At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, October 7, 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 September 24, 2026 minutes, as presented. 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Millirons requested that the Board approve, by resolution, the Giles County Sheriff’s Office’s withdrawal from the New River Criminal Justice Training Academy and transition to the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy.

Sheriff Millirons and Chief Deputy Moye reported that Cardinal would cost more than $100 less per deputy annually, resulting in an estimated total savings of $4,000 to $5,000 per year. They stated that Cardinal offers more specialized training, cancels fewer classes, maintains a larger and more stable instructional staff, and operates a satellite location in Christiansburg. They also noted that the two most recent Giles County recruits trained at Cardinal returned better prepared for field duties.

The Sheriff and Chief Deputy Moye discussed concerns regarding the New River Academy’s financial condition, staffing, facility, possible relocation, and long-term viability following the departure of Montgomery County and other member agencies. They advised that Cardinal had offered first-year membership consideration for recent training expenses and discounted leadership training opportunities.

The Board was advised that Virginia law allows an agency to withdraw from a regional academy every five years with approval by two-thirds of the member agencies. Withdrawal during an

intervening year requires unanimous approval. The local governing body must authorize the withdrawal by resolution or letter.

Mr. McCoy asked if withdrawing from the Academy would cost any money. Chief Deputy Moye explained that no withdrawal cost would be incurred if the request is approved during the current eligibility year.

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the resolution for Giles County Sheriff's Office to withdraw from the New River Valley Criminal Justice Training Academy. 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

Mr. David Clark provided an update on ongoing VDOT activities throughout Giles County. He reported that work continues on the Prospect Dale Road project included in the Six-Year Improvement Program and that discussions with property owners are ongoing, with expectations that the full project will proceed as planned. He also noted completion of crosswalk and sidewalk improvements and advised that final surface treatment had been applied to the sinkhole repair on Norcross Road. Mr. Clark reported that maintenance operations during the previous month focused on brush cutting, boom mowing, gravel road maintenance, ditching, patching, and tree removal. Brush cutting and boom mowing were completed on Zells Mill Road, Lurich Road, Wilburn Valley Road, Old Wolf Creek Road, and Goodwin's Ferry Road. Road machining and stone placement were performed on Albert Meredith Road, Brickyard Road, Dry Branch Road, Commissary Hill Road, and Possum Hollow Road. Additional maintenance included ditching on State Line Road and U.S. Route 460 West, along with general patching and tree removal activities. Mr. Clark also advised that VDOT crews were currently preparing winter maintenance equipment, including servicing plows, lights, and other equipment needed for snow operations.

Mr. Baker reported receiving concerns regarding ditch cleaning and tree removal on Cascade Drive, visibility issues near Cascade Park, and the status of a guardrail replacement project. He also requested brush cutting along Virginia Heights Road and Riverbend Road, maintenance along Route 61 near the solar installation area to the county line, and repairs to roadway deterioration and potholes on Big Stony Creek Road near the former post office and bridge location. Mr. Clark stated that he would follow up on the reported concerns.

Mr. McCoy thanked VDOT crews for their continued efforts in grading roads and cutting brush throughout the county.

Mr. Lawson reported receiving multiple calls regarding Powell Mountain Road, citing areas of roadway wear and potholes requiring attention. He also inquired whether the road would receive surface treatment similar to work recently completed in Rich Creek. Mr. Clark responded that he did not believe the road was currently included in the program but would verify. Mr. Lawson thanked VDOT staff for their work with a property owner regarding a drainage issue in the Narrows area.

