At the regular meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday September 24, 2026, at 6:30 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 September 2, 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

Denny Duncan- Mr. Duncan addressed the Board regarding commercial vehicle traffic on Hiram-Jones Road. He stated that, during a previous meeting, VDOT representative Mr. Clark indicated that engineers would inspect the road in response to his request to restrict commercial vehicles. Mr. Duncan reported that he had not received an update and expressed concern that posting a “Not Recommended for Commercial Vehicles” sign would not adequately address the issue.

Mr. McCoy stated that the County had not received an update from Mr. Clark. He advised that Bryan Reed would contact Mr. Clark to determine whether the inspection had been completed and request a status update.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM GRANT

Mr. McKlarney informed the Board of a grant opportunity to support a community paramedic program, an initiative included in the current fiscal year’s budget. The grant provides up to $400,000 per community, and applications are due by October 6.

Due to the short application period and the specialized nature of the grant, staff requested authorization to retain Frontline Health Strategies to assist with preparing the application. The consultant's fee would be $40,000, payable from the grant award only if the application is successful; no fee would be charged if funding is not awarded.

The funding is part of $980 million allocated to the Commonwealth of Virginia over five years for rural health initiatives. Mr. McKlarney stated that the County is well positioned to compete for the funding because development of its community paramedic program is already underway.

Mr. Lawson motioned to approve the Frontline Health Strategies assistance with this grant application process. 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

AEP WEATHERIZATION GRANT

Mr. McKlarney reported that the County received a $75,000 grant from AEP to fund weatherization improvements for elderly residents. The grant application specifically identified elderly individuals participating in the County's feeding program, who are among the community's most vulnerable residents.

AEP will provide engineering consultants to inspect qualifying homes, conduct blower-door testing and perform thermal imaging to identify needed energy-efficiency improvements. The $75,000 grant award will be used for construction and weatherization work based on the consultants' findings.

Mr. McKlarney stated that, although the funding will assist a limited number of households, it represents a valuable opportunity to improve living conditions for vulnerable elderly residents.

Mr. McCoy asked whether financial assistance remains available to residents needing help with home heating costs, noting that the upcoming year may be difficult for many households. Mr. McKlarney confirmed that heating assistance is available through the Department of Social Services and stated that staff could pursue that option if the need arises.

CASCADES PARKING GRANT PROPOSAL

Mr. Martin asked whether staff had received an update regarding the grant proposal for parking improvements at the Cascades. Mr. McKlarney reported that the project was determined to be ineligible for the grant, which was unexpected based on earlier discussions with the grant agency. He stated that he would provide the Board with a summary of the reasons for the determination. Mr. McKlarney indicated that another funding opportunity may become available if the current grant funds are not fully utilized.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Mr. Baker motioned to approve payment of FY 2026 warrants in the amount of $3,892,329.32, 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 $3,418,000.00 for general operations; $220,944.04 for Eastern Elementary School construction, $1,078,833.41 for Narrows High School construction; $902,274.42 for Giles High School construction; $42,876.59 for Giles Technology Center construction for a total request of $5,662,928.46 for September general operations. 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 $440,000.00 for the October 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

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCoy made a motion to appoint Mr. Jason Stinnet as the Zoning Administrator. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris

Mr. McCoy made a motion to reappoint Mr. Lawson to the Agency on Aging Board. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Baker, Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Morris. Abstain: Mr. Lawson

Mr. Lawson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Baker to the Agency on Aging Board. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 as follows: Voting Yes: Mr. Martin, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Morris. Abstain: Mr. Baker

Mr. McCoy made a motion to appoint Mr. McKlarney to the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Board. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 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. 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 Wednesday, October 7 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:

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Clerk