEL 43-20A1

Mr. Morris opened the Public Hearing, and Mr. Taylor called the Planning Commission to order. Members present were as follows: Mr. Berkman, Mr. G. Snider, Mr. Baker, Mr. I. Snider, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Law, and Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Chidester presented a request for the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Sections 802.04 and 603.03-2 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a Private Seasonal Camp Retreat, specifically to allow the placement of a camper on a parcel of land

for more than thirty days in a calendar year. The parcel of land is owned by Peggy Worley and is identified specifically as tax parcel 43-20A1, and is located near 424 Kow Camp Road, Pembroke, VA. The property is in the RRA-1 (Rural Residential /Agriculture) Zoning District.

An adjacent property owner asked if there would only be one camper and Ms. Belcher, Agent for Ms. Worley indicated there would only be one. Mr. Chidester also explained that our ordinance only allows up to two without further approval. With no further questions or comments, Mr. Morris closed this portion of the hearing.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – PRIVATE SEASONAL CAMP OR RETREAT – TAX PARCEL 49-7C

Mr. Morris opened the public hearing.

Mr. Chidester presented a request for the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Sections 802.04 and 603.03-2 of the Giles County Zoning Ordinance to allow for a Private Seasonal Camp Retreat, specifically to allow the placement of a camper on a parcel of land for more than thirty days in a calendar year. The parcel of land is owned by Justin England, and there is a 99-year lease in place for the applicants, Eric and Amanda Dolan. The property is identified as tax parcel 49-7C, and is located at 112 Morehead Road, Narrows, VA. The property is in the A-1 (Agriculture) Zoning District. With no further questions or comments, Mr. Morris closed this portion of the public hearing.

Mr. Chidester stated the Planning Commission would meet on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 1 Taylor Avenue, Suite 2, Pearisburg, VA and would likely make a recommendation of approval to the Giles County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Taylor adjourned the Planning Commission.

2026 REAL ESTATE TAX RATE

Mr. McKlarney explained that the final Public Hearing of the evening concerned setting the real estate tax rate for fiscal year 2026–2027, noting that the county had just completed its six-year reassessment cycle, which resulted in significant increases—often more than 50%—depending on location. He reminded the board and the public that supervisors had previously committed to a revenue-neutral approach, meaning the tax rate would be lowered to offset the rise in assessed values, though individual bills would still vary, with roughly equal numbers of taxpayers seeing increases and decreases. He stated that the current rate of \$0.68 per \$100 of assessed value would be reduced to \$0.47 per \$100 under the proposed adjustment. He also described the ongoing three-step appeals process, noting that many residents appealing their assessments were unaware the rate would be lowered and, in some cases, discovered their taxes would actually decrease. Because the Board of Equalization’s work is still underway, staff had to make assumptions based on reductions seen in the first round of appeals. Mr. McKlarney invited questions from the Board and the public and with none offered, Mr. Morris closed the public hearing on the proposed tax rate.

***Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the real estate tax rate for fiscal year 2026-2027. 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***

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

Mr. McKlarney introduced the Virginia Cooperative Extension team for their first-quarter update. Khloe Rife, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and Unit Coordinator, reported on extensive programming including administration of the county-funded multiflora rose cost-share program with 46 applicants, multiple beef-cattle producer trainings, pesticide recertification, maple-tapping lessons for 6th and 7th graders, fruit-tree pruning and grafting workshops reaching over 120 students and community members, the Virginia Household Water Quality Program with about 20 participants, youth livestock quality-care certification, revitalization of the Master Gardener program with monthly clinics, and coordination of events such as the Eggleston Springs gardening program and a statewide Farm-to-School visit at Giles Agricultural Land Lab. She also described receiving a \$17,000 Grow Appalachia grant supporting 20 families in home gardening and funding a site-prep technician and summer intern True Gallian, who introduced herself.

Emily Moyer, 4-H Youth Development Agent, reported that all Giles County K–5 students received nutrition education this year, with additional programming occurring at multiple schools. Activities included, a junior Hokie showcase, Countywide 6th-grade Safety Day, active livestock and pollinator clubs, a successful wildlife habitat education team with State-level winners, a new 4-H archery club funded by an NRA grant, upcoming hiking day camps, 4-H Congress participation, and a summer camp that has grown to 86 campers supported by over \$12,000 in community donations. She also noted her work training other agents statewide on integrating SOLs into 4-H programming and acknowledged 115 volunteer hours this quarter. Laura Razor, Family and Consumer Sciences agent, summarized her work in nutrition, food safety, ServSafe certification, chronic-disease self-management, church-based education programs, senior-center classes, and the Pearisburg community-garden program with 21 students. She also announced an upcoming regional food-preservation conference offering training in canning, freezing, and meat curing.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

***Mr. Baker motioned to approve FY 2026 warrants in the amount of \$2,209,887.94, 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 \$4,750,000.00 for the June 2026 appropriations, as well as, \$138,589.96 for the Giles High School project, \$115,216.33 for the Giles County Technology Center project, \$616,205.94 for the Narrows High School project, \$3,686,225.00 to escrow payroll estimates, and \$19,288,590.88 for Stride allocations for a total of \$28,594,828.11. 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 \$450,000.00 for the June 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCoy motioned to go into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel 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.

