At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, August 5, 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 July 23, 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. McCoy, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris.

VDOT REPORT

Mr. David Clarke reported that maintenance crews have been busy during the first month of the fiscal year, working within the new budget while addressing numerous needs across the county. He explained that significant work has been completed on unpaved roads, including machining and adding stone to Orchard Hill, Brickyard, Gray Sulphur, Agneson Road, Curve Road, and several others. Brush control was performed with both the boom axe and little axe at locations such as the intersection of Routes 42 and 100, Big Stoney, Blevins Road, and Pleasant Hill, along with responses to scattered storm-related calls. Patching work was carried out on Blankenship Mountain Road and Doe Creek, as well as ahead of scheduled overlays in the Ridge Creek and Narrows areas and on Route 42 toward Bland. He noted that preliminary repairs on the sinkhole appear stable, and the road may be reopened before final asphalt is applied to ensure long-term stability. Mr. Clarke concluded by stating that work is progressing on finalizing the Prospect Hill project for inclusion in the County’s six-year plan.

Mr. Baker then raised several roadway maintenance concerns, including Wolf Creek/Route 61, Cascade Drive, and 1563 Cascade Drive. He mention concerns regarding brush, visibility, traffic near driveways, drainage, guardrails near the creek, reflector signs, and patching needs, including Croft Road. Mr. Clarke indicated that some work had been completed on Cascade Drive and that additional concerns would be reviewed, including the potential guardrail issue and patching through use of special patching funds where possible.

Mr. McCoy raised concerns regarding Kow Camp Road, including brush overgrowth along the hard surface, ditching needs, and washout conditions on the gravel section.

Mr. Lawson shared a compliment from Robertson Mountain Road residents, who reported that the recent road work was the best the road had looked in approximately 10 years. He also noted concerns with the right shoulder where trailers are causing deterioration, a rough area on Route 460 East where water has crossed the road and cut a ditch along the shoulder.

Mr. Martin mentioned fading lines on Doe Creek, brush concerns along Maybrook Road and Big Stony Creek, potholes on Big Stony Creek and Zells Mill Road, and drainage concerns in Celestial Heights. He also requested review of signage needs, including tractor and bicycle signage on Clendennin Road, a large turning vehicle sign near Mountain Lake Road and Zells Mill Road, and possible signage regarding commercial vehicle signage on Hiram Jones Road. Concerns were also mentioned about narrow conditions, brush, and the potential need for widening on Hiram Jones Road, as well as the possibility of a deceleration lane at Cascade Drive.

Mr. Morris discussed secondary road brush concerns and explained that crews are working to combine equipment and staff from different areas, including possible local assistance from Dublin crews, to better address brush and maintenance needs, although the work may take additional time.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Dr. Campbell shared highlights from Giles County Public Schools, beginning with appreciation for the Board of Supervisors and county administrator for their ongoing support, as well as gratitude for cafeteria staff, volunteers, and students who helped deliver over 1,200 meals across the county. He also recognized custodians and maintenance staff for their diligent work throughout the summer to keep buildings clean and manage construction projects, noting that schools are prepared to welcome students back on Wednesday, August 12 with no anticipated delay. Dr. Campbell described a successful new teacher orientation held at Buckeye Farms, where the theme emphasized building a positive culture and climate grounded in professionalism, patience, and persistence. He distributed the division-wide newsletter, highlighting new initiatives, particularly in technology and student registration, acknowledging minor growing pains but expressing confidence in long-term improvements. He reported that enrollment projections show an increase of about 25 students compared to last year, with encouraging numbers in kindergarten and first grade. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Campbell expressed excitement for the new school year and reiterated his appreciation for community support.

Mr. Martin inquired about the school speed limit signs at Eastern Elementary, noting that the east bound sign was replaced but not the west bound sign. Dr. Campbell indicated that he has had ongoing discussions with the sheriff regarding visibility concerns and lighting replacements near Eastern Elementary.

OLD BUSINESS

REFERENDUM TO IMPOSE 1% SALES TAX FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION

Mr. McKlarney opened the discussion by revisiting the topic from the previous meeting regarding the new legislation, §58.1-605.1, which allows localities to impose a 1% sales tax if approved by voters through a referendum. He explained that Davenport Financial estimates the tax could generate approximately $1.76 million annually, though local staff believe a more realistic range is $1.5 to $1.7 million, largely because grocery sales are significant in Giles County, often driven by shoppers from surrounding counties. To take advantage of this opportunity during the current fiscal year, the Board would need to act by August 14, making the present meeting the final chance to adopt the resolution if desired. He emphasized, as he did previously, that the tax would only move forward if voters approved it, and that the referendum simply gives citizens the choice.

Mr. McKlarney noted that staff attempted to obtain more precise data on how much of the tax revenue would come from out-of-county visitors, but the Department of Taxation could not provide those figures due to statewide data limitations. Tourism revenue in Giles County is estimated at $35–$40 million, and although staff believe the true percentage of outside contributions is higher, they conservatively estimate that at least 30% of the revenue would come from non-residents.

Mr. McCoy reiterated that the tax would be restricted solely to school construction and renovation, not salaries or operational expenses, and highlighted that the county is currently undertaking approximately $63 million in school construction across all schools. Additional revenue would help offset debt service and free up funding for other school and county needs.

Mr. Chidester explained the referendum process, stating that if the Board adopts the resolution, he will file a petition with the Circuit Court, after which the judge would issue an order placing the referendum on the November 3rd General Election ballot. No public hearing is required for adopting the resolution itself. If the referendum passes, the Board would then hold a public hearing before deciding whether to enact the tax.

Mr. Baker motioned to approve the 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. McCoy, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris.

NEW BUSINESS

NARROWS FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR USE OF EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT FUND FOR AMBULANCE

Mr. Jon Butler noted that Board members had received a letter from the Narrows Fire Department requesting $25,000 from the County's Emergency Replacement Fund. He explained that this request is intended to reimburse the department for the recent purchase of an ambulance. Because it is their scheduled year in the rotation for use of the fund, staff recommended that the Board approve the reimbursement. Mr. Butler concluded by asking the Board to acknowledge that the department has completed the purchase and to authorize release of the funds accordingly.

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve the request for reimbursement, as presented. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Martin and Mr. Morris.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve payment of POST FY 2026 warrants in the amount of $5,631.47, and FY 2027 warrants in the amount $1,011,086.55. 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 $3,400,000.00 for the August 2026 School Board appropriation. 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

APPOINTMENTS

***Mr. Lawson motioned to reappoint Mr. Ricky McCoy to the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Morris*. Abstain: Mr. McCoy**

Mr. Baker motioned to appoint Ms. Caryl Allen to the New River Valley Community Service Board effective October 1st. 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 (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 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, August 20, 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:

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Clerk

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GILES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INITIATING A REFERENDUM PURSUANT TO SECTION 58.1-605.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA AS AMENDED BY THE 2026 BIENNIAL BUDGET OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA TO AUTHORIZE IMPOSITION OF A LOCAL GENERAL RETAIL SALES TAX NOT TO EXCEED 1%, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH TAX WOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE REVENUE SOLELY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR RENOVATION OF SCHOOLS IN GILES COUNTY

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2026, the Virginia General Assembly has enacted its biennial budget and appropriation legislation ("Budget Bill") for the biennium commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Bill enacts amendments to Section 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia authorizing all Virginia cities and counties to levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed 1% to provide revenue solely for construction and renovation of schools, including bond and loan financing costs related to such construction or renovation; and

WHEREAS, said tax may only be levied if it is approved in a referendum within the County and imposed by the Board of Supervisors' adoption of an ordinance made effective on the first day of a month at least 120 days after its adoption; and

WHEREAS, said tax shall not be levied on food purchased for human consumption or essential personal hygiene products, as such terms are defined in Virginia Code Section 58.1-611.1; and

WHEREAS, said tax shall expire (i) upon repayment of the bonds or loans issued for school construction or renovation projects or (ii) if the projects are not to be financed by bonds or loans, not more than twenty years after the date this Resolution passes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to initiate a referendum for the purposes herein set forth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Giles County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That the Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the Circuit Court of Giles County order a referendum pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 24.2-684 and 58.1-605.1, as amended by the Budget Bill, on the issue of whether the County may levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed 1% to provide revenue solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools serving Giles County.

2. If the referendum passes and the County levies the tax, such tax shall expire upon repayment of all bonds or loans issued for the construction or renovation of schools or, in the case of qualifying capital projects not funded by bonds or loans, no later June 30, 2046.

3. That the language to appear on the ballot on the referendum is proposed by the Board of Supervisors to be as follows:

   Should Giles County, Virginia, enact a local retail sales tax of up to one percent (1%) to provide funds that can only be used to pay for construction and renovation of public schools in Giles County to expire on June 30, 2046?

4. That the County Attorney is directed to petition the Circuit Court to order the referendum to be held at the next general election on November 3, 2026.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, held on August 5, 2026.

	voting for	voting against	abstain	absent
Morris	X			
McCoy	X			
Baker	X			
Martin	X			
Lawson	X			

Attest: Chris McKlarney

Christopher P. McKlarney, Clerk