Mr. Martin raised concerns from a resident on Hiram Jones Lane regarding commercial truck traffic. Mr. Clark explained that installation of "Not Recommended for Trucks" signage would require review by VDOT Traffic Engineering and that a formal prohibition on through-truck traffic would require a public hearing, notification of the trucking industry, evaluation of alternate routes, and completion of the established review process. Mr. Clark indicated that a recommendation for truck advisory signage may be appropriate and that he would begin the review process. Discussion also included the impact of such signage on GPS routing systems, and Mr. Clark stated he would seek additional information. Mr. Martin additionally requested confirmation that a road sign on Schoolhouse Road in Eggleston, which had reportedly been knocked down, had been replaced. Mr. Clark explained that the County would help with this sign replacement.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Mr. McKlarney presented a School Board update provided by Dr. Campbell earlier in the week. He reviewed the September 2026 final enrollment report, which reflected an enrollment of 2,078 students, a decrease from the 2024–2025 school year. He stated that the enrollment figures are being evaluated closely to determine the factors contributing to the decline. Mr. McKlarney also reported that the School Board has a new finance director and that the transition is proceeding well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Phillips - Al Phillips spoke during public comment regarding the proposed 1% sales tax increase to fund school projects. He expressed concern that raising taxes was not an appropriate solution at this time. He referenced a letter distributed by School Superintendent Dr. Campbell outlining the benefits of the proposed tax and stated that the letter did not address any potential disadvantages. Mr. Phillips noted that the tax would have a greater impact on lower-income residents. He suggested that the Board set aside funds in a dedicated account for school building improvements or use lottery funds to finance school renovations. He requested that, even if the referendum is approved by voters, the Board of Supervisors not implement the tax in Giles County.

OLD BUSINESS

OPTIMUM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Mr. Chidester reported that the proposed Optimum franchise agreement is substantially similar to the previous agreement and clarified that it applies only to cable television service, not internet access. He explained that Optimum is required to extend cable service to areas with at least 30 subscribers per mile and may serve areas with fewer subscribers subject to additional fees.

Mr. Chidester stated that the agreement includes a 180-day notice provision and requires Optimum to provide an educational and governmental access channel, which could be used by the School Board and for broadcasting Board meetings. He noted that programming is also moving toward streaming services. The agreement contains provisions addressing payments

and the reporting of sales tax information and requires Optimum to provide one free cable connection to designated public buildings. Mr. Chidester requested comments from the Board.

Mr. McCoy motioned to set a public hearing for the November 19th recess meeting. 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 BUSINESS

DRAFT TOURISM PLAN

Mr. McKlarney presented a draft Tourism Plan provided by Tourism Director Cora Gnegy. He reported that the plan, which will become effective January 1, is organized around five pillars: (1) Outdoor Recreation and Destination Stewardship; (2) Visitor Experience and Community Vitality; (3) Overnight Visitation and Economic Growth; (4) Destination Brand and Storytelling; and (5) Partnership, Capacity, and Collaboration. Mr. McKlarney asked the Board members to review the draft plan and provide comments.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. McCoy motioned to approve payment of FY 2026 warrants in the amount of $1,088,641.87, and 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.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCoy motioned to appoint Dr. Conley Painter to the Industrial Development Authority. 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 going into executive session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel, and (29) Contracts. Mr. Lawson 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. Lawson 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board discussed moving the October recess meeting to October 22, 2026.

Mr. McCoy motioned to move the next Board meeting to October 22, 2026. 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.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 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

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 THE GILES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM NEW RIVER CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING ACADEMY

WHEREAS Giles County is a member of the New River Criminal Justice Training Academy (NRCJTA), and

WHEREAS the NRCJTA charter provides that a jurisdiction desiring to withdraw from NRCJTA membership must do so by resolution of the governing body of the jurisdiction and a 2/3 vote of NRCJTA Board, and

WHEREAS upon request of the Sheriff of Giles County the Board of Supervisors has determined that it is in the best interests of Giles County to provide more reliable and extensive training to law enforcement personnel,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Giles County Board of Supervisors, meeting on October 7, 2026, with a quorum present, hereby requests withdrawal from NRCJTS effective June 30, 2027, and further requests that this request be voted upon at the October 2026 meeting of the NRCJTA board.

Adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Giles County, Virginia, held on October 7, 2026

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

Attest: _____
Christopher P. McKinney, Clerk

Telephone: (540) 921– 2525 **Fax: (540) 921-1329**