NEW BUSINESS

TRACTOR SIGNS

Mr. McCoy reported that he had received a request for tractor-warning signs on Clover Hollow Road, noting that a local farmer had expressed concern and that Bryan Reed was checking on the necessary steps to install them; he asked whether Board approval was required and whether anyone objected.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve purchase of a new tractor-warning sign, 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

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 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

May 21, 2026

**A RESOLUTION
RESCINDING DECLARED LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, at the recommendation of the local Director of Emergency Management, and in accordance with §44-146.21, previously adopted and ratified a local declaration of emergency on April 16, 2026 enacting a local burning ban; and,

WHEREAS, due to recent and forecasted rain events along with the end of the spring fire season lessening the level of concern regarding the risk of fire, 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 rescinds by way of resolution, its declaration of emergency, effective April 13, 2026, adopted and ratified April 16, 2026. Conditions that necessitated said declaration have subsided and a local burn ban is no longer necessary.

Dated this 21st day of May 2026.

By: 
Jeffrey L. Morris, Chairman

Attest: 
Christopher P. McKlamey, Clerk

May 21, 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

AN ORDINANCE TO EXEMPT FROM TAXATION CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY WEST VIRGINIA CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

After public hearing on May 21, 2026, pursuant to notice published in the Virginian Leader on May 6, 2026,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia that certain real property described below and owned by West Virginia Cave Conservancy, Inc., shall be exempt from taxation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3651 for tax year 2026 and subsequent years so long as such properties are owned by the Conservancy and used in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

Property exempted:

Real Property designated as Tax Map Number 38-53 3.58 acres.

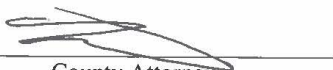
Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, held on January 22, 2026.

	voting for	voting against	abstain	absent
Morris	☒	☐	☐	☐
Lawson	☒	☐	☐	☐
McCoy	☒	☐	☐	☐
Baker	☒	☐	☐	☐
Martin	☒	☐	☐	☐

Attest:


Christopher P. McKlamey, Clerk

Approved as to form:


County Attorney

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

May 21, 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

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE FOR 2026 REAL ESTATE TAXES.

After a public hearing held on May 21, 2026, duly advertised on May 6th and May 13th, 2026, in the Virginian Leader, a newspaper of general circulation in Giles County, Virginia,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, that the tax rate applicable to real property located in Giles County, Virginia for 2026 shall be forty seven (47) cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value.

Such taxes shall be due and payable in two equal installments due and payable on June 30, 2026 and December 7, 2026. The penalty for taxes, levies and fees which are not paid by the due date is 10% of the unpaid balance. Ten percent (10%) interest charges begin on the August 1, 2026 for taxes due on June 30, 2026 and on January 1, 2027 for taxes due on December 7, 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>
Baker	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
McCoy	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Martin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Attest:


Christopher P. McFarney, Clerk

Approved as to form:


Richard L. Chidester, County Attorney

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

May 21, 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

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Giles, held at the Administration Building on April 16, 2026, on a motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. McCoy and carried:

WHEREAS, Sections 33.2-331 and 33.2-364 of the 2014 Code of Virginia, as amended, provides the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan,

WHEREAS, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2026/27 through 2031/32) as well as the Construction Budget (2026/27) on April 16, 2026 after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that since said Plan appears to be in the best interests of the Secondary Road System in Giles County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System, said Secondary Six-Year Plan (2026/27 through 2031/32) and Construction Budget (2026/27) are hereby approved in the following priority order:

- Priority #1 Reconstruct and Surface Treat Route 659 Prospectdale Road
- Priority #2 Reconstruct and Surface Treat Route 621 Hiram Jones Road
- Priority #3 Reconstruct and Surface Treat Route 647 Powell Mt. Road

Chris McKlarney
County Administrator

Telephone: (540) 921- 2525

Fax: (540) 921-1329

May 21, 